

# Provost-gram

## An Update from Rowan University Provost Ali Houshmand

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### **Comments from the Provost**

The fall semester may have officially started on September 2 this year, but we all know that the success of the beginning was a result of the preparatory work that everyone engaged in over the summer.

One of my undertakings as I prepared for the academic year was to schedule half-day meetings between my staff and the deans, chairs, and staff of each of the colleges. For the first hour of each college meeting, nine of my direct reports made PowerPoint presentations, describing their main responsibilities. The slides from these presentations will be posted on the Provost's website ([www.rowan.edu/provost](http://www.rowan.edu/provost)). For the remainder of the session with the colleges, the college personnel asked questions and raised issues about any facet of their responsibilities.

No two meetings were alike; they each reflected the individual character and specific concerns of the respective colleges. However, a number of topics emerged across colleges, primarily in the areas of enrollment management, technology and the website, and the graduate program and research.

A number of concerns were raised about admissions, financial aid, obtaining data on the number of majors, class sizes, and staffing. As I listened, I realized all of these issues are elements of enrollment management. For example, staffing: we were able to allocate ten new lines for FY10, but we still have 39 replacement lines to fill. Although we are currently using full-time temporary faculty, ¾ time faculty, and adjunct faculty to help meet our instructional needs I hope to replace all of the lines with tenure-track lines over the next few years. But we must replace them where they are needed, and to do that, attention to enrollment management is essential. I was very pleased to hear of the interest and initiatives that departments and colleges have already taken towards strategic recruitment and analysis of enrollment data. I have directed all the deans to work closely with their chairs and colleges on enrollment management and pledge my support and the support of the Provost's office in working together to address this critical challenge.

Colleges were also interested in discussing the website and technology. Web Services has now been moved into academic affairs, reporting to Jim Newell. To improve coordination with the colleges Web Services will be meeting with deans and department chairs in each of the colleges to discuss plans and to insure that the needs of the academic departments are being addressed. Tony Mordosky was able to respond to many of the concerns about technology, explaining the efforts towards redundancy and a wireless campus.

There was a great deal of interest in expanding everyone's participation in the Graduate School and research. Mira Lalovic-Hand, Assistant Provost/Director of the Graduate School, and Gautam Pillay, Associate Provost for Research, discussed their overall goals, plans for the coming year, and their wish to work with departments and colleges to enhance both.

This has not been an exhaustive list of the topics that were discussed. There were many thoughtful discussