Provost Report for Faculty Senate

 March, 2016

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

**Positions Update**

Admissions Director – chaired by Carol Burton

Chief Diversity Officer – chaired by Shea Browning

Coulter Faculty Commons Director – position announcement update

Dean of Graduate School and Sponsored Research - chaired by Richard Starnes

**Career and Professional Development Center - Presentation by Theresa Paul Cruz and Carol Burton**

The Center for Career and Professional Development has been restructuring many of its key operations with an eye toward student success and life beyond college. On March 10th, the Center hosted a redesigned career event, Catamount Career and Professional Networking Day, in the Ramsey Center with more than 120 recruiters for graduate programs and employers of multiples fields. More than 530 WCU students as well as faculty, staff, alumni, and administrators supported the event. Results from the employer/recruiter survey are attached along with an analysis of the students who attended the event. For additional information on the Center for Career and Professional Development, please visit: careers@wcu.edu.

**Graduate Program recruitment update**

Graduate student recruitment continues for all graduate programs with emphasis on four main priorities:

1. **Current WCU undergraduates**: All second semester juniors and all seniors are contacted, informed, and invited to apply to our graduate programs each semester; all Chancellor’s list students are contacted each semester (regardless of class standing) and invited to select their VIP web portal leading to their application to a WCU graduate program; the Graduate School and many graduate programs recruit at campus events including the Career Fair, undergraduate Open Houses, and Advising Day events.
2. **External WCU applicants**: We have had continued and impressive (15 to 40 prospects/month) at our monthly Open House recruiting events at Biltmore Park. These prospects meet with Graduate School representatives, Biltmore Park representatives, and faculty from their prospective programs. With the help of Tony Johnson, Executive Director of Millennial Initiatives, in the Office of the Provost, we have begun making site visits in Buncombe and Henderson counties to prospective businesses and industries to match their employees with WCU graduate programs.
3. **Past WCU graduates**: We have contacted 1800 graduates from the College of Education and Allied Professions who reside in North Carolina to consider returning for a graduate degree at WCU (in either online or residential programs); we have begun working with WCU Alumni Affairs to target active WCU alumni and to partner with existing alumni events to recruit graduate school applicants.
4. **Current WCU staff**: we contact all WCU staff each semester (typically during Spring, Fall, and early summer break) to inform them of graduate opportunities at WCU, the FREE tuition offered for three classes each calendar year, and to answer any questions they may have as they apply. This is one of our best examples of investing in our people.

**Enrollment Projections - see attachment from OIPE**

**Center Development Process update:** Dr**.** Bill Yang (Chair of the IAB) will provide an update on the activities of the Implementation Advisory Committee in his report.

**Department Head Leadership Changes**

English – Laura Wright stepping down, Brent Kinser elected
Nursing – Judy Neubrander resigned to take a Dean position, selection process underway
GNR – Mark Lord stepping down, selection process underway
History – Mary Ella Engle, named as permanent department Chair

**NC GAP update**