**Provost’s Report**

**Faculty Senate Meeting August 29, 2012**

It has been a busy first month in the office. I appreciate the gracious welcome I have received from faculty and staff. I am very pleased that the Executive Council and the Council of Deans exhibited their commitment to investing in our people by carving out a .5 merit increase on top of the 1.2% across-the-board raise approved by the General Assembly for EPA employees.

This again will be a year with many important initiatives:

* We anticipate forming a task force to begin Program Prioritization in September. The goal of Program Prioritization will be making strategic realignment between academic programs and university priorities as reflected in the 2020 plan. We need to seek ways to proactively re-allocate current funding to enable WCU to make investments which will position it for the future. The broadly representative task force of 15-20 members will develop a set of criteria for assessing programs, work with the Office of Institutional Planning and Effectiveness in developing profiles that include both quantitative and qualitative measures of program effectiveness, and make recommendations to the Chancellor on investment opportunities, program revisions, or program discontinuation. We anticipate the review will be completed within the academic year.
* Vice Chancellor Sam Miller and I will be leading an Enrollment Management task force to develop strategies to help WCU maximize its enrollment and to make progress in student retention and graduation rates. The task force will also examine organizational structures and processes related to student recruitment, enrollment, and success.
* WCU will be developing its response to a new system of Performance Funding being initiated by GA, the Board of Governors and the State legislature. Some portion of WCU’s state funding will be allocated according to how we meet goals in student retention and graduation, financial efficiency, and other outcome measures.
* We will be working toward searches for key leadership positions at WCU. Six dean positions and the Associate Provost position are currently being filled by interim appointments. I am currently meeting with faculty members and department heads to gain input on search strategies. I anticipate that 4-5 searches will be initiated this year.
* I will be working with Laura Cruz in the Coulter Faculty Commons in developing a Leadership Academy which will be launched in the Fall of 2013. I am in the process of meeting with each academic department on campus during this first academic year. The meetings will allow me to get to know faculty members, and to hear first-hand about the achievements and challenges that each program faces. It is also an opportunity for faculty to ask any questions of me and to facilitate direct dialogue.