

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 13, April/May 2009

Comments from the Provost

As we are completing the academic year, we are all very concerned about the economic situation and the impact on the university budget and operations. We have made and will continue to make very difficult decisions that are affecting us all. I appreciate the feedback and helpful suggestions that I have received as we work together through this difficult time.

Despite our very real concerns about our financial situation for the near future, I want to take the opportunity in this provost-gram, the last one for academic year 09, to ensure that our concern with our difficult financial situation does not cause us to lose sight of the many accomplishments and initiatives of this past academic year.

I first want to commend faculty and staff for their achievements this year. I regularly receive notices of awards received by our students from prestigious organizations in their professional field and I know that they have achieved excellence through the dedication and guidance of the faculty. Throughout the year faculty members are honored by their colleagues, obtain national and international recognition for their scholarly work, and are elected to the Wall of Fame by our Rowan graduates for excellence in teaching. As we did last year, we will highlight the achievements of the division in the Academic Affairs Annual Report.

I am very pleased that the new summer agreement is being finalized with the AFT. It will be posted on the provost's website shortly. I am confident that the new agreement will be a contributing factor in the increased success of our summer school program. It has come to my attention, however, that there has been some confusion about the difference between our traditional summer school model and the CPCE model. The traditional summer school model relates to all courses that fall within the five summer school sessions and are delivered face-to-face. All online and hybrid courses with at least 60% online, and all courses scheduled outside our five regular sessions are considered CPCE courses and are guided by the CPCE model. CPCE administers both the traditional summer school and CPCE offerings.

In the last provost-gram I focused on the interdisciplinary task forces. Members of the task forces have worked diligently to investigate the viability of offering new interdisciplinary programs at Rowan. If implemented, the new programs will enable us to expand our student body and address the needs of the region by offering programs in areas of high demand and need, as well as put us on the cutting edge to prepare our students for the future through interdisciplinary perspectives.

Our Camden initiatives, under the leadership of Dr. Tyrone McCombs, have continued to progress. The task force completed its work and submitted its recommendations to me. Plans are also underway for housing new degree programs at Camden, offering college courses to ESL and economically disadvantaged high school students from Camden city and nearby districts, and expanding our community outreach through the work of faculty in the College of Engineering. We are well on the way to enhancing the campus and the Camden community with our work.

We have entered into a very unique agreement with the Cherry Hill School District to offer online courses for which students will receive both high school and university credit. The agreement was signed on April 28 and we have already received inquiries from other districts in the region. This creates another exciting possibility for us to enrich the lives of our region and be recognized as the "University of South Jersey."

It has been an exciting and dynamic year. I urge you to read further in this provost-gram for additional information about our achievements and initiatives. I wish you all a productive end to the semester.

Ali Houshmand

Task Force Updates

The task forces have continued to work through the spring semester and have either submitted or are in the process of submitting a final report. To update you on their status to date:

Allied Health: received a market survey from an external consultant who recommended four fields in allied health which should be in high demand in the next three to five years: occupational therapy, dietetics, health science, and health care management. Committee members are currently researching those areas to determine if they are consistent with our mission, and if so, what resources are needed.

Architecture: is formulating a business plan for a four-year B.S. in Architecture degree. The committee met with area architects to determine their perception of the attributes needed for practicing architects to help determine overall program goals. A faculty subcommittee has formed to oversee a possible curriculum proposal.

Hospitality: hosted two focus groups for members of the hospitality profession in two geographic areas, the Atlantic City region and the Philadelphia region. Focus group discussions centered on the perceptions of the professionals on the competencies needed for entry-level personnel and for advancement in the profession, whether educational needs were currently being met, and the ideal

delivery for degree programs in these areas. Task force members will meet to discuss all the information gathered to date and make recommendations.

MFA: is currently conducting surveys of Rowan students to determine demand, and gather information to shape curriculum structure and delivery mode. The committee is also planning to survey external constituencies including area professionals. After gathering the additional data, if there appears to be a need, the committee will submit a report with curricular recommendations.

Pharmacy: submitted its final report in December. Cathy Yang, the chair of the task force attended a meeting in March to determine state support for establishing a pharmacy program.

Systems Engineering: submitted a report for a tiered implementation of a systems engineering program and is currently pursuing the establishment of a concentration in systems engineering for engineering, business, and computer science majors.

