

## Provost Report for Faculty Senate

For August, 2015

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

### **R25/25Live migration**

We are migrating from R25 (Campus Events Web Calendar) toward the new 25Live class and event scheduling software and transitioning to the new space approval model, which includes a revised and reduced list of space approvers. The planned “go-live” date is October 1, 2015. Training for space approvers and end users is being developed and should be available by mid-September.

### **Student Data Mart and Impact on Data Requests**

The UNC System has been developing a centralized Student Data Mart (SDM) which will house all UNC system institutions’ official data. The WCU Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness (OIPE) has been intensely involved in the implementation and validation of the SDM, with a lot of help from Information Technology, UG/GR Admissions, Financial Aid and the Registrar’s Office. With this fall’s census data, WCU and three other pilot campuses will ‘go-live’ with the new Student Data Mart. This transition requires use of completely revamped data file structures which necessitates rebuilding all of our reporting processes including all internal and external reporting (all automated reporting, ad-hoc requests, annual reports, Fact Book, official data in CATalytics, etc.). The impact of this added work will require a longer than usual response time on data requests, and the need to prioritize requests by level of institutional and strategic importance. Please contact OIPE’s office at 227-7239 or [oipe@wcu.edu](mailto:oipe@wcu.edu) if you have any questions regarding this transition or if you have any data needs.

### **WCU Quality Enhancement Plan**

Western Carolina University will undergo its next SACSCOC review in 2017, and at the center of that review will be the examination of WCU’s Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP must be centered on a single, well-defined idea that will improve the institution and enhance student learning. More than fifty topics were submitted for consideration for WCU's next ten-year QEP, and eight finalists were chosen by a university committee comprised of staff and faculty. The WCU [2020 Plan](#) and the QEP will become the defining design for the next decade at Western Carolina. Now, all members of the WCU community will have the opportunity to cast their vote for the winning idea. A three minute thesis presentation by each of the eight groups occurs on September 1 in the UC Theatre 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. and voting will be open from Sept 2 – 12 via the QEP website at <http://www.wcu.edu/about-wcu/accreditation/sacscoc-reaffirmation/qep/>

### **Summer Learning Communities:**

In 2014, WCU launched First-year Experience (FYE) Summer Catamount GAP learning communities expanding our First Year Experience. New freshmen accepted to WCU for the upcoming Fall Term under regular admission criteria, are invited to get an early start on their college career. Students earn seven credits in five weeks, attend classes together, live on campus, and get involved in programs and activities to enrich the full student experience. The summer program enrolled 62 new students in the initial 2014 offering, and included a cohort of 18 students enrolled in WHEE Teach, a learning community for students who aspire to be educators.

This initiative was implemented to address Strategic Plan goal 1.5.2:

*“Expand the number of resident and distance summer school offerings for a wide variety of learners, including WCU students, guest students, senior citizens, B-12 students, and the general public; expand summer school enrollment by 25 percent by 2020”.*

The 2015 enrollment in FYE Summer grew by 55%, to reach 96 students. Six different class groups, or cohorts, were offered, including WHEE Teach. Catamount GAP expanded adding a cohort for Honors students. In addition, working with the Kimmel School, Math Department, and Math Tutoring Center, a new group was developed for students selecting Engineering majors who were identified by Math Placement criteria as students needing help to be 'math-ready' to succeed in Engineering. The summer learning community program provides a unique transition experience for students who will benefit from the additional support and smaller class size afforded by the summer program. With seven credits completed before the fall semester, students can graduate early, make room for a study-abroad experience or internship or take a lighter semester when faced with a particularly challenging course load and still *Finish in Four!*

The 2014 cohort performed extremely well and fall to spring retention for this group was 96.8%, 4.4 points above the average for all full-time freshmen. Students in the 2015 FYE Summer cohort continued to perform extremely well academically. With an average summer GPA of 3.550, 64.58 % (62 students) earned a 3.5 or above, and one-third (32 students) earned a 4.0. Students demonstrated overall behaviors known to contribute to student success: accessed resources; developed strong relationships with peers and faculty/staff; engaged with campus and regional opportunities and activities. Ninety-one percent of the summer students engaged with service learning projects, and some with multiple interactions. Although early in its development, FYE Summer shows great promise in meeting WCU’s mission for student access and success.

Additional information about these initiatives, and others in Academic Affairs, can be found in the August Academic Affairs Newsletter coming out at the end of August.