I am pleased to announce that Dr. Blanca Lupiani has been appointed dean of faculties and associate provost. Her appointment, effective March 1, was based on the recommendation of the internal search advisory committee and was confirmed by President Michael K. Young and The Texas A&M University System.

Dr. Lupiani, a professor of veterinary pathobiology, has served as executive associate dean of faculties since April 2016 and as a member of the Office of the Dean of Faculties since 2012. She was the interim vice president and associate provost for diversity (Oct. 2017 – March 2018) and will succeed Dr. John August as steps out of this role in February.

As dean of faculties and associate provost, Dr. Lupiani will provide strategic and scholarly leadership representing faculty needs and issues. She will oversee key faculty-related administrative processes such as hiring, tenure and promotion and faculty development. In addition, she will administer policies in support of a diverse and inclusive environment that supports and encourages faculty to achieve their maximum potential. The dean of faculties also supports university faculty development and advancement through the Center for Teaching Excellence, ADVANCE, Office of External Faculty Recognition and the office of Immigration Services for Faculty and Scholars.

Dr. Lupiani received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and her Ph.D. as a Fulbright Scholar from the University of Maryland, College Park. She subsequently did post-doctoral work at the Agriculture Research Service in Beltsville, MD, and East Lansing, MI and at Michigan State University. She joined Texas A&M University as an assistant professor in 2002.

Dr. Lupiani has received numerous honors, recognitions and awards throughout her career, including the ACE Women’s Progress Award in Administration, Class XXXVI of the Governor’s Executive Leadership Program and the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award. She was also named an ADVANCE Administrative Fellow and an SEC Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow.

Dr. Lupiani’s research focuses on investigating molecular mechanisms of virus pathogenesis and better understanding the ecology and evolution of avian influenza viruses. Her research has resulted in more than 70 peer reviewed publications and has been funded by grants from federal and state agencies, as well as private foundations. Dr. Lupiani’s research has led to the development of vaccines to control leukemia in chickens, resulting in two U.S. patents. She serves on the editorial board of the journal *Avian Diseases*, has been on the guest editorial board of a number of special issues and has been a reviewer for numerous national and international scientific journals and funding agencies.

I thank the members of the search committee for their diligence in reviewing candidates and am grateful to the applicants for offering their leadership to our university.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Lupiani as she assumes this leadership role.