Provost Report for Faculty Senate

For February , 2015

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

**Posthumous Degrees**

Western Carolina University now has solidified policies for awarding posthumous degrees and certificates of achievement for both graduate and undergraduate students, as well as procedures and a form in place to ensure consistency going forward. This was presented at APRC last week.

**Part Way Home**

Iveta Imre was selected among several applicants to facilitate a grant from General Administration to support part-way home students. Drs. Lowell Davis and Carol Burton interviewed the applicants. Dr. Imre has a proposal to rename the Special Studies program to Interdisciplinary Studies and Faculty Senate will vote on that proposal.

**Chancellor’s and Dean’s Lists**

Western recently created the Chancellor’s List to recognize students for high academic achievement. The Chancellor’s List is distinguished from the Dean’s List by a more stringent minimum grade standard; to be included in the Chancellor’s List, students must have a semester GPA of at least 3.80. WCU recently hosted its first Chancellor’s List event with excellent attendance by students, faculty, staff, parents and friends. I would like to thank all of the faculty and staff who attended this inaugural event.

**LSAT Test Prep Course**

Western is now offering an LSAT test prep course to support students intending to continue on to law school. The course is prepared and lead by Bonnie Claxton, a local attorney with a practice here in Sylva. This course is free to students through the Writing and Learning Commons, and is supervised by Chesney Reich, Director of the WaLC. The WALC is also offering GRE and GMAT study groups.

**Fostering Undergraduate Student Success – Dr. Davis**

Dr. Lowell Davis will report the details of how Western Carolina University was impacted by Fostering Undergraduate Student Success at the end of the Fall semester. Our Fall-to-Spring semester retention rate is 92.4% which is a significant increase. He will also provide a report that details retention by academic program.

**Athletic Clustering**

Lowell Davis, Brent Kinser and the University Athletics Committee are in the process of compiling information to report to General Administration on course clustering. We should not have more than 25% of student athletes enrolled in a course. General Administration released their guidelines on academic integrity and required course clustering analysis of student athletes in July of last year.

**Searches in Academic Affairs**

Dr. Jeff Ray, Dean, Kimmel School will chair the search for Dean of the Honors College

Dr. Brian Railsback is chairing the search committee for Dean of the Hunter Library. The job is posted and the search committee will start reviewing applications on February 23rd.

Dr. Lane Perry is chairing the search committee for the Director of Career Services. The job is posted and the search committee will begin to review applications at the end of the month.

Dr. Laura Wright is chairing the search committee for the Director of Undergraduate Advising. This job is posted and the search committee will start reviewing applications at the beginning of March.

Mr. Shea Browning is chairing the search committee for the Chief Diversity Officer. The position is posted and applications will be reviewed starting February 19th.

**Awards/ Recognitions**

NORTH CAROLINA CAMPUS COMPACT has awarded its 2015 Civic Engagement Professional of the Year Award to Lane Perry, Director of the Center for Service Learning.

This award recognizes a staff person at an NC Campus Compact member campus in the civic engagement field for 4 years or less that has worked towards the institutionalization of service, created and strived towards a vision of service on their campus, supported faculty and students, and formed innovative campus-community partnerships.

**Notes from Chief Academic Officer Meeting**

GA is seeking participants to serve on the UNC Data Governance Committee. This committee should (1) increase the consistency and reliability of UNC data that touches multiple business and academic units within campuses and GA (2) establish system-wide data standards and (3) establish rules of engagement. Someone from IT or OPE will be appointed to serve on this committee.

Academic Advising: As discussed in the September CAO meeting, the BOG is extremely interested in exploring academic advising on the UNC campuses. During the September Board of Governors meeting, Mr. Craig Sousa, chairperson of the Educational Planning, Policy, and Programs committee, recommended that a BOG workgroup be formed to review academic advising at UNC institutions.

A meeting was held on November 4th at UNCGA with academic advisors and transfer student advisors from 11 campuses to discuss academic advising on the campuses. The discussion centered around the complexities of academic advising on the various campuses. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success Lowell Davis and Interim Director of Undergraduate Advising Kim Cherry-Beck will survey the campus to obtain information about academic advising climates, structures and effectiveness. Some of the potential questions are listed below.

* What is the academic advising climate and structure on your campus?
* Does your advising system include faculty and professional advisors? If so, describe the roles of each.
* Is academic advising required on your campus? If so, which students are required to see an academic advisor and when?
* What are the best features of academic advising on your campus?
* What are areas in need of improvement?
* What role does academic advising have in achieving student success goals on your campus?

**Grades First**

GradesFirst is the new student performance monitoring system that is now available to staff and faculty. The system includes features such as documentation for student advising meetings, Issue Alert case management, appointment scheduling, and more. It will increase efficient and open communication among the offices and personnel who interact with students, and it can also provide useful reports and data.  The College of Business and the College of Education & Allied Professions will be piloting the system this spring, and our goal is to roll it out to all faculty for implementation during Fall 2015.

Meetings have already taken place with department heads in the College of Business and the College of Education and Allied Professions.

Feb. 18                 Introduce GradesFirst at the campus-wide department head meeting

Feb. 20                 A day of workshops in COB and CEAP where we will provide training on:

-          Entering notes on students

-          Issue Alert

-          Scheduling appointments (for those who want it)

Our goal is work with departments throughout the spring semester and provide training. Any department that would like to use GradesFirst prior to “Advising Day” should contact Alicia Cameron in the Advising Center as soon as possible. Additional training opportunities will be available for faculty, in the summer and fall.

For information from a previous senate meeting: Impact of adding any Doctoral Program on Carnegie and SACS qualifications.

* The addition of a Psy.D. program will not impact WCU’s Carnegie classification.  WCU will remain a Master’s L (greater than 20 doctoral degrees are required for a change from Masters L).
* For SACSCOC, an institution adding a fourth doctorate degree, causing it to be reclassified from Level V to Level VI is required to request the level change in writing in order for SACSCOC to reclassify the institution within its data base (this level classification is specific to SACSCOC and has no relationship to the Carnegie classification).  However, since none of the three doctoral programs currently offered at WCU is very closely related to the proposed Psy.D., this will be a significant departure at the current level (doctoral) and thus will require a prospectus for approval.  The prospectus will be reviewed by staff, not by the Board of Trustees, so it should be submitted at least three months before the intended starting date.