Provost Report for Faculty Senate

For January 21, 2015

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

* Good news:
  + George Brown. Dean of Fine and Performing Arts. Started Jan 12th. <http://news-prod.wcu.edu/2014/12/wcu-appoints-western-michigans-george-brown-as-dean-of-fine-and-performing-arts/>
  + Jim Veteto is on Southern Living Magazine's list of "50 People Who are Changing the South in 2015" for his work with the Southern Seed Legacy.  <http://www.southernliving.com/travel/people-changing-south-2015/dr-james-vetero-southern-seed-legacy-project>
  + Joshus Vaught an MBA student was recognized as third on this year’s list of 40 under 40 in the gaming industry. <http://ggbmagazine.com/issue/vol-13-no-11-november-2014/article/40-under-40-joshua-vaught>
* Searches:
  + Hunter Library Dean: underway. Committee charged in December, developed job description in consultation with the faculty and staff in the library.
* Southern Conference Academic Initiative
  + Provosts from all 10 SoCon affiliate institutions met in Spartanburg January 6th to discuss possible collaborations among and between the membership institutions. This meeting was a result of a conference call in November, with all Provosts, to develop an academic focus within SoCon for all students and faculty (not just athletes), similar to other athletic conferences.
  + The four topics under discussion were Internationalization, Leadership, STEM Initiatives and Undergraduate Research and Graduate School programs.
  + Western will take the lead on STEM Initiatives and Undergraduate Research.
  + SoCon is opening up their website to include academic successes posted by each institution. This would be a great opportunity to market WCU.
  + Those present at the meeting were Ling LeBeau, Brandon Schwab, Brian Kloeppel, Darrel Parker, Alison Morrison-Shetlar.
* COACHE: As mentioned in other Provost reports, in 2015 we will conduct another COACHE survey. There were a tremendous number of outcomes from the last survey, including individual reports to each College. A summary of the results of each college can be found at H:\IPE Reports\COACHE results
* Campus Forums: There will be one campus wide forum at the end of the semester on the status of the Millennial Campus Development, Campus Master Plan implementation and SACS COC accreditation. I am committed to increased communication that meets the wishes of the Campus community. Would the faculty like more open forums with the Provost or other people on campus? Should these forums be called by the Provost’s office or others?
* Value of Service: At both my standing meeting with the Chair of Faculty Senate and at the last Faculty Senate Planning meeting, the value of service at WCU was brought up. In the last 12 months since coming to WCU, I have read materials submitted in portfolios and in AA12s and typically found much less information provided on service, more on scholarship and much more on teaching. Usually lists of service activities are provided with no outcomes or reflections on impact, as one sees in the teaching section. Since little evidence is provided, there is also very little response from reviewing individuals and committees. I would welcome discussion on how to appropriately document service commitments, how it fits with the career path of the individual and the impact that it has on the community, thus providing evidence that will be considered and valued.
* Faculty Relations Fellow: After incorporating feedback from Faculty Senate, a revised call for applications for Provost Fellow for Faculty Relations was posted in December. A strong candidate was identified and offered the position. We are currently working through details of the appointment, including the official start date with the candidate and their home department. Once finalized, an announcement will go out to campus.
* FYI: Terms and Load-By Dates for this Summer
  + Summer Term schedule available on Registrar’s site:
    - <http://www.wcu.edu/registrar/calendars/Academic_Calendar_2014_2015.pdf>
  + Summer courses to be entered into Banner by the last Friday in January