

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 3, March 2007

This is the third 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.

Remarks from Provost Houshmand

Rumors

Rumors are created and spread for a variety of reasons: lack of communication, miscommunication, misunderstanding or misquoting someone's statements or intent. Regrettably, they can also be created and spread by an individual or individuals to create divisiveness and polarization. At this time in this University's history when we have many important challenges and opportunities before us, we should collectively do our very best to avoid creating and spreading rumors, and make every attempt to find out the facts of a given situation. I ask the members of the Rowan family to please email me directly (houshmand@rowan.edu) when you hear a rumor that is of importance to the University that is attributed to me. I promise to respond and provide you with the facts or my understanding of the facts as expeditiously as possible.

In the first issue of the Provost-gram I explained my philosophy of information sharing, communication and transparency in how I like to operate. To me, this goes to the very heart of preventing the creation and the spreading of rumors.

In order to nip a recent rumor in the bud, I would like to let you know that I am a STRONG proponent of the University Senate and I respect the fact that Rowan is a unionized campus. As some of you may recall, when I applied for this position one of my strongest references was from the Senate President at Drexel. I have enormous respect for the leadership of both the Senate and the Union, and I feel I have had an outstanding working relationship with them and I will continue to work collectively and collegially with the leadership and with their respective members for the betterment of this University.



Ethics Update

--Robert Zazzali, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs

The issue of ethics and the ethical behavior of State employees has been a centerpiece of Governor Corzine's administration. This has resulted in numerous State regulations and Executive Orders being developed and promulgated, with oversight provided by the State Committee on Ethical Standards. The Higher Education community falls within these regulations, and here at Rowan University we have worked to incorporate these

regulations into how we go about the business of the University.

It became apparent that while these regulations made sense for most employee sectors in the State, some did not make sense for the Higher Education sector. In fact, a number of these were detrimental to our colleges and universities and flew in the face of some fundamental traditions in the academy that

pertain to the work of scholars and academic personnel. These include out-of-state travel, honoraria, royalties, desk copies of texts, etc.

During the current year, the Presidents of the colleges and universities and the Ethics Liaison Officers at the institutions have been working collectively and with key leaders in the State and with the State Ethics Commission to seek relief

from some of the regulations for the Higher Educational community. The AFT Union has also worked hard in this area. As a result of these efforts, we expect that later this spring there will be changes in the current regulations that will address the concerns that have been raised. We will inform the University community of these changes when they occur.

Information Technology Infrastructure Assessment

--Anthony Mordosky, Associate Provost for Information Resources

The Provost has initiated a two pronged approach to assessing the information technology infrastructure on campus.

An internal committee chaired by Steven Chin, Associate Dean of Engineering, and comprised of faculty, professional staff and the Associate Provost for Information Resources was charged by the Provost to review our existing infrastructure, compare it with the best in class, and make recommendations that will increase the reliability and availability of our campus IT systems and services. The committee will make recommendations with three options:

- Ideal
- Realistic
- Minimal (that should be done)

The Provost and Associate Provost for Information Resources are working on obtaining the services of an external IT consulting firm with experience with other higher education institutions to review selected aspects of our campus IT infrastructure and make recommendations consistent with campuses that already possess highly available and reliable IT systems and services.

Research Achievement Awards

--Jay Kuder, Associate Provost for Research

The Office of the Provost has announced three new awards to recognize excellence in research by faculty, professional staff and students. The *Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research* and the *Award for Excellence in Graduate Research* reward achievements in research as an undergraduate or graduate student. Students must be nominated by a faculty or staff member. Each award carries a \$500 cash award. The Rowan University *Research Achievement Award* is for a full-time faculty or

professional staff member for their outstanding achievements in research over a sustained period of time. Nominations can be made by a Rowan University faculty, staff or administrator. Self-nominations will be accepted.

All nominations and accompanying applications must be received in the Office of the Associate Provost for Research, Memorial Hall by noon on Friday, April 6. For further information go to: <http://www.rowan.edu/open/provost/research/>.

Enrollment Update March 26, 2007

--Albert Betts, Director of Admissions

We finished last year with 3200 regular freshman acceptances and enrolled 1257 total freshmen. If we assume that the EOF, MAP and other special admit acceptance numbers will remain relatively constant, we need to admit approximately 3500 regular freshmen for the fall to get 1350 freshmen given the typical conversion rate of recent years. We are just about there and even with 300 extra acceptances the average SAT for regular freshman acceptances is 1163. The transfer numbers look very good. Again, assuming the typical conversion rate, we should have one of the largest transfer classes ever. I am also happy to report the minority numbers also show a significant increase over last year's numbers.

The first big batch of financial aid packages went out about two weeks ago and will continue going out each week, so we expect a sharp increase in deposits. The first accepted student reception Saturday morning was very well attended. Thank you to all of you who participated.