Provost Report for Faculty Senate

For November 20, 2014

Submitted by Alison Morrison-Shetlar, Provost

* Good news:
  + Mike Byers (UNCG) hired as new VC for Finance and Business <http://news-prod.wcu.edu/2014/11/jackson-county-native-to-lead-administration-finance-division/>
  + LEAD WNC Summit <http://news-prod.wcu.edu/2014/11/wcu-economic-summit-participants-point-to-regional-approach-as-key-to-success/>
  + Visit to WCU by Secretary Sharon Decker <http://news-prod.wcu.edu/2014/11/commerce-secretary-talks-economic-health-during-visit/>
* Searches:
  + Fine and Performing Arts Dean: Final candidate coming to campus next week.
  + Hunter Library Dean: Provost met with the library faculty and staff to discuss the required characteristics of the new Dean, to discuss the Acting Dean position and to seek volunteers for university wide search committee.
* Adverse Weather Policy
  + As we move into the start of what may be another severe winter, the adverse weather policy #41 is being updated at GA. Until then we are working under the current policy <http://www.wcu.edu/about-wcu/leadership/office-of-the-chancellor/university-policies/numerical-index/university-policy-41.asp>
  + The process for class delays has also been fine-tuned and getting information out to the campus and community, emails, social media and other media outlets, in a timely manner will facilitate and support the safety of our community.
* Student Complaint Policy
  + A student complaint policy and process is being put in place as we prepare for our SACSCOC reaffirmation process. The student complaint process will allow us to monitor and respond to issues that are of concern across campus. The student complaint portal will be monitored by both Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, each area dealing with their complaints.
* Medical Withdrawal Policy – see attached document.
  + We are entering the season of requests to faculty and staff for medical withdrawals from courses. Faculty and staff **do not** approve medical withdrawals. Students who seek medical withdrawals must continue to attend classes until approval is provided by the appropriate person. The policy clearly states who can authorize a medical withdrawal from the university and that withdrawal from a course can only be authorized by the Dean of the College or School with appropriate documentation. A University withdrawal should be initiated in the Office of Undergraduate Advising in Killian Annex.
* Emeritus and Retired Faculty Email
  + Emeritus and retired faculty will retain their WCU email accounts. Emeritus faculty will also retain their on campus listserv affiliations
* Extended Library Hours Pilot, Spring 2015 - see attached working document.
  + Document indicates suggested hours and physical plant changes that may occur. This has been presented to SGA with strong support for the pilot.
* Terms and Load-By Dates for this Summer
  + Summer Term schedule available on Registrar’s site:
    - <http://www.wcu.edu/registrar/calendars/Academic_Calendar_2014_2015.pdf>
  + Summer courses to be entered into Banner by the last Friday in January