

Provost-gram

An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

Volume 9, May 2008

Comments from the Provost

I began the first Provost-gram of this academic year by talking about both the challenges we faced as a campus and the opportunities we had to work together to continue to move the University forward while maintaining our core values. In this last Provost-gram of this academic year, I am happy to discuss our many accomplishments for this year.

Staffing

At the University Assembled in April, President Farish announced that ten new tenure lines have been allocated to Academic Affairs. The searches for these lines will begin in September 2008. In addition, two new three-quarter lines have been allocated; one to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the other to the College of Communication. There will be no budget cuts for academic affairs for FY 09. We will continue to offer as many sections of courses as we did in 07-08; the adjunct/overload budget will remain the same, and the operating budget will not decrease. Overall, we will continue to fill replacement lines, reassigning them as necessary to better meet our instructional needs.

I know that the campus has been concerned about the process that is being used to assign the new lines and the replacement lines. It is important to me that everyone understands that as Provost, I will NOT assign lines to specific departments, but will assign them to the individual colleges. Once lines have been allocated to the colleges I expect that the deans will work in collaboration with their chairs to determine the equitable allocation of lines to departments. I will then work in consultation with the deans to assign the actual lines. All academic units must recognize that all allocations will be based on departments' or programs' justifiable academic needs.

Budget

As we prioritized spending for the current and future academic years, we recognized that we needed to invest in the infrastructure that will enable us all to accomplish our academic goals and continue to improve. To that end, during the current fiscal year (08), the academic side invested over \$750,000 for IT infrastructure improvement and enhancement. We have purchased 2,500 one-Gig memory-sticks that we plan to load with important information regarding Rowan for distribution to new students – transfers and freshmen. In addition, we have allocated two million dollars to create the infrastructure for a wireless campus. The area will include the residence halls on Rowan Boulevard. The work for this has already begun and is scheduled to be completed by September 09. The \$2 million set aside for the wireless campus results

from the reallocation of salary savings and IT fees within the academic side. For the first time, the President has permitted the Provost's Office to carry forward savings from the current fiscal year to the next for investment in the wireless project. Including the wireless campus project, during FY09 and FY10, over \$3.5 million will be invested in the academic side, of which under \$250,000 will go towards the new administration hires for FY09.

I have also allocated \$100,000 to fund six task forces who are charged with investigating the feasibility of offering new programs. The respective task forces will look at programs in Architecture, Allied Health, Pharmacy, Systems/Industrial Engineering Management, and the Master of Fine Arts.

Personnel Update

This year we have successfully concluded searches for the Dean of CPCE and the Dean of the College of Business. Dr. Naranjan Pati, the incoming dean for the College of Business will begin on July 1. Dr. Gautam Pillay has accepted the position of Associate Provost for Research. We anticipate that he will begin work in early August. I would like to thank the search committees for all

their hard work and diligence. We are in the final stages of discussion for an interim Associate Provost/Director of the Graduate School also to begin on July 1. I know that you join me in extending a welcome to all of these individuals.

I would also like to note that Dr. Tyrone McCombs became interim Assistant Provost/Director of the Camden Campus. Dr. McCombs has been hard at work and is

currently chairing a new task force for revitalizing the Camden Campus. Thanks to the efforts of Dr. McCombs and others there is now a link to the Camden Campus on

the Rowan homepage that will provide more visibility to the campus and will enable us all to see its continuing success.

Summer School

We have developed a new summer school model that will help our summer school enrollment grow and will insure that the colleges, departments, and faculty will benefit from their commitment and efforts. We were able to make changes for summer 08 through increased advertising, lower tuition rates, and more flexibility in offerings. I believe that as a result of these changes we have already begun to see growth in our summer school. In

fact, with 12 days left before the start of the summer session, as of May 7, 2008 there were 2626 registered students, which is 72 more than last year at the start of the 07 summer session. With registration continuing until the end of July, I am confident that summer 08 will be successful. My special thanks to Dr. Sosa and the staff of CPCE and to all of you who are contributing to our summer offerings.

Graduate School

In September, I charged the Graduate Executive Council (GEC) to work with Dean Sosa and the Deans of the Colleges to develop a new structure for graduate education at Rowan. The GEC worked on this assiduously, studying structures at other institutions, looking at various national and local reports on graduate education, and communicating with the campus community. In addition to a written report, they made a presentation to the campus at an open hearing on May 5. I was very gratified to see the large turnout for this hearing and to listen to everyone's

questions. It was very clear to me through all of the questions that people were interested in using the model as a basis to create a graduate structure that we could all be proud of. I would like to recognize and thank the Graduate Executive Council members, Bryan Appleby-Wineberg, Wanda Foglia, Dorie Gilchrist, Dan McFarland, Diane Penrod, Robi Polikar and Barbara Williams. The reports and the presentation can be found on the Provost's website under Action Plans and Strategies. Please read them and provide your input.

Task Forces

Five of the task forces that were created this year have completed their work and submitted reports. The Transfer Agreement Task Force completed its work in March. We will be holding a transfer articulation workshop for chairs, advisors, and representatives of the county colleges on May 19. The Task Force on Undeclared Students has submitted their report and recommendations to the Provost and the Senate. The report has been shared with the Academic Affairs Council and is currently being discussed by the Senate. The Deans' Review task force has completed a document detailing the process for a five year

comprehensive review of deans. The document has also been shared with the Academic Affairs Council and the Senate. The Turnitin task force was charged to develop an interim policy for the use of Turnitin.com. The suggested policy will be voted on by the Senate at the May meeting. The Recontracting/Tenure/Promotion Merger task force also fulfilled its charge and has submitted its recommendations to the AFT for consideration by the bargaining unit.

As you can see, it has been a very busy and productive year. We have had many accomplishments and have set the foundation for even better things to come. I wish everyone a satisfying end of the semester and a restful summer. I look forward to continuing to work together in future years.

