

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 7, February 2008

Comments from the Provost

I welcome everyone back for the new semester and hope that you all had a good holiday. In this issue I am happy to provide updates on some of the very important issues that members of the campus community have been working on.

As you read through the Provost-gram you will see information about a position announcement for the Provost Fellow's position, a one year appointment to work on selected projects in the Provost's office. I look forward to applications from interested faculty. In addition, there is an update from CPCE and information about the progress we are making on new initiatives throughout academic affairs.

I welcome your comments and our continued work together.



Academic Scheduling

One of the major issues that we are confronting is the academic schedule and the ability of the campus to offer courses in appropriate classroom spaces. This spring we were faced with the untenable situation of not having enough space for our scheduled classes. We were able to offer the classes with minimal disruption to our students because of the hard work and cooperation of so many of our faculty, staff, and administrators. I would personally like to thank Jim Newell and Joe Orlins, and the staff of the Registrar's Office and facilities for their tireless efforts and commitment to this task. I am also grateful to Eric Milou, Karen Siefing, and the members of the campus community for their understanding and the flexibility that allowed the semester to begin successfully.

The difficulty that we had at the beginning of this semester points up to the problems with the current scheduling of classes. In the last *Provost-gram* I explained that I would be forming a task force to develop guidelines for creating an academic

schedule that reflects our beliefs about our campus. The task force, chaired by Dean Cart, of the College of Fine and Performing Arts and consisting of representatives of the Provost's office, the Registrar's office, Facilities and each of our colleges, will be charged on February 21. It will look toward long-term solutions for future academic scheduling. The recommended guidelines will be thoroughly vetted through the university community for implementation in Fall 2009. However, Joe Orlins has just released a report that shows that we will need more than 150 classroom spaces for Fall 2008 if we retain our current proposed schedules. (The full report is available on the Provost's webpage.) As such, I am immediately charging the deans to work with their departments to ensure that each college is offering a viable academic schedule before students begin to register for the fall. I am confident that if we all work together we will find an appropriate solution.

Graduate Education

The Graduate Executive Council was very active during the break and through the beginning of the semester, researching other institutions and graduate education councils in order to

draft recommendations for the structure and governance of the graduate school. A preliminary draft has been submitted to Dean Sosa for discussion by the graduate group.

Searches

The university successfully completed its search for the Dean of CPCE. Dr. Horacio Sosa has been appointed and is looking forward to continuing to work with the campus to enhance our outreach efforts. Two other searches are currently underway, for the Dean of the College of Business and for the Associate

Provost for Research. The committee for the Dean of the College of Business has completed its work and has forwarded its recommendations. I want to thank both search committees for all their hard work.

Update on 360 Review

The 360 review for Dean Harper was concluded during the fall semester. Dean Harper met with President Farish and me to discuss the results of the survey. Dean Harper expressed the desire to put the full results of the survey on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' website where it is now posted. He

has also discussed the results with the faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at a college assembled. The review for Dean Dorland is currently underway. All members of the College of Engineering as well as selected external participants should have received the surveys.

Summer School

I have shared a plan with the cabinet to increase our summer school offerings and provide the benefits of our endeavors to

departments. I hope to share more details about the plan with the campus in the coming weeks.

Campus Updates

Statewide Transfer Agreement

The statewide transfer agreement task force produced recommendations that have led to two resolutions currently on the floor of the University Senate. If approved, these resolutions would bring us into compliance with the new state law by cleaving those items essential to educating the complete Rowan student that are not covered in the state general education requirements for A.A. and A.S. degrees out of our existing general education model and classifying them as “The Rowan Experience.” These items would include a writing

Task Force on Undeclared Students

This group should finish its work this month and disband. Final recommendations from the committee will include separating the current pool of undeclared students into two groups – those who know what major they want but are lacking some requirement to enter the major (the aspirants) and those who do not have a major in mind (the undecided). The

