

# Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 11, December 2008

## Comments from the Provost

The last few months have been exciting and also volatile throughout our country and the world. We are all aware of the uncertainties that we face, but even with those challenges we continue to work together and move forward. At Rowan we are addressing critical campus issues, three of which I will highlight in this provost-gram.

### *Scheduling*

Looking toward Spring 09, I am happy to report that at the current time we have a minimum number of outstanding classroom issues that still need to be resolved. This is largely due to the efforts of the colleges, notably Liberal Arts and Sciences, in scheduling at least 10% of their classes on Fridays and at 8 a.m. While we are still over-dependent on conference rooms and other large spaces, we no longer have to use non-classrooms in the library, Esby Gym, or other non-traditional spaces. I am confident that by sustaining the changes already in place for Spring 09 and implementing the guidelines for Fall 09 we will be able to overcome the space challenges of previous semesters.

### *Faculty Replacement Lines*

In the May 08 Provost-gram I stated that as provost I will not assign new lines to departments, but expect that the deans will work collaboratively with their chairs to determine the equitable assignment of lines. In this provost-gram, I wish to clarify the process that we will be using to advertise and fill faculty replacement lines. As you know, there are 39 existing lines that are currently being filled by full-time or ¾ time temporary faculty or adjuncts. My plan is to replace all 39 lines with tenure-track faculty over the next five years. There may be a reallocation of lines as the lines will be replaced strategically for programs with greatest need and growth potential. To begin the process I have asked the deans to develop a matrix using both qualitative and quantitative data for decision-making. I have shared the matrix with the Senate President asking him to share it with the entire senate and the chairs' council for their input and dissemination to the faculty. Decisions about hiring will be made **collectively** to meet our current and future needs.

I realize that there was confusion about advertising lines this fall. At the meeting between my staff and the department chairs of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a chair asked if he could speak to potential candidates at a professional conference. My response then, and continues to be that we can always speak to prospective candidates about the university and explain that there is the potential for a tenure line in the near future. Speaking to colleagues at conferences is quite different from advertising lines and I must reiterate that no lines can be advertised without prior approval.

### *Summer School*

The new model that we piloted for summer school in summer 08 will continue in summer 09 with minor modifications. As in summer 08, no departments will be penalized under this model. In preparation for summer 09, Dean Sosa and I are working with department chairs to provide more specific information about the instructional costs and revenue generation. Chairs will be able to use this information to make better decisions about course offerings to meet student needs and maximize benefits for all.

As you will see as you read further in this issue, many people across campus are engaged in a number of exciting projects. I am very pleased with the progress everyone is making. I wish all of you continued well-being and success in your endeavors.



### ***Status of Wireless Campus – Mr. Bruce Klein***

The indoor portion of the campus-wide wireless rollout is about 55% complete. So far we've brought up Bunce, Bozorth, Hawthorn, Science Hall, Education Hall, Wilson, Westby, Bole Annex, the Innovation Center (West Campus) and portions of Robinson, Savitz and Memorial. We'll be finishing up the partial buildings as well as Rowan Hall by the end of the semester. In January and February we expect to complete the Team House, Cassady, the Heating/Chiller plant, Hollybush, Shpeen Hall, Alumni House and the Carriage House.

The Student Center, Esby, the Library and Linden are much larger-scale jobs. The buildings are being completely rewired to bring them up to current standards. Work has already started on the Student Center and the project plans are being drawn for the other three. We expect those buildings to be completed in May.

Planning for the outdoor portion of the wireless network will begin in March. Installation is scheduled to take place after Commencement.

### ***CPCE – Dr. Horacio Sosa***

The College of Professional and Continuing Education (CPCE) will start offering a selected number of courses during the break between fall and spring terms. This time period will be called intercession and will be considered a stand-alone term. Starting on January 2, 2009, in conjunction with the College of Business, two courses will run as an intercession pilot testing. CPCE would like to take this opportunity to request proposals from academic departments for intercession courses for the winter of 2010.

In addition to intercession, CPCE has launched several new programs bringing the total number of courses offered to 40. This fall the following programs were introduced: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (RN to BSN), School

Nursing Certification, and Graduate Endorsement for Teacher of Students with Disabilities. Please visit [www.rowan.edu/cpce](http://www.rowan.edu/cpce) for the most current listing of available academic programs.

