

Academic Matters

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FROM THE PROVOST:

As another academic year comes to an end, I want to thank you all for your abiding commitment to serving our students, our campuses, our communities, and our institution over the past year. I draw inspiration daily from your tireless efforts to provide students with the highest quality teaching and learning environment, and a positive higher education experience statewide. I hope that as the semester draws to a close that you will take a moment to reflect on the powerful and transformative difference you make each and every day in our students' lives.

Over the past academic year, we have experienced many challenges and opportunities. In the late summer and early fall 2009, we implemented many of the budget reduction measures that were recommended by the UW Colleges Budget Reduction Work Group, Business Services Task Force, and the Library Task Force. Although these reduction measures were difficult, a year later we are seeing that these actions will lead to a balanced operating budget in 2010-2011 and beyond in the UW Colleges. As Chancellor Wilson promised, the UW Colleges has landed in the "softest of places" and is well positioned to move forward and continue to serve the people of Wisconsin with outstanding access to higher education. In January 2010, we submitted to UW System a revised Entitlement to Plan a Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree. A month later, we were granted the entitlement to plan the degree. This was a shining moment for our institution. The UW Colleges and UW-Extension hosted the April Board of Regents meeting at the UW-Fond du Lac campus. This major event allowed the UW Colleges and UW-Extension to showcase their innovative and high quality programming and services. In March and April, the Office of Academic Affairs presented a revised mission statement and a Proposal for Authorization to Implement the UW Colleges Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree for consideration and action by the UW Colleges Senate. Both documents were unanimously endorsed by the Senate. At the time of this writing, the Chancellor's Office and the Office of Academic

Affairs are preparing to present the revised mission statement and the Proposal for Authorization to Implement documents for a first reading at the June UW System Board of Regents meeting. This will be another seminal moment for the UW Colleges as we move a step closer to being granted the authority to implement the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree. Yes, this has been an eventful academic year!

When you find a moment, please read this edition of *Academic Matters*. Within its pages, you will find an update on the UW Colleges Inclusive Excellence planning process, news about our assessment activities in 2009-2010, an update on what is new in instructional technology, a reflective piece on the UW Colleges Distance Education program, a detailed listing of professional development grants awarded this spring semester, and an update on student services activities institution-wide.

Once again, I want to thank all of you for working so hard this past academic year on behalf of our students and our institution. As I reflect on this past year, I am profoundly grateful for your efforts. I wish you a restorative and fulfilling summer, and I look forward to seeing you in August at Fall Convocation.

Defining Inclusive Excellence in the UW Colleges *Lisa Seale*

Provost Greg Lampe charged the UW Colleges Inclusive Excellence Working Group at its first meeting on March 17, in Madison. As I have reported periodically over the past two years at the Senate and at academic department chairs' meetings, "The central premise of Inclusive Excellence holds that UW System colleges and universities need to intentionally integrate their diversity efforts into the core aspects of their institutions—such as their academic priorities, leadership, quality improvement initiatives, decision-making, day-to-day operations, and organizational cultures—in order to maximize their success" ([UW System Inclusive Excellence Frequently Asked Questions](#)).

At its first meeting, the Working Group discussed ways in which Inclusive Excellence is already part of what the UW Colleges does. As the institution of access, our advising, instruction, support services, extracurricular programming, and campus climates already support inclusion. But there is more work to do. Please join members of the UW Colleges Inclusive Excellence Working Group at a plenary session to be held at the UW Colleges Colloquium/ESFY Conference on Tuesday, May 25, at UW-Fox Valley to learn more about Inclusive Excellence and to provide your thoughts and insights into how our institution might best define and implement this exciting diversity and inclusion effort.

This plenary will help the Working Group as it rounds out its charge from the provost, which is to:

1. Determine how Inclusive Excellence can be implemented in the UW Colleges;
2. Identify the roles and responsibilities of existing diversity/inclusivity committees, faculty and staff, academic and non-academic departments, and students regarding Inclusive Excellence;

3. Identify key Senate, Administrative, and/or UW System policy issues that might need to be addressed regarding Inclusive Excellence, and
4. Provide a timeline for Inclusive Excellence implementation.

