Teresa Scott Soufas, professor of Spanish and former dean of the Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences at Tulane University, has been named dean of Temple University’s College of Liberal Arts effective July 1, 2007, concluding a national search.

Soufas served as dean of the 300-member Faculty of the Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) — a complex of colleges through which, before Tulane’s reorganization in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Tulane students matriculated into 22 academic departments and 16 interdisciplinary programs in the humanities, social sciences, fine arts and sciences — from 1998 to 2005 (she was acting dean from 1996 through 1997). She administered a budget of $56 million, was responsible for faculty hiring and led committees responsible for promotion, tenure and curricula.

“Teresa brings an extraordinary record of leadership at one of the nation’s finest institutions to Temple’s College of Liberal Arts,” said Temple President Ann Weaver Hart. “The fact that such an accomplished leader would also have an unwavering commitment to the urban university experience, a demonstrated talent for fund raising and an international reputation as a scholar made her stand out from all the other candidates. We are lucky to have her.”
Among her many accomplishments as dean, Soufas led development efforts that raised $60 million since 1999 for LAS, founded Tulane’s Center for Scholars of the Liberal Arts and Sciences, helped expand Tulane’s international programs, was the principal architect of a long-term strategic plan for LAS and helped create and implement a freshman writing seminar program, a dean’s advisory council and an undergraduate service learning program.

“More than anything else, Teresa brings experience — she knows how to get things done,” said newly appointed Temple Provost Lisa Staiano-Coico, who will move into her office the same day as Soufas after serving as dean of Cornell University’s College of Human Ecology. “The College of Liberal Arts will benefit from all that experience in the coming years, a critical period for the college and Temple that will see the implementation of a general-education program, an unprecedented capital campaign and the continuation of our faculty hiring push.”

The College of Liberal Arts is the second-largest of Temple’s 17 schools and colleges, with 5,300 students, 16 academic departments, 11 interdisciplinary programs and more than 340 full-time faculty members. Since fall 2004, CLA has hired 46 tenured and tenure-track faculty members from the world’s leading institutions as part of an ongoing university-wide faculty recruitment effort.

“The invitation to serve as dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Temple is one I accept with honor and great enthusiasm,” Soufas said. “As a faculty member and as an administrator, I have worked for and supported goals that reflect what Temple has stood for during its long history, the mission that President Hart calls ‘access to excellence.’ I embrace that vision, and I embrace the College of Liberal Arts’ great tradition of encouraging students and faculty members to push their way across boundaries of all types: between disciplines, between the university and the surrounding community, between nations — and of course across boundaries of imagination.”

An expert in Golden Age Spanish literature, Soufas has been a faculty member in Tulane’s department of Spanish and Portuguese since 1986 and a full professor since 1996; she has served as the department’s chair and director of graduate studies.

Soufas has authored three books — *Melancholy and the Secular Mind in Spanish Golden Age Literature*, *Dramas of Distinction: Plays by Spanish Golden Age Women* and *Women’s Acts: Plays by Women Dramatists of Spain’s Golden Age* — as well as dozens of articles in refereed journals and collections.
Born in Oklahoma and raised in Georgia, Soufas earned a Ph.D. in Spanish from Duke University, a master’s degree in Spanish from the University of South Carolina and a bachelor’s degree in Spanish from Emory University.

Soufas succeeds Susan Herbst — officer in charge of the University at Albany, part of the State University of New York system — who stepped down as dean in 2005 to take a position as Albany’s provost and executive vice president for academic affairs.

Former CLA Dean Carolyn T. Adams has been serving as interim dean; she will return to full-time teaching and research in the Department of Geography and Urban Studies. Adams succeeded acting Dean Philip Alperson, professor and chair of philosophy, in 2006.

“I am grateful to Carolyn for her leadership and energy during this transitional period,” Hart said. “She has maintained the college’s momentum through her commitment to students and faculty.”

— Hillel J. Hoffmann (hjh@temple.edu)