

Provost Report for Faculty Senate

February 2018

Submitted by Carol Burton, Acting Provost

I regret that I am unable to attend this month's Faculty Senate because I am attending an AACU (Association of American Colleges and Universities') conference on general education. Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Retention Plan

The table below provides persistence rates for undergraduate students enrolled at WCU, per Faculty Senate request.

Fall-to-Fall Persistence												
<i>Persistence = Retention + Graduation Rate</i>												
Metric	Term	Cohort Size	Persistence after Year 1	Persistence after Year 2	Persistence after Year 3	Persistence after Year 4	Persistence after Year 5	Persistence after Year 6	Persistence after Year 7	Persistence after Year 8	Persistence after Year 9	Persistence after Year 10
Persistence	Fall 2007	1250	71.5%	60.3%	55.7%	53.4%	53.3%	52.6%	53.2%	53.3%	53.8%	54.1%
	Fall 2008	1219	76.2%	67.8%	63.2%	60.7%	59.2%	59.4%	60.2%	60.2%	60.5%	
	Fall 2009	1549	74.2%	64.8%	61.1%	59.5%	58.3%	58.6%	58.7%	58.7%		
	Fall 2010	1423	72.0%	63.5%	60.5%	58.2%	57.6%	57.8%	57.6%			
	Fall 2011	1508	73.7%	66.4%	62.7%	59.5%	59.7%	59.7%				
	Fall 2012	1550	78.7%	68.5%	65.9%	63.4%	61.9%					5 th
	Fall 2013	1614	77.9%	69.0%	65.4%	63.1%						4 th
	Fall 2014	1745	80.1%	71.3%	67.0%							3 rd
	Fall 2015	1624	80.2%	69.5%								2 nd
	Fall 2016	1913	78.9%									1 st

Academic Integrity Taskforce

The Academic Integrity Taskforce has been established and held its first meeting on February 8th. The task force is co-chaired by Debra Burke, Associate Dean for the College of Business and Elizabeth Tait, Associate Professor for the School of Health Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences, with other membership as follows:

- Deb Burke, Associate Dean, College of Business (*Co-Chair*)
- Elizabeth Tait, Associate Professor, School of Health Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences (*Co-Chair*)
- Brian Railsback, Faculty Senate Chair, Professor, Department of English, College of Arts and Sciences
- Lowell Davis, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success
- Barbara Ballentine, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, College of Arts and Sciences
- Mattie Davenport, Associate Director, Writing and Learning Commons
- Brian Kloeppel, Dean, Graduate School and Research
- Kevin Koett, Dean of Students
- Bruce Henderson, Professor, Department of Psychology, College of Education and Allied Professions
- Katherine Spalding, President, Student Government Association
- Jeanine Irons, Coulter Faculty Commons
- Scottie Kapel, Office of the Dean, Hunter Library

SACSCOC Update

WCU received notification from SACSCOC on January 12th that our accreditation is reaffirmed, with the next reaffirmation taking place in 2027. SACSCOC also requested a Monitoring Report due September 7, 2018 to address a few items. The Monitoring Report will respond to the visiting committee's recommendations applicable to the following standards of the *Principles of Accreditation*:

- Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.1 (Institutional effectiveness: educational programs) – *Additional evidence is needed to demonstrate improvement based on analysis of results;*
- Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.2 (Institutional effectiveness: administrative support services) – *Additional evidence is needed to demonstrate improvement based on analysis of results;*
- Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.3 (Institutional effectiveness: academic and student support services) – *Additional evidence is needed to demonstrate improvement based on analysis of results;*
- Comprehensive Standard 3.3.1.4 (Institutional effectiveness: research) – *Additional evidence is needed to demonstrate improvement based on analysis of results;*
- Comprehensive Standard 3.4.7 (Consortial relationships/contractual agreements) – *The nature of the agreement between the institution, the Jamaican Ministry of Education, and the University Council of Jamaica remains unclear;*
- Comprehensive Standard 3.11.1 (Control of physical resources) and Comprehensive Standard 3.11.3 (Physical facilities) – *The nature of the agreement between the institution, the Jamaican Ministry of Education, and the University Council of Jamaica remains unclear. The responsibilities and liabilities of the institution are not specified.*

Federal regulations and SACSCOC's policy stipulate that an institution must demonstrate compliance with all standards of the *Principles of Accreditation* within two years following the SACSCOC Board of Trustees' initial action on the institution. At the end of that two-year period, if the institution does not comply with all standards and requirements of the Principles, representatives from the institution may be required to appear before the Board, to answer questions as to why the institution should not be removed from membership. The Board may extend the period for coming into compliance for a minimum of six months and a maximum of two years and must place the institution on Probation. An institution may be on Probation for a maximum of two years.