Faculty Center on Student Ratings

The Faculty Center’s learning community on student ratings has presented its report on the current use of student evaluations at Rowan. The report has been shared with the Academic Affairs Council, the Senate, Union, the Faculty Center Board and the Chairs’ Council. The document contains an overview of the work of the Faculty Center in studying student ratings, the results of an extensive study of the forms that are used on this campus,

T&R/Promotion Merger Task Force

The task force is continuing to work on developing a new document that can be used for tenure/recontracting and promotion. Task force members have begun to share sections

Provost Fellow Position

Frances Johnson is chairing the committee to recommend to the Provost a faculty member for the Provost Fellow’s position for 2008-2009. The Provost Fellow is a one-year appointment designed to provide high quality faculty members with direct administrative experience. The position will be full time out-of-unit and last from September 1 to August 31. The Provost Fellow will work with the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs on issues of Academic Affairs. Specific duties will vary, but may include advising the Provost on academic matters, producing the Provost-gram, participating in the review of curriculum

Admissions Report

Al Betts, Director of Admissions, has released the admissions report for February 2008. As of February 18, Rowan has received 7745 applications, compared to 8524 as of February 18, 2007 and to date, we have accepted 2397 students, compared to 2689 We have, however, received 207 deposits compared to 157 by this

intensive class, a multicultural global experience, a literature-based class, public speaking, Rowan Seminar, and an artistic and creative experience. By law, departments will no longer be able to require specific general education courses. However, they may choose to keep essential courses as “required courses” for the major. The Senate resolution would permit these specific changes to occur without passing through a formal curricular process.

aspirants would reside in the particular college of their desired major, while a single academic home will be recommended for the undecided. In both cases, the CAP Center will continue to provide high quality professional advising to all undeclared students.

information about the use of student ratings at other institutions and suggestions for next steps. Frances Johnson has asked all department chairs to share the full report with their departments for discussion of the document and forward comments to her. In addition, the Faculty Center is holding an open hearing on February 22 at 11:30 a.m. in room 3091 Education Hall.

with the AFT and the Deans for their preliminary review and discussion. Wider distribution of the draft documents will be done in the not too distant future.

proposals, and representing the Office of the Provost on University Committees and Task Forces. Candidates should submit a CV and a cover letter outlining how they meet the required and desirable qualifications and their goals for the position to Frances Johnson by March 3, 2008 via campus mail or email. A position announcement, detailing qualifications, was sent to Rowan faculty through Rowan official news on Thursday, February 14. Please contact Frances Johnson if you would like more information on the requirements.

date last year. The academic profile of accepted students has increased slightly. Overall, freshman and transfer minority application and acceptance rate is lower than at this time last year.

CPCE Report

Dean Sosa

With a successful fall 2007 semester behind us, the College of Professional & Continuing Education (CPCE) continues to seek new opportunities to make the quality education available at Rowan University accessible to working adults in our region and beyond. This spring the CPCE launched a Saturday Studies program, which leads to a B.A. in Liberal Studies: Humanities/Social Science and consists of accelerated classes that meet only on Saturday, with a cohort of approximately fifteen new students. The CPCE is actively working to grow the B.A. in Elementary Education/Writing Arts undergraduate degree completion programs offered on the campuses of our community college partners, Cumberland County College and Camden County College respectively. In addition to the undergraduate degree completion programs the CPCE is also exploring the possibility of offering more of Rowan’s graduate programs in a

manner that will accommodate student’s professional and personal schedules. We also continue to offer professional development programs to teachers and school districts and have plans to grow Rowan’s presence in the for-profit sector through customized training and seminars. Workshops conducted this spring included “The Role of Communication in Conflict Management” and “Notary Training.”

CPCE will be hosting a number of information sessions during the spring semester as part of the recruiting efforts of our academic programs, including two webinars on March 13. A list of all session dates can be found at www.rowan.edu/cpce. Our continuing education team also continues to plan and make inroads in the areas of training and professional development programs.