Provost Report – Faculty Senate

1/17/13

I sent out a notice to the WCU campus this week about a proposed re-organization of Academic Affairs. We will be using an open position previously occupied by Fred Hinson to create an Assistant/Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success, and restructuring the two current Associate Provost positions to focus on Undergraduate Studies and Faculty Affairs/Academic Policy respectively. We will also be combining Education Outreach and International Programs and Services into a new unit tentatively titled International and Extended Programs. We will be searching for an Assistant/Associate Provost to lead this new combined unit using existing positions. Finally, we will soon be launching a search for Millennial Initiatives Executive Director. The individual hired will lead efforts toward developing the Millennial Campus, but also will work more broadly to develop external partnerships for programs across campus, developing regional networks and serving as the University’s liaison for regional economic development programs. This is the only new position in the proposed re-organization. Search Committees for the AVC of Student Success (led by Dr. Mark Lord), AVC of International and Extended Programs (led by Dr. Carol Burton), and Millennial Director (led by Dr. Darrell Parker) will be assembled in the next week or two to start recruitment efforts.

The Program Prioritization Task Force conducted an open forum on 1/16 and is considering feedback from the session in making revisions before the process goes forward.

Update on dean searches:

The Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, led by Dr. Sean O’Connell, has selected two finalists to bring to campus for interviews the last week of January and first week of February. The Search Committee for the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services led by Dr. James Zhang has begun to screen the applicant pool and hopes to have campus interviews by late February or early March. We will do an internal search for the Dean of Graduate School and Research, probably appointing a search committee in late February or early April.

The University Collegial Review Committee is currently reviewing files from candidates for promotion, tenure, and emeritus status and will meet in early February to discuss their reviews.

Task forces will be created this Spring for reviewing Summer School processes and procedures (for changes that would occur for Summer 2014), for Digital Measures to explore campus-wide adoption, and to discuss creation of a Leadership Academy for WCU faculty and staff.

The five year report is due for SACS (the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools) by March. We also will be working starting this summer on our application for re-affirming our status as an Engaged University.