Colleagues,

Leaving the Shell Auditorium after our Town Hall meeting last November, I couldn’t have been happier. Almost everyone had moved on from the hour, but the general conversation led into a great post-event discussion about communication and engagement at Rice Business. The momentum that followed and a few subsequent meetings generated the idea for the formation of a Staff Council dedicated to improving the experience of working together through engagement and involvement.

Today, I am very pleased to endorse and formally announce the formation of the **Rice Business Staff Council**. The inaugural members of the Council are:

- **Salomon Medina**, Council Chair-Leadership
- **Michelle Kaltenbach**, Process/Procedures/Policy/Resources
- **Katrena Friedman**, Communication
- **Marie Bergeron**, Professional/Career Development
- **Haley Hart**, Recognition/Events

These leaders will begin their roles by serving as partners working to ensure the success and enduring impact of the Employee Engagement processes being led by Melinda English. As that process nears completion later this academic year, the Council will transition to its permanent role serving to advance the goals of the Engagement process and to serve as a sounding board and conduit for communication between staff and the Dean’s office. I am deeply grateful to the commitment and initiative of these inaugural council members and for working within a community where I know this effort will lead to closer ties, enriching events, and a school that is always improving.

Best regards,

Peter Rodriguez

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