

# WCU Provost's Report to Faculty Senate

April 2019

We will realize a record number of students graduating this spring (1,826). On the heels of our largest enrollment in WCU's 130-year history (11,639), these accomplishments underscore our commitment to our core mission of educating students and serving our region by providing an educated citizenry. Our students are fortunate to learn from and be supported by, exemplary faculty and staff, regardless of field of study, instructional modality, degree level, or home location. Thank you for the privilege of working alongside you to make our students' success a reality.

Our annual spring awards ceremony will be held this Friday, April 26 at 3p in the UC Grand Room and I hope you will join us to recognize and celebrate the honorees.

## Taskforce on Faculty Salaries

The Taskforce on Faculty Salaries, chaired by Dean Richard Starnes, has concluded its work and submitted the report, including recommendations, to the Provost. Faculty senators will receive a copy of the report for review by the Faculty Senate Overflow meeting on May 1, 2019.

## Enrollment Growth Funding Follow Up

The annual budget proposal process for 2019-2020 is underway and public presentations for each division were held on April 22, 2019. Please visit [budgetprocess.wcu.edu](http://budgetprocess.wcu.edu) for the presentation slides.

The following slides are shared in response to earlier Faculty Senate requests for information on Academic Affairs' 2018-19 allocations.

## Results from FY2018-19 Process



### • Recurring \$1.4M (To Date)

- New Faculty: \$990,000
  - Statistics, Business Law, Mechanical Engineering, Acting and Directing, Interior Design, Physical Therapy, Sociology, Computer Aided Design, Integrated Health Sciences
- New Staff \$365,000
  - Math Tutoring Center, Advising, Accessibility Resources, Writing and Learning Commons, Biltmore Park, Degree Plus, Diversity and Inclusion/Community and Economic Engagement
- Non-personnel Operating: \$29,000

## Results from FY2018-19 Process



- **Non-Recurring \$1.0+M (To Date)**

- Lab and Studio Equipment: \$841,000
    - Anthropology & Sociology, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Communication, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Geosciences and Natural Resources, History, Physical Therapy, School of Music, School of Nursing, School of Stage and Screen, Service Learning
  - Space Improvements: \$105,000
    - Advising Center, Highlands Biological Station, General Classroom Space, School of Art and Design
  - Educational and Technology Initiatives \$73,000
    - History, Accessibility Resources, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Undergraduate Research
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### Summer Enrollment 2019

We continue to monitor summer term enrollment closely. While it is still too early to say for certain, our year-to-year point-in-time comparisons are looking promising. As of mid-April, 52.2% of available summer seats have filled, while in 2018, 50.7% of available seats had been filled at the comparable date. Additionally, the currently-built summer sections offer 445 more available seats than were being offered at this same point in 2018.

Deans and department heads have invested significant time and effort into thoughtful curation of our summer course offerings as we have prepared for the upcoming summer term, and it is their hard work that has ensured promising numbers at this early phase. The Office of the Provost will continue to monitor enrollments and work closely with college leadership on this issue.

### Enrollment Fall 2019

Overall WCU enrollment for Fall 2019 is currently **8,407** students compared to **7,619** students, point-in-time, for Fall 2018. The freshman-sophomore retention rate is currently **82.9%** (compared with 83.9% PIT last year). We anticipate a first-time full-time freshman enrollment of 2,150-2,200. New transfer student applications are trending up from last fall, which was a record increase of approximately 39% at 1,105 over the previous fall. Anticipated headcount will likely exceed **12,000**.

The graduate enrollment report as well as the overall WCU enrollment report 134 days prior to census on 30 August 2019 are depicted below. There is an increase of 36 graduate students enrolled compared to Fall 2018, point-in-time. Graduate student credit hours are up 452 SCHs compared to Fall 2018, point-in-time.

As a result of academic year registration, 214 graduate students are already enrolled for Spring 2020 (compared to 80 students, point-in-time, for Spring 2019). Fifty-two graduate students enrolled in graduate programs this week and 45 new graduate students were fully admitted for Fall 2019 who were recommended for admission by Graduate Program Directors.

For May 2019 Commencement, **385** graduate students have cleared graduation checks compared to **357** students who graduated in May 2018.

The following 5 graduate programs are currently enrolled for the Fall 2019 semester at the same or higher level compared to Census Day in Fall 2018:

**Arts and Sciences:**

Chemistry: 17 students, +3  
Public Affairs: 37 students, even

**Education and Allied Professions:**

School Counseling: 22 students, even

**Health and Human Sciences:**

Nursing Anesthesia DNP: 32 students, +16  
Social Work Advanced Standing: 22 students, +2

Headcount and Student Credit Hour Summary: up 36 students (1097 vs. 1061), up 452 SCHs (8,699 vs. 8,247)

College Point in Time and Comparison to Fall 2018 Census Enrollment:

Arts and Sciences: (n=106) up 14	{19 students needed to equal 2018 Fall Census}
Business: (n=168) down 11	{100 students needed “ ”}
Education and Allied Professions: (n= 417) up 20	{187 students needed “ ”}
Engineering and Technology: (n=60) up 21	{15 students needed “ ”}
Fine and Performing Arts: (n=8) up 1	{3 students needed “ ”}
Health and Human Sciences: (n=333) down 8	{179 students needed “ ”}

2017 Fall Census: 1,628 students enrolled; 13,295 student credit hours

2018 Fall Census: 1,612 students enrolled; 13,120 student credit hours

2019 Fall Census Enrollment Goal: 1,612 + 25 = 1,637 students enrolled

18 April 2019: 1097 graduate students enrolled (67.0 % of our Fall 2019 enrollment goal) with 8,699 SCHs enrolled (66.3 % of our Fall 2018 Census)

**Administrative Searches**

- Interviews for the Director of Office of Research Administration will take place the last week in April through the first week in May. For additional information regarding the job description, search committee composition and candidate materials, please see <https://www.wcu.edu/learn/office-of-the-provost/administrativesearches.aspx>.
- The search for a new Dean of Health and Human Sciences will continue into the next academic year. The search committee, under Dean George Brown’s leadership, did an admirable job of reviewing and interviewing candidates for the position. However, based on the collective feedback received, analysis of the options, and further review of candidates in the pool, we are suspending the search temporarily. Dr. Doug Keskula, current dean, will continue in this role for the next academic year.

### **New Advanced Placement Credit**

The Board of Governors passed a new policy on the awarding of credit based on Advanced Placement (AP) exam scores. The policy requests institutions grant appropriate course credit to students scoring a three or higher on any AP exams that the institution accepts for credit. Universities with a compelling reason why a score higher than three must be required can petition for an exception to this policy from their Boards of Trustees. Compelling reasons must be based on analyses of academic outcomes as discussed in the regulation 700.10.1[R].

- Addendum #1