

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 6, December 2007

*This is the fifth 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.*

Comments from the Provost

Provost Comments

As we are concluding the fall semester I wanted to update the campus community on where we are in terms of three very key issues that are affecting us: graduate education at Rowan University, academic scheduling, and CPCE.

Graduate Education

The demand for graduate programs has changed dramatically. Most of the graduate programs at Rowan are regionally-based and for a number of years, Rowan has been the major provider of graduate education in the region. However, the past few years has seen a proliferation of competition from online and satellite programs from other institutions. There is a significant graduate population “out there” that is being served elsewhere representing a rather substantial loss in revenue to this university which impacts on our future.

In addition to increased fundraising the university recognized the need to focus its resources in support of its mission. Undergraduate education remains the core of Rowan University. However, I recognize the vital importance of graduate education to the university for many reasons. Graduate education contributes to the vibrancy of the faculty and the campus. Many of our programs are nationally recognized and at the same time serve the region by developing leaders in critical fields.

Conceptually, I believe that our graduate programs can be defined as either professionally-based or research-based. While there may be differences in specific purpose, sources of support, and administrative structure, the intent is for both types of programs to maintain professional integrity with academic decisions residing in the department. I have asked Dr. Sosa to work with the Graduate Executive Council and the College Deans to develop the plan for graduate education. We will be holding a series of open forums beginning in the spring to enable the campus community to provide critical feedback as the plan is being developed. I believe that with the faculty and entire campus community working together we can strengthen and enhance graduate education in all its modes so that we can all benefit.

Academic Scheduling

Many of you have heard the term “Schedule 25” with its implications for academic scheduling. Schedule 25 is a software

program that allows us to maintain a central database and maximize space utilization. It provides the opportunity for us to look at our academic scheduling as a whole to ensure that our time and space utilization reflect the type of campus that we wish to be. To that end, I am calling together a committee with representatives from the registrar’s office, provost’s office, facilities, and a chairperson from each college chosen by the college dean in consultation with the chairs of each college, to develop a list of guidelines for academic scheduling. Once properly vetted, the guidelines will be used by departments as they create their schedules for future semesters. The software will help us do what we do better; it will not lead to centralized scheduling of classes. We intend to have a number of trials with the software with existing schedules to try to identify and remediate problems before the software is actually implemented.

CPCE

The College of Continuing and Professional Education (CPCE) is well underway. In collaboration with academic departments, CPCE is offering many credit-bearing courses and developing online programs and courses. Departments will begin to receive revenue from these ventures at the end of this semester. In addition, CPCE has increased non-credit bearing offerings that will enhance our revenue-stream. In its focus on creating the external contacts that are needed for our success, however, it is vital that CPCE enhances its communication with the campus community. Dr. Sosa is currently working on providing this needed ongoing communication. Please see the CPCE section of this provost gram for further description of CPCE activities. Every provost gram will now have a regular section for CPCE updates so that we can all be informed of the CPCE operations.

As I look back over this semester I am very heartened by the progress we are making in addressing a number of the issues that had faced us in September. I am confident that as we move forward we will continue to work together to strengthen our university. I wish everyone a successful end to the semester, a joyous holiday, and a restful break



Undeclared Task Force

Chaired by James Newell, Associate Provost and Matt Lund,
Chair of the Senate Recruitment, Admissions, and Retention
Committee

The undeclared task force was charged to find a home for undeclared students to:

- Improve our ability to anticipate the needs (course offerings, seats in eventual majors, tutoring, basic skills assistance, etc.) of our undeclared students.
- Insure that sufficient seats in courses are available to allow undeclared students to advance toward eventual transfer into majors.
- Be certain that all students are making progress towards a degree while eliminating students artificially entering majors in which they have no intention of pursuing a degree.
- Review barriers to the transfer of students into majors and remove those that are unnecessary.

They have made the following recommendations:

- Any policy, practice, or procedure that preferentially admits external transfer students into any major over internal transfer students should be vacated.
- Any major that wishes to restrict internal transfers (including majors that are currently restricted) should reapply for restricted status. To facilitate this process, a group should be formulated to develop general criteria for restrictions (e.g. – certification or accreditation issues) and establish a process for evaluating applications from the departments. This group should involve the academic deans, the university senate, and faculty from each college

Admissions Update – Albert Betts, Jr., Director of Admissions

Rowan has been an extremely popular place to visit this fall. A record number of over 9000 guests attended the various open houses and campus tour programs held by the Office of Admissions between September and December. The Admissions

College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) - Dean Horacio Sosa

The College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) is now comprised of 1 part-time and 16 full-time employees, with expertise in the areas of marketing, online education, academic advising, program development, professional training, and life-long-learning. During fall 2007 CPCE delivered, in conjunction with 8 academic departments, 23 courses (seven of them online). Other recent activities include a partnership with Camden County College to offer degree completion programs on the CCC Blackwood campus, and a partnership with Gatlin Education to offer non-credit online courses and certificates. CPCE is now in the midst of a series of information sessions for the promotion of the following programs: Saturday Studies – B.A. in Liberal Studies; Humanities/Social Science; B.A. in Education,

Statewide Transfer Agreement Task Force Chaired by Kevin Dahm, Department of Chemical Engineering

The task force has been meeting to discuss the issues raised by the new statewide transfer agreement and make recommendations to the campus community. It is currently consulting with the University's AG to insure that recommendations will be in compliance with the law while maintaining our academic integrity.

Tenure/Recontracting Promotion Merger Task Force Chaired by Cindi Hasit, Provost Fellow

The task force consists of the following members: Lorin Arnold, Department of Communication Studies, Bruce Caswell, Department of Political Science, Lili Levinowitz, Department of Music, Manuel Pontes, Department of Marketing, Mariano Savelski, Department of Chemical Engineering, Tricia Yurak, Department of Psychology, Robert Zazzali, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs

The task force was charged to review the local agreements on recontracting & tenure and promotion to explore the feasibility of creating a single document that merges the two agreements into one and to combine the review for tenure with the review for promotion to associate professor while ensuring appropriate standards, criteria and rigor for both. Task force members have talked to colleagues about the desire for the merge, and in response to the feedback, are beginning to develop a new document based on the current t/r and promotion documents for recommendation to the bargaining unit. The task force welcomes input from the campus community as they proceed with their work.

staff is now wrapping up its heavy fall recruitment travel season and beginning to evaluate applications for 2008 in earnest. By the end of November, over 600 more freshman applications had been received than at the same point last year.

Elementary Education/dual major; Master of Education; Master of Engineering Management; Post-Baccalaureate: Teacher of Students with Disabilities Endorsement; Special Education Certificate of Graduate Study (COGS)/Endorsement; English as a Second Language COGS/Endorsement; and Integrated Marketing Communication COGS. In addition to the ongoing school district/teacher training programs run by the Continuing Education segment of CPCE, professional development programs aimed at the business sector are also in development. Programs in the pipeline include a CPA Seminar Series and a seminar on conflict management.