

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 1, January 2007

*This is the first of what will be a monthly update to the University community on the key activities and events in the Division of Academic Affairs. Future issues will include updates from meetings with the Trustees, Cabinet, Academic Affairs and Deans Councils, as well as summaries of relevant topics including admissions updates, research funding updates, the Campus Master plan and the implications for academic affairs, etc. In essence, the focus will be all things **academic**. Consistent with the Rowan tradition, your comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged.*

A Message from the Provost

It has been six months since I began my career as the Provost at Rowan University. A lot has happened during this period: we have established the new College of Professional and Continuing Education, hired Dr. Horacio Sosa as the Interim Dean, consolidated the operations of the Education and the Management Institutes, and have restructured the offices of Admissions, Financial Aid and the Registrar.

Currently, in collaboration with the Office of the Vice President of Administration and Finance, Rick Hale and the Deans, we are working on an academic budget that will enable us to be more proactive in planning for the future staffing and operational needs.

We have established a collegial and mutually respectful relationship with the officers of the Senate and Unions. We meet regularly to discuss and resolve current issues, and I look forward to continuing to build and strengthen these relationships.

There are many challenges and opportunities in front of us. It is essential that the entire Rowan community channel its collective resources to overcome the challenges, and to devise strategies to take full advantage of the great opportunities that we have. This requires a collective vision of the type of University we would like Rowan to become.

Therefore, in the days, weeks, and months ahead, I will be inviting the members of the Rowan

community to begin serious discussions regarding the vision. In brief, this vision will be captured in a five year plan to improve excellence in teaching and scholarship, develop new graduate and undergraduate programs, promote interdisciplinary activities, develop a modern Strategic Enrollment Management operation, improve the IT infrastructure, enhance faculty development, develop a proactive budget plan, and empower the deans and chairs to assume more control over their units. You will hear more of these plans in the very near future. I plan to visit with all academic departments beginning this spring semester where a number of these topics will be discussed.

Universities should be the bastion of openness and the free flow of information where faculty, staff, students, administrators, and alumni can freely exchange knowledge and have access to information. I am a strong believer of transparency and openness and will do my best to create a Provost Office that is open, accessible, collaborative and collegial. I am highly encouraged and enthusiastic by what I have seen so far, and to paraphrase from that old cliché, our very best days are still ahead of us.



The College of Professional and Continuing Education

At its meeting of December 13, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the College of Professional and Continuing Education, CPCE (formerly known as the University College). This new college will be Rowan's provider of higher education to individuals seeking career advancement and personal development in a convenient and affordable setting.

The college will offer undergraduate, graduate, credit, and noncredit courses, certificates and majors in a large array of educational disciplines. Students with busy schedules will now have access to Rowan's programs through a combination of on-line, off-site, accelerated, and weekend classes.

Since his arrival in October, the interim dean of the college, Dr. Horacio Sosa, has been working with Rowan's academic units and individual faculty and staff in the identification of courses and

programs to be offered under different modes of delivery, including degree completion at partner community colleges, customized training, accelerated programs on Saturdays, and online. Although a few course offerings through the college will be available and piloted as early as this spring semester, full programs, including online, will become available in the fall semester, 2007.

Given the similar nature of their respective activities, the Education Institute has become part of the CPCE and will continue delivering specialized services to schools and education related community agencies. In anticipation of the growth and demand for its various services, the college is actively recruiting new personnel in the areas of advising, marketing, instructional design, and academic affairs.

The Provost Administrative Councils: The Deans' Council and the Academic Affairs Council

There are two councils that work directly with Provost Houshmand to deal with matters of academic policy: The Deans' Council and the Academic Affairs Council. The Deans' Council is comprised of the seven college deans; the newly reorganized Academic Affairs Council is comprised of the seven college deans as well as the four Associate Provosts, the Deans of the Camden Campus and the Library, and the Directors of Student Information Services, Admissions,

Financial Aid and Registrar. Each council meets at least monthly. Often, other members of the University community are invited to make presentations or share important information. At their first meeting this semester, the Deans' Council agenda items included issues pertaining to the new College of Professional and Continuing Education, a four-year budgeting model, enrollment and admissions, and student assistance across the colleges.

Admissions Update

The Office of Admissions held three regular open house programs this fall, along with special engineering and honors open houses. Attendance at these programs was at a record level with over 7000 guests visiting our campus. Weekly campus tours also continue to be extremely well-attended.

Spring 2007 saw the largest ever enrollment of first time students at Rowan, while freshman and transfer applications for fall 2007 are being

received at a pace ahead of even last year's record year.

The Admissions staff has been working closely with Provost Houshmand and the college deans and the departments to formulate our enrollment management goals and plans.

We will continue to provide Admissions updates in each issue of the Provost-gram.