The UW Colleges Inclusive Excellence Working Group will complete its work by May 31, 2010, and will submit a final report with its recommendations to Greg Lampe by June 15, 2010. For more information about the Working Group, please feel free to contact Chair Holly Hassel or any of the group's members:

- *Chair* Holly Hassel, UW Colleges Women's Studies Program Director and Associate Professor, English and Women's Studies, UW-Marathon County
- Linda Crozier, Classified Staff Member, Custodial Services, UW-Marinette
- Pamela Dollard, UW Colleges Human Resources Director
- Stephan Gilchrist, UW Colleges/UW-Extension Chief Diversity Officer
- Ron Gulotta, UW Colleges Diversity Leadership Committee Chair
- Paisley Harris, UWC ESFY Coordinator and Associate Professor, History and Women's Studies, UW-Fond du Lac
- Kenneth Hawley, Student, UW-Rock County
- Rex Hieser, UW Colleges Professional Development Coordinator and Associate Professor, Psychology, UW-Fox Valley
- Kitty Kingston, Chair of Academic Department Chairs; Art Department Chair and Professor, Art, UW-Marshfield-Wood County
- Richard Krupnow, Lead Academic Staff Senator and Senior Lecturer, English and Communication and Theatre Arts, UW-Fox Valley
- Martha Nelson, Assistant Campus Dean for Student Services, UW-Washington County
- John Pruitt, UWC -UWEX Diversity & Equity Council Co-chair and Associate Professor, English, UW-Rock County
- Brian Schultz, UW Colleges Director of Accessibility Services
- Lisa Seale, UW Colleges Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Sandra Smith, Campus Executive Officer/Dean, UW-Marathon County

I will also be happy to respond to any questions. Meanwhile, I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming UW Colleges Colloquium/ESFY Conference.

UW Colleges Assessment Activities 2009-2010
By Laura Lee

The big assessment event of the spring semester was the first UW Colleges Assessment Summit. Deans, Chairs and Associate Deans from across the Colleges met with Senate Assessment Committee (SAC) members and some Department Assessment Coordinators (DAC) in March for a workshop designed to help us use data on the assessment of student learning outcomes to aid in planning at the institutional level. Lynn Priddy and Susan Hatfield from the Higher Learning Commission gave a presentation and led some activities with this in mind. The SAC came away from this workshop with much food for thought about the future of assessment in the Colleges. Follow-up discussions and meetings are being planned for 2010.

The Senate Assessment Committee met with the Department Assessment Coordinators in January at UW-Marshfield/Wood County. The departments are assessing analytical and aesthetic skills this year, and discipline-specific assessment in the departments has been going strong, as well. In February, several DACs and SAC members attended the Collaboration for the Advancement of College Teaching and Learning's Winter 2010 Conference: *Assessment for the Changing Learning Environment* in Bloomington, MN. The SAC will be meeting with the DACs again in June and August, as the final department plans are being written.

The SAC met with the CACs via WisLine in April. Many interesting assessment projects are being carried out on the campuses this year; assessment focuses include advising, curricular issues, accessibility and transfer issues. Each CAC reviewed the goal of the campus and gave a follow-up report, describing how the project was progressing. Many CACs were able to share ideas and ask questions throughout the discussion. SAC is looking forward to seeing the final reports in May.

I want to thank everyone for making this year's assessment activities interesting and useful. As we close this year, we begin to focus on our goals for 2010 – 2011. There are always improvements to be made, and your honest feedback to the SAC members and department and campus assessment coordinators is always welcome. Again, thank you for all of your assessment efforts.

What's New in Instructional Technology? ***By Pat Fellows and Karen Franker***

While instructors and students are preparing for the end of the semester, Karen and I are gearing up for a busy summer. We hosted an open house in Second Life on April 27th, to introduce faculty to the Virtual World and the implications for teaching and learning. New opportunities in Second Life will be available to instructors throughout the summer and into next year.

We are beginning to test our beta site for Google Apps. With Google Apps, we hope to offer the ability to integrate wikis, and other Web 2.0 tools into our Desire2Learn instance. We are kicking off another year (our fourth) of accelerated blended course redesign with a new cohort on May 20th, and this year we can say that all 13 campuses will be offering courses in this mode.

Finally, we are preparing for a new version of Desire2Learn that comes out in June, and it promises to provide instructors with some new and exciting course design and course facilitation tools. We will be attending several webinars that will introduce us to the changes for version 9.0. Don't worry; we'll have training materials available as soon as possible. This new version is going to be really exciting!