The University Institutional Effectiveness Council, under leadership of Tim Metz, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Planning and Effectiveness, is leading the effort to respond to the recommendations for standards 3.3.1.1, 3.3.1.2, 3.3.1.3, and 3.3.1.4. The School of Education and Allied Professions, and the Office of Educational Outreach are developing a response for standards 3.4.7, 3.11.1 and 3.11.3.

We are taking necessary steps to become compliant in all standards and I appreciate the efforts of everyone on campus who is committed to our success in this regard.

BOG 120 credit degree

On January 31, 2018, President Spellings approved changes to UNC Policy Manual 400.1.5[R] Regulations Related to Fostering Undergraduate Student Success. The primary change to this policy is limiting baccalaureate degree programs to 120 credit hours (down from 128). Section I of the policy reads:

- I. *Required Semester Credit Hours for Baccalaureate Degree Programs*

Baccalaureate degree programs shall require no more than 120 semester credit hours. An institution with compelling reasons as to why a program's requirements must exceed 120 semester credit hours may petition to have an exception approved by its board of trustees. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to: programmatic accreditation standards; licensure requirements; and other state, federal, or professional regulations.

An institution must report any exceptions granted by its board of trustees, and the reasons for those exceptions, to the Board of Governors and the president by the end of calendar year 2018 and annually thereafter.

Any program authorized by the Board of Governors to require 135 semester credit hours or more shall be officially designated as a five-year baccalaureate program.

A. Constituent institutions shall observe these regulations in all proposals for new degree programs.

B. This section applies to individual baccalaureate degree programs, not to credit hour requirements for students who earn more than one major.

C. Constituent institutions must publicize the required number of semester credit hours and projected length of full-time enrollment required to obtain each baccalaureate degree in both printed and online catalogs. During new student orientation sessions and in publications for students and parents, constituent institutions must provide a description of factors that may prolong the length of time to complete a degree.

D. General Administration will maintain a catalog of all active baccalaureate degree programs and their required hours, and the Board of Governors will periodically review compliance with this 120-credit limitation, including approved exceptions to that limitation.

This section is effective as of the beginning of the fall 2019 semester, and shall not affect the credit hour requirements in place at the time of registration for students who registered at a constituent institution prior to the fall 2019 semester. Students who registered at a constituent institution prior to the fall 2019 semester will have the option to elect into the fall 2019 catalog.

WCU currently has roughly 20 baccalaureate degree programs above 120 semester credit hours in our Academic Program Inventory. Details on the petition process and timeline for requesting exceptions to the new credit hour limit are under development and will be provided to impacted colleges and departments. We are also seeking additional guidance from the UNC System Office on the format of the annual exception report.

Tom Apodaca Science Building Groundbreaking

The groundbreaking for the Tom Apodaca Science Building will be held at 2:00p in the Stillwell-Natural Science courtyard. University of North Carolina System President Margaret Spellings, Cherokee elder Dr. Jerry Wolfe, and a number of current and former state officials will speak. The campus community is welcome to attend the groundbreaking a following reception. Construction is scheduled following commencement in May.

WCU Graduate Student Debt – A Fall 2017 Snapshot

Please see addendum on graduate student debt. I think it is helpful to see an analysis of our students' debt as we all grow increasingly aware of undergraduate and graduate students' enrollment.

Faculty and Student Excellence

Finally, I want to publicly express congratulations to all faculty whose scholarship was showcased at our recent Faculty Scholarship Celebration. It was a true honor to see the examples of exemplar research and creative activity by our faculty. In that same vein, the Chancellor's List ceremony and reception underscore our commitment to recognizing and rewarding our outstanding students and Chief Richie Sneed was a great keynote for the event.

I wish you all a great February!