

# RUSS

## Rowan University Self Study Update

Volume 1, Issue 10

### Last Call Alert!!

*Dr. Steve Poskanzer, president of SUNY-New Paltz and chair of the Middle States Visiting Team, is scheduled for an initial campus visit in early October. The RUSS Team's latest draft of the Rowan University Self-Study Report is posted on the website at [www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html](http://www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html). We are asking the campus community to read it and send any comments to Don Stoll ([stoll@rowan.edu](mailto:stoll@rowan.edu)) and Pat Mosto ([mosto@rowan.edu](mailto:mosto@rowan.edu)) by October 15, 2008.*

### Spotlight on Standard 10

Standard 10 requires the working group to focus on the faculty as the professionals responsible for delivering quality instruction that is well supported and reflects the mission of the University. The self-study design split the Middle States Standards into two groups: institutional and educational. Since the faculty clearly operate in both realms, Standard 10 was examined with an institutional as well as educational focus.

### Profile of Standard 10 working group leaders

Frances Johnson, director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning and an associate professor in the Writing Arts Department, and Eric Milou, mathematics professor and University Senate president, provided the leadership to research the faculty and the systems that support it.

Frances has been a member of the Rowan community since 1996. In addition to directing the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning, she teaches two courses a year that she designed: "Songs of Praise, Songs of Protest" and "Writing as Managers." Due to her roles as a faculty member, director of the Faculty Center, and AFT Grievance Chair, Frances possesses the expertise and contacts to collect data and contribute to the analysis of the state of the faculty; for instance, the Faculty Center houses records of new faculty, lists, as well as reactions and reviews of the new faculty orientation program. The mother of four sons (the youngest a chef in Philadelphia) and owner of two dogs, Frances is a wine enthusiast who enjoys gardening and reading detective novels. Frances' goal for the self-study is to contribute a chapter that is ". . . well-written, honest, addresses our current situation, looks to the future, and relies on sound data."

Eric Milou, an 11-year veteran of the mathematics faculty, offers that he is ". . . most interested in professional development, hiring, and support of faculty. Rowan has hired nearly 50% of the entire faculty in the past 10 years. I am interested in how the many processes that affect faculty have changed and in assessing that change." Just beginning his second term as president of the University Senate, Eric's research interest involves the professional development of K-12 teachers. Through various grants he has brought hundreds of teachers to Rowan to enroll in content-specific courses to increase their content knowledge in mathematics. He also enjoys "teaching general education mathematics classes to other majors who often hate mathematics with the hope that I can alleviate some of the phobia and let them experience the beauty of mathematics."

## Standard 10 working group progress report

This group used multiple methods to collect information for Standard 10 including interviews with the deans, Provost, and Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs. The group collected data from the Provost's Office and devised questionnaires issued to the deans with respect to resources allocated to the faculty. They also collected information about current hiring, tenure, and recontracting processes.

The questions this working group set out to answer are as follows:

- 1) What is the process by which Rowan University recruits, develops, and retains faculty? To what degree do these processes meet the institution's mission? How is this process responding to the climate of change?
- 2) How are these processes assessed, and how are the findings fed back into the process?
- 3) Are all faculty members treated equitably (regarding resources available to faculty) across the campus?
- 4) How are faculty involved in institutional and educational decision making?
- 5) How are faculty involved in academic program development, assessment, and improvement?"
- 6) How does the current ratio of full-time to part-time faculty relate to student learning and institutional stability and how is this assessed?

## Standard 10 working group

Steve Chin (Associate Dean, College of Engineering)

Kausar Jahan (Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering)

Anjelica Leonard (Student)

John Robinson (UNIX System Administrator, Computer Science)

Daniel Schowalter (Associate Professor, Communication Studies)

Mary Beth Walpole (Associate Professor, Educational Leadership)

*Frances Johnson and Eric Milou---Working Group Leaders*

## Next issue

We will report on the progress of the working group handling Standards 11, 12 and 13 led by Lorin Basden Arnold, associate professor in Communications Studies, and Karlton Hughes, specialist in information technology.

For current information on all RUSS Team activities and newsletters, please visit our webpage at:  
[www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html](http://www.rowan.edu/president/selfstudy/index.html)

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