We wish you a smooth end to the semester, and a relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer.

Looking Back on the Year in UW Colleges Distance Education

By Cary Komoto

“Everything changes, nothing remains without change.” --Gautama Siddharta,

The UW Colleges Online program this past year has seen more than its share of change. In particular, there have been many staffing changes. First, Interim Director Cathy Whitford left at the end of June to take a position with the UW-Madison Medical School. Provost Greg Lampe offered me a one-year position starting July 1 as interim director, which I accepted.

Over the summer, long time Lead Instructional Designer Shirley Hensch, who developed many of the processes that make Online a high quality program, transitioned from her academic staff role to an online instructor role. She was eventually replaced by Jerry Lawler who accepted the position of Instructional Design Supervisor. Jerry stepped right in and did an excellent job of heading up the talented and skilled instructional design team of Bethany Gordy, Kristin Malone, and Stephanie Johnson.

The role of business manager was expanded, and Paula Sumpter accepted the newly configured position of Manager of Administrative Services for Distance Education. Paula did a wonderful job of dealing with the broad scope of this new position, including supervising the knowledgeable and efficient IT staff of Jay Scholz and Joe Francis. As part of his role, Jay also managed the excellent part-time helpdesk staff. Unfortunately for Colleges Online, Jay will be leaving at the end of May to become the new network administrator for UW-Richland.

In late fall, Online lost the very talented Colleen Howes, Marketing Director, who left to become the Marketing Director for what has become UW eCampus.

Thankfully, Online had one functional area that remained stable through the year. Kris Haag, Assistant Director, Student Services, did a terrific job of leading the student services staff of Leanne Johnson, Laura Spring, and Amber Tyler through the many changes within Colleges Online. As a whole, this group continued to provide outstanding service in a wide variety of ways to Online students.

Last, but certainly not least, was Non-Online Distance Education Coordinator Scott Bouffleur. Scott continued his great service in arranging class schedules and instructors for point-to-point video courses and for Wisline Web courses.

In addition to staff changes, the development of the UW eCampus imposed additional change for Colleges Online. The UW eCampus presents both great opportunities and great challenge. The great opportunity is to serve even greater numbers of students attracted to the eCampus with a high quality online education. The eCampus also presents the opportunity for UW Colleges Online to continue to develop partnerships with other UW institutions to better serve students' needs. The challenge remains to attend to the details that will ensure that UW Colleges Online provides the accessible, excellent education that allows students who otherwise would not be able to do so, to benefit from the best of what the UW Colleges has to offer.



Professional Development Grants
By Rex Hieser

Provost Lampe has accepted the recommendations of the Senate Professional Development Committee and awarded the following grants to UW Colleges faculty and staff.

Summer Research Grants

Autumn Behringer (Sociology/Anthropology, UW-Rock County) – “Building Boundaries or Building Bridges? A Sociological Study of In-law Relationships”

Amy Cavanaugh (Biological Sciences, UW-Rock County) – Behavioral Approaches to Counteracting Antibiotic Resistance in a Natural System”

Joel Friederich (English, UW-Barron County) – “Following the Old Man: Exploring an Alter Ego through Poetry”

Malcolm Gold (Business/Economics, UW-Marshfield/Wood County) – “Divorce and Divorce Reform: A Reconciliation of Results at Odds”

Letha Kelsey (Art, UW-Baraboo/Sauk County) – “On Foot / In Paint”

Stephen Schmid (Philosophy, UW-Rock County) – Continuation of a Mixed Methods Study Investigating Motivation to Engage in Teaching Professional Development: Encouraging Research University STEM Faculty Members to Improve Teaching Practice”

Talitha Selby (Chemistry, UW-Washington County) – “Investigation of Radical-Radical and Radical-Molecule Reactions Important in Combustion Environments via Multiplexed Photoionization Mass Spectrometry”

Steve Sheehan (History, UW-Fox Valley) – “Building the Fire: Producing the Fireside Chats in Roosevelt’s White House”

Swapnil Tripathi (Physics and Astronomy, UW-Barron County) – “Static Spherically Symmetric Solutions in Extended Palatini Gravity”

