Interim Provost’s Message

As we begin the 2010-11 academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to brief you on the changes that have occurred since July 1, when I assumed the role of Interim Provost and VPAA. First, I have changed the name of the Provost’s Council to the Academic Affairs Council. There are many reasons for this, but foremost among them is my sincere belief that we need to engage in a process of shared responsibility within Academic Affairs. With that in mind, I have engaged the deans, associate deans and my staff in a number of discussions, beginning this past summer, that will guide our work this year. As you know, we have many items that will call for our best thinking. Included below are some updates on some of these topics.

Finally, I ask for your full and active participation in the governance process this year. Whether that is in a formal role or informal role, we need your best thinking to ensure that EWU continues to excel in providing the best possible education we can for our students.

New Faculty

I am pleased to report that we have 26 new faculty joining our ranks this fall. The faculty members include Bruce Davidson and Arsen Djatej (Accounting and Information Systems); Elise Boxer (American Indian Studies); Jamie Hahn and Christopher Tyllia (Art); David Daberkow (Biology); Elizabeth Wilson-Fowler (Communication Disorders); Kelly Hope (Counseling, Educational and Developmental Psychology); Mark Holmgren and German Muchnik-Izon (Economics); Thomas Walsh and Martin Weiser (Engineering and Design); Sean Agriss, Charlie Potter, and Justin Young (English); Joseph Lenti (History); Larry Davis (Management); Steven Mortier and Julia Salerno (Music); Nathaniel Lawton (PEHR); Patricia Nelson (Physical Therapy); Jerry Garcia, Rie Kobayashi, and Amanda Reedy (Social Work); Kerryn Bell (Sociology and Justice Studies); and Shana Joslyn (Theatre).

Dr. Richard Wilson joined EWU as Dean of Libraries. Dr. Wilson comes to us from Boise, where he has served as Associate State Librarian for the State of Idaho since 2000. In this capacity, he has worked with strategic planning and program evaluation, personnel functions and fiscal operations, information technology and the Idaho Digital Repository, projects and services for special populations, early childhood literacy initiatives, and physical facilities. Dr. Wilson has an extensive record of scholarship, including numerous presentations and lectures to professional organizations, and has published over 40 scholarly works in his career. He holds a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Idaho, an M.P.A. from Boise State University, an M.A. in Library Science from the University of Iowa, and a B.A. in History and Social Studies from Graceland College.

Dr. Colin Ormsby joined EWU in May 2010 as the Director of the Office of Institutional Research, Demography and Assessment. A native Spokanite, Dr. Ormsby comes to Eastern from California State University–East Bay, where he has served as the associate vice president for planning and institutional research and the interim executive director of undergraduate admissions and graduation evaluation. Dr. Ormsby holds a Ph.D. in education from UC–Berkeley, a Master of Arts in administration and policy analysis in higher education from Stanford, and a Bachelor of Arts in English language and literature from Gonzaga University.

In addition, we have ten tenure-track searches underway for fall 2011. This effort represents an ongoing commitment by EWU to strengthen our academic programs. We look forward to successful outcomes and welcoming new faculty in fall 2011.
College Consolidation

On July 1, the college consolidation plan was implemented with the following four colleges: the College of Arts, Letters and Education; the College Business and Public Administration; the College of Science, Health and Engineering; and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Social Work. Deans Briggs and Shields have been engaged in the process of bringing these units together under a new structure. In addition, the colleges have new homes, with CALE located in Martin-Williamson Hall and CSBS/SW located in Senior Hall.

Enrollment and Strategic Enrollment Management

I am pleased to report that our enrollments continue to be strong, as the university’s fall 2010 enrollment is 10,750 full-time equivalent students. This 250-FTES increase from last year’s record enrollment suggests that our academic programs continue to attract qualified applicants. As we all know, enrollments are essential to our shared work; however, I believe we have a unique opportunity to examine our enrollment and develop policies that will foster improved student success.

Toward this end, Dr. Arévalo has charged Stacey Morgan Foster (VP of Student Affairs), Larry Briggs (Associate VP of Enrollment Services), Tom Hawley (Chair of Government), and me to guide the implementation of the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) report. The report and Dr. Arévalo’s charge can be found at [http://access.ewu.edu/Provosts-Office/Strategic-Enrollment.xml](http://access.ewu.edu/Provosts-Office/Strategic-Enrollment.xml).

