Grogan to replace Cardinal as education dean

The dean of the College of Educational Studies (CES), Don Cardinal, is transitioning back to faculty at the end of the spring 2015 semester.

Margaret Grogan, a professor at Claremont Graduate University, has been selected to serve as dean of CES starting fall semester 2015.

“It’s kind of a balance of ‘I’m excited that I’m not going to be the dean anymore’ and that we have a new dean,” Cardinal said.

Grogan has served as dean previously in her career. This is the second hire for a dean position from an outside school this year.

“The bigger Chapman gets, not in physical size, but in complexities and in research and national attention, you really need to have people who have done that before,” Cardinal said. “It really helps not having that long a learning curve.”

Cardinal has been a faculty member at Chapman for the past 27 years and CES dean for the past 13. He began teaching for CES when the college only had 14 faculty members. That number has since grown to 75. Cardinal said he was “drafted” to be dean. For the last three years he had been asking Chancellor Daniele Struppa to allow him to step down.
Once Cardinal’s term as dean concludes in June, he will begin a year-long sabbatical before returning to Chapman as a professor.

However, during his sabbatical Cardinal said he will likely be working on a research institute for CES that is in the process of being developed.

Cardinal said he is excited to teach again because he has “unfinished business as a faculty member.”

Transitioning from dean to professor, Cardinal recognizes that it will be different not being “all knowing,” but he looks forward to getting to know students, because the position of dean is very “insular.”

“Seems like she has her head in the right spot for us to be a good match,” said Cardinal about Grogan and her fit with Chapman.

Grogan was born and raised in Australia, lived in Japan for 17 years and has taught at schools on the East Coast. Grogan says she wants to make social justice a priority once she starts as dean.

“The university itself has exceptional programs and has a clear idea of how to address social justice issues such as equity in education,” Grogan said.

Cardinal has already begun debriefing Grogan as the transition begins.

“It’ll be interesting to see what changes are made in the program,” said Rochelle Zelenka, a junior integrated education studies major.