Carey Woodward (Physics, UW-Fond du Lac) – “Tropospheric Scattering Correction in Geocoronal Emission Analysis”

Knowledge and Skills Expansion Grants

Annette Hackbarth-Onson (Student Services, UW-Marathon) - “Career Development Facilitator Training”

John Pruitt (English, UW-Rock County) – “Implementing a Second-Year Experience for UW-Rock County Students”

Grants to Increase Student Engagement – Professional Development

Joanne Giordano (English, UW-Marathon) – “A UW Colleges Workshop on Campus-Based Academic Literacy Programs for At-Risk Students”

Marnie Dresser, Richard Eckert, Linda Gentes, Gail Hoffman, Karen McLeer, John Poole, and Aharon Zorea (UW-Richland) - Supporting Minority Students: A First-Step in Reworking Orientation Efforts

Student Services Update

By: Patti Wise

Wisconsin College Access (WCA) Project

The UW Colleges applied and received a UW System Growth Agenda grant for the current academic year, enlisting and training UW Colleges undergraduates as mentors to middle- and high-school students with a particular focus on encouraging first generation students to consider college. In collaboration with the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service (WIPPS), the 13 UW Colleges focused their efforts on promoting access, attendance, and success for precollege students by: 1) training college student mentors, 2) creating mentoring relationships with secondary students, 3) organizing college campus visits, and 4) increasing the capacity of UW Colleges to deliver this program statewide.

WCA’s capstone project was hosting a conference entitled “Building Bridges to Success (So More Students KnowHow2Go)” in collaboration with the KnowHow2Go Wisconsin Network, UW HELP, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. The conference attracted 95 participants to UW-Fox Valley on April 9, and featured keynote speakers from the Lumina Foundation for Education, ACT, Inc., and the American Council on Education (ACE). Conference participants were able to learn more about the different college access programs available across the state, to share best practices in order to improve existing programs, and to begin networking with others for possible future collaborations.

UW-Waukesha Diversity and Pre-College Center

The sign on the wall states that “Diversity can embrace and assist in the advancement of knowledge of differences while recognizing and celebrating our similarities.” This philosophy is lived out every day at the Diversity and Pre-College Center at UW-Waukesha. So far this academic year, the Diversity Center has logged in 2,065 student visits. Students drop in to get information, join a study group, make a poster for an upcoming event, or just hang out. The Diversity Center also sponsors formal events such as a presentation by Professor Margaret Rozga about her life experiences with the Civil Rights Movement for Black History Month, more informal events like movies on “Popcorn Mondays,” or service activities like a fund-raiser for relief efforts in Haiti.

The Learning Center at UW-Washington

Several of the UW Colleges support very successful Study or Learning Centers. I am highlighting the Learning Center at UW-Washington because of a recent visit to that campus. The Learning Center’s strength lies in its cadre of tutors whose faces smile back from the

bulletin board in the hallway. Students coming to request a tutor already have a name and face to connect with. All of the tutors in the Learning Center go through an extensive training program which includes reading a training manual and responding to possible student situations. Tutors receive ongoing supervision from Laurie Kuehn, the Learning Center Coordinator. This past year Laurie has supervised 12 tutors who provide an average of 60 tutoring sessions (not including study groups) each month.

UW-Marshfield/Wood County Adult-Friendly Campus Award

The UW-Marshfield/Wood County campus was recently recognized for its efforts to provide programs to help adult students succeed in an adult-friendly campus environment. Amanda Lang, Assistant Director of Student Services, and Steve Kaiser, Learning Center Director, submitted a program called, "Making Mathematical Connections for the FastTrack Transition," which focused on adaptations made to the FastTrack program to include specific features for adult learners. The nominated program received a third place tie in the competition along with a \$2,000 award. Awards were based on the following criteria:

- Collaborations
- Involvement of adult students in planning and implementation
- How the current activity is different from previous practice
- Measures of campus support
- Measureable outcomes
- Indicators of how adult students have benefitted

The awards must be used to enhance current efforts, develop new approaches, or support the professional development of staff who engage with adult students on a regular basis. A total of three UW Colleges proposals were submitted for consideration. Ongoing efforts continue on all thirteen campuses to become more welcoming and responsive to the needs of adult students.



*"Be kind whenever possible.
It is always possible."*

--The 13th Dalai Lama