Provost’s Update

Fall Edition, December 2008
A newsletter published by the provost for the faculty of Eastern Washington University

Provost’s Message:

I’m very pleased to congratulate all of you for your diligent work in bringing fall quarter 2008 to a good conclusion. This year, we have welcomed 52 new faculty, 26 of whom are tenure-track, and all of whom bring an array of expertise and experience to a wide variety of academic disciplines. Our fall 2008 enrollment has shown a gain of 191 FTES, and this year’s freshman class headcount totals 1,505, the largest since the university’s 2005-6 academic year. Current state-level budget challenges call for careful decisions for trimming expenses while continuing to offer the best educational experiences for our students. Discussions surrounding this issue during meetings in your academic areas have highlighted your creativity and efforts to offer solutions. Thank you for your dedication to our students and our university.

John Mason, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

CSBS Faculty Share Research, Expertise with the EWU Community:

October was a busy month for College of Social and Behavioral Sciences’ faculty, who shared their expertise in a variety of topics with members of the university community. On October 9<sup>th</sup>, Economics Professors Eric Hake and Grant Forsyth, Government Professor Kevin Pirch, and Finance Professor Dan Kiefer joined forces with financial advisor Carole Folsom to present “It’s the Economy! And Politics, too!,” a two-hour, informed discussion about the nation’s current economic crisis and its relationship to today’s political climate. On October 20<sup>th</sup>, the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Arts and Letters, and the CSBS and CAL Living Learning Communities presented “The Election of Your Lifetime - A Forum” for faculty, staff, and students. The panel included Professors Kevin Decker, Kevin Pirch, Elizabeth Kissling, Mike Conlin, CSBS Dean Vickie Shields, and moderator David May, all faculty experts on voting behaviors, popular culture and media. On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, History Professor Bonny Bazemore presented “The Young Lover of the Goddess of Desire” as part of the college’s annual lecture series. The world’s leading authority on Cypriot languages, Dr. Bazemore lived in Cyprus for 20 years and has conducted extensive research excavations there. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, Government Professors Kevin Pirch, Thomas Hawley, and David May presented a “How does the Electoral College Work?” teach-in for students, faculty, and staff. The informed discussion focused on the purpose and workings of the electoral college.

Faculty members, we want to tout your professional activities. Please send information about your teaching, research, performance, and service accomplishments to Kandi Carper at 359-2396 or kcarper@ewu.edu for posting on Eastern’s “Recognizing Faculty Excellence” website, www.ewu.edu/x15105.xml
Eastern Welcomes New Tenure-Track Faculty:

This year, Eastern welcomes 26 new tenure-track faculty: Blake Beecher and Mary Ann Clute (School of Social Work); Rayette Sterling and Paul Victor (JFK Library); Andrea Castillo, N. M. Awlad Hossain, Yao Houndonougbo, Hye "Kristine" Hwang, Sarah Jackson, Hyung Sook Lee, Joanna Matos, Paul Mullasseril, Robin O'Quinn, and Hani Saad (College of Science, Health and Engineering); Darcey Dachyshyn, Chadron Hazelbaker, and Ryan Sain (College of Education and Human Development); Lawrence Cebula, Kelley Cullen, Eric Hake, and Majid Sharifi (College of Social and Behavioral Sciences); and Julian Gomez Giraldo, Stephen Hoyt, Jenny Hyde, Molly Johnson, and Christopher Kirby (College of Arts and Letters). These new faculty, 31% of whom are members of underrepresented categories, will make significant contributions to their students' learning and their respective disciplines: social work, biology, history, economics, education, music, PEHR, engineering and design, chemistry/biochemistry, English, art, dental hygiene, modern languages and literatures, mathematics, counseling/educational and developmental psychology, government, and library science. In addition to the 26, Brian Sardella (biology) will join the university in January.

Continuing Initiatives:

Course and Classroom Scheduling - Last year's course and classroom scheduling initiative has had a positive impact on making better use of classrooms throughout the school day and reducing scheduling conflicts for students. Additional strategies under current discussion should result in increased scheduling efficiencies for winter quarter.

IDEA - The IDEA student survey instrument has received approval for purchase as an exception to the current budget freeze. Implementation of IDEA is on schedule, and the instrument currently is being pilot tested.

OSPI Site Visit - In October, site visitors from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction evaluated Eastern's education certification programs. While a final decision on the programs is not expected until January 2009, Eastern was able to provide the accreditation review team with sufficient evidence of successful practice on most indicators, and a positive review of the university's education certification programs and protocols is expected.

Statewide Budget Shortfall Pending, Implications for EWU:

A projected $503 million downturn in the state's revenue forecast, driven by current issues in national and international financial markets, has resulted in a Governor's directive to reduce spending and prepare for additional budget reductions. For the current fiscal year, Eastern's anticipated cuts and savings have been increased by an additional $1 million. For the next biennium, all of the state's public four-year universities have been charged with preparing budget reduction scenarios of 5, 10, 15, and 20%. Here at Eastern, funding redistributions, based on academic areas' enrollments and workload comparisons nationwide, have been projected for implementation. The university vice presidents will have completed their respective budget reduction scenarios and forwarded them to President Arévalo by January 2009.

On or around December 20th, the Governor will release her proposed budget, and we will have a clearer, although not definite, idea of where Eastern will stand. The university's budget will not be made final until it is approved by the Legislature next spring.

In conclusion, all areas of the university are working actively to address the budget situation. We can feel confidence that our thoughtful efforts will help us focus, economize, and collaborate, in order to come out of this challenging budget climate as a stronger university.
New Deans and Vice Provosts:
Longstanding members of Eastern’s university community have taken on deans’ and vice provost’s roles for the upcoming year:

Ron Dalla, vice provost of graduate education, research, academic planning and evaluation

Lynn Briggs, dean of the College of Arts and Letters

Cathy Dixon, interim vice provost of the Division of International and Educational Outreach

Linda Kieffer, interim vice provost of academic administration

Lisa Avery, interim associate dean of the School of Social Work and Human Services

Jim Perez, interim dean of the School of Social Work and Human Services

More information on the new deans and vice provosts can be found on the provost’s website, www.ewu.edu/x8333.xml