Continuing Education (non-credit programs) is working with 23 school district teams on a year-long project, the Literacy Consortium, in an effort to improve writing programs through the integration of Reading and Writing. The 14th Annual School Counselor and Psychologist Symposium is currently in the planning stages. Requests continue to come in from schools districts for assistance with feasibility studies, evaluations and curriculum revisions. Finally, we continue to offer a full array of professional development activities for teachers.

### ***Camden Campus Taskforce Update – Dr. Tyrone McCombs and Dr. Beth Wassell***

The Rowan at Camden taskforce continues to work on new possible initiatives and recommendations for the advancement of the campus. The Taskforce is specifically focusing on revisions of current majors offered at the Campus as well as potential new majors. Members of the

taskforce are also involved in plans for graduate programs in addition to discussions with local businesses and corporations regarding educational partnerships. The Taskforce will present recommendations to the Provost by the end of the spring 2009 semester.

### ***Task Forces to Examine the Development of New Interdisciplinary Degrees***

The six task forces that were established last year to explore the development of new degrees (Architecture, Allied Health, Hospitality Management, Pharmacy, Systems/Industrial Engineering Management, and the Master of Fine Arts) were charged to 1) investigate the viability/marketability of the new degree 2) perform market analysis to determine the level of demand on a short, medium, and long-term basis, 3) suggest a possible home, either within the existing colleges, or within a new

academic unit on the West Campus and, 4) provide a five to ten year financial model that specifies initial capital/infrastructure investment, faculty/staff needs, and possible realignment of existing resources, as well as the potential for tuition and other revenues. An integral part of their work has also been the development of a curricular framework for the program. Task forces will submit an interim report by the end of the fall semester.

### ***Admissions Report – Mr. Albert Betts, Jr.***

The end of November saw the Office of Admissions staff wrapping up its extensive fall recruitment season. Rowan representatives visited over 300 individual high schools, as well as attending more than 130 college fairs throughout New Jersey and the surrounding states. Prospective students and parents were also very busy visiting Rowan this Fall with well over 10,000 guests attending open houses and tours on campus. Applications are being received and processed at a steady rate and we are on pace to achieve our enrollment goals for both the spring 2009 and fall 2009 incoming classes.

Fall freshman applications are showing an increase compared to this point in the past two years. The typical profile of the applicants thus far has been higher and has resulted in 770 initial offers of admission compared to 492 on the same date last year and 328 two years ago. Fourteen freshmen have already deposited for fall 2009 while we had no fall deposits on this date either of the past two years. With a goal of 400 enrolled transfer students for the spring 2009 semester we have received 387 deposits to date, up from 336 on the same date last year.

### ***Graduate School – Dr. Mira Lalovic-Hand***

The most significant areas which have been improved or are now in process include: recruitment activities, data collection and reports, admissions review processes, and providing a supportive environment for all academic units. The Graduate School powered by the Graduate Executive Council has been working this semester to raise the profile of the Graduate School, review policies, streamline the application process for graduate students and ensure that there is clear communication between the graduate programs in all the Colleges and the Graduate School. We have now implemented an online application process for all graduate students including international students. By January 1 all prospective students will use

online applications only. In our further efforts to “go green” we are developing procedures for graduate assistantship applications and recommendations from Rowan faculty for Rowan students to be processed online as well.

The new website for the Graduate School is almost complete and will be launched at the beginning of the spring semester. The new website design is user-friendly and will be a main resource for all graduate students and advisors. Finally, of great importance, the funding model for the Graduate School has been shared with the Deans and the Graduate Executive Council to disseminate to the faculty for implementation in fall 09.

### ***Education Advisory Board Research Briefs***

Rowan University has become a member of the Education Advisory Board, based in Washington, D.C. As part of our membership benefits we have access to research briefs on topics that are of interest to the university, and may ask the board to conduct customized research. We have currently received six research briefs.

The reports are accessible to the entire campus community through the Provost’s website: [http://www.rowan.edu/provost/plans\\_strategies/](http://www.rowan.edu/provost/plans_strategies/). Please read them and if you have any questions and/or suggestions, contact Dr. Cindi Hasit, Provost Fellow, x5140, [hasit@rowan.edu](mailto:hasit@rowan.edu).