Wireless Initiative- Mr. Bruce Klein

The indoor wireless network is 79% complete. We are currently installing the cabling and access points in the Student Center. The wiring job for the Campbell Library has been delayed by bid protests, but we hope to have that underway by Commencement. The site survey for the

outdoor wireless network will begin in early May. Installation of the outdoor equipment will take place during the summer. Wireless installation (both indoor and outdoor) at the new Rowan Boulevard apartments will take place during August.

Admissions Update – Mr. Albert Betts, Jr.

As the Office of Admissions nears the May 1 enrollment deadline, we are well on our way to achieving our enrollment goal of increasing the freshman class size for fall 2009. Although the total number of applications received remains about equal to last year, the 21 point increase in the average SAT of the freshman applicants has

allowed us to make significantly more offers of admission without reducing the quality of our freshman class. As of this writing, we have received over 200 more freshman deposits and 50 more transfer deposits compared to the same date last year.

CPCE Update – Dr. Horacio Sosa

As we wrap up another spring semester, the College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) is pleased to report on another successful academic year. The CPCE collaborated with a total of 17 different departments during fall 2008 and spring 2009 to offer courses and programs

that were either online, hybrid, held Saturday face-to-face, or on the campus of a community college partner. These collaborations generated gross revenues above \$2.5 million for the fall and spring semesters. A summary for each term is provided in the table below.

Term	# of Sections	Enrollment	Semester Credit Hours	Gross Revenue
Fall 2008	39	704	2237	\$1,118,100
Spring 2009	59	945	2950	\$1,492,690

Of the 98 sections offered, 34 were online or hybrid. After revenue distribution takes place at the end of the spring term, participating departments and colleges will collectively receive \$443,449 (net) of the reported gross revenues.

The Continuing Education (CE) division of CPCE also continues to be productive. On Friday, March 20, 2009 approximately 160 Speech Language Specialists from area school districts, agencies, and hospitals joined us for our

annual Speech Symposium. CE also held the Rowan Literacy Consortium involving 119 educators in 23 district teams. CE is also offering five all-day workshops to 25 teachers on location in school districts such as Cherry Hill, and in other districts, like Cumberland Regional, up to 120 teachers have benefitted from eleven all-day, on-site workshops offered this year. CPCE has been averaging over 5,400 teachers per year from 180 school districts in non-credit activities.

The Graduate School – Dr. Mira Lalovic-Hand

The Graduate School is growing in exciting and increasingly “green” ways. We have, with the assistance of EIS, developed paperless tools for the submission of recommendation letters by Rowan University faculty as part of the application process, shortening it significantly. In addition to implementing a new online application process for all graduate students – both domestic and international – The Graduate School has rolled out an automated application for non-matriculated students, for both the traditional graduate and continuing education students. A similar application is currently in the works for the Graduate Assistantship Program. We are receiving very positive feedback from faculty.

The Graduate School would like to extend its thanks and appreciation for the progress that has been made with the Graduate Executive Council. We continue to explore new possibilities for the establishment of quality graduate programs and for increasing enrollment and retention in our current programs. We have held three Info Sessions this year to date. We’re pleased to announce attendance per session has increased a dramatic 400%, thanks to strong faculty support and our team continually improving

the experience. Joe Ferrarie, along with everyone at Web Services, has done an outstanding job in updating our online appearance. With the initial re-design complete, we will now work to refine and shape the content to be the most helpful to our online audience.

The Graduate School is currently working with the Registrar in establishing a new course and enrollment management tool: DegreeWorks. Also, a new graduate catalog is currently in the works.

Dr. Mira Lalovic-Hand was the keynote speaker at the Spring Induction Banquet of Alpha Epsilon Lambda, held at Masso’s Crystal Manor. Her address to the new inductees was one filled with praise, congratulations and a warm welcome to the organization.

The Graduate School is spreading its wings and working hard to increase visibility on and off-campus. Despite an impending staff reduction by nearly half, many new initiatives geared toward awareness of and ultimately enrollments at the graduate level are getting off the ground.

Laptop Initiative – Mr. Tony Mordosky

The joint Faculty Senate and Provost Laptop Initiative committee has been meeting throughout this academic year. They had presentations from 3 major PC vendors on their specific “Student Programs”. At this point the committee is actively working on a series of recommendations for the Provost concerning implementation of a “Require” laptop program. For fall

2009, the campus will have a “Highly Recommended” laptop program. Members of the IR staff are currently evaluating vendor responses to an RFI (Request for Information) developed and sent to potential vendors. This evaluation will be completed during May with an anticipated launch of the program by June 1, 2009.