Primary among the elements of the charge are the following:

- Analyze institutional financial aid award practices and policies;
- Evaluate and modify graduate and undergraduate recruitment plans;
- Develop a recruitment plan for Running Start students with a goal of retaining a greater share at EWU;
- Develop a comprehensive campus advising plan, with special focus on improved retention;
- Develop a comprehensive retention program model to include addressing service delivery and opportunities to work with adult return-to-school students;
- Review the feasibility of Bachelor of Applied Science degree in selected areas linked to regional workforce needs; and
- Develop recruitment and retention plans for returning veterans, first-generation students, students in dedicated support programs, general students not participating in discretionary support programs, and students requiring remedial instruction.

The SEM plan will afford EWU an opportunity to develop a comprehensive approach to recruitment, retention and student success.

Spotlight on Summer Session 2010

The summer program for 2010 yielded an enrollment increase of 5.7% and garnered $300,000 in surplus revenue, which has been distributed to the colleges. These monies will provide much needed funds for various discretionary uses and will provide a cushion for the budgetary challenges we will face this year. As we start planning for 2011, more attention will be given to expanding two primary markets: 1) continuing undergraduate and graduate students; and 2) new students (e.g., returning adults, transfers, new freshmen). The deans will be working with marketing staff from DIEO to develop promotional materials that will target these key student groups.

Grants

I am pleased to report that we have had a tremendous year in securing outside funding. The IPEDS study on the following page illustrates EWU’s success in this area.
In Academic Affairs, several recent grants are noteworthy.

**National Science Foundation:**
- Professor Jamie Manson: $265,000 for Pressure and Chemical Modulation of Nanoscale Magnetic Interactions in Metal Organic Polymers.
- Professors Keith Adolphson, Heather McKean, Kevin Pyatt, and Margaret O'Connell: $1.2 million, through the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program.
- Professor Claudio Talarico: $150,000 for the Veterans in Engineering Education Initiative.

**U.S. Department of Education:**
- Academic Support Center Director Aaron Brown: $410,000 for TRiO Student Support Services.

University-wide, Eastern's faculty and staff received over $1.4 million in external funding this past spring, bringing the university’s annual total for Fiscal Year 2010 to $13.8 million.
International Education

EWU’s efforts to strengthen our global relations continue. As part of the SEM report, an international task force has been established and will make recommendations in the following areas: international student admission, enrollment, support and retention; exchanges/visitor programs/scholars in residence/partnerships; non-state international entrepreneurial activities; study abroad for domestic students; and fiscal and other implications for consideration.

The task force includes VP for Student Affairs Stacey Morgan Foster, VP for Academic Affairs & Provost Rex Fuller, and representatives from CALE, CBPA, CSHE, CSBS & SW, Enrollment Services, and the Division for International & Educational Outreach. The task force is expected to complete its work by February 2011.

In the meantime, EWU continues to makes progress on key initiatives. Eastern Washington University is hosting eight visiting scholars from Asia this academic year. Their academic research areas include mathematics, English, management, engineering, and economics. Also, Professor Gulchehra Zunnunova, from central Asia, is here as a Fulbright scholar in women’s studies and anthropology. All visiting scholars stay on the Cheney campus, with access to university facilities such as the JFK Library and the new University Recreation Center, to maximize their professional and personal interactions with faculty and students for a well-rounded American experience. The CBPA is host to four Muskie fellows from central Asia and eastern Europe, who are studying for their MBAs and MPAs.

An EWU delegation (Judd Case, Niel Zimmerman and Olga Baron) visited Liaoning Shihua University in September 2010 as part of the university's 60th anniversary. In addition, leaders from Liaoning Shihua University will visit EWU in November 2010 to continue our work to establish deeper relations. Of particular interest will be faculty exchanges, joint research, and access to selected graduate programs.

Closing

As you can see, EWU continues to be on the move! I hope you have a productive 2010-11, and I look forward to working with you to further our goals.

Best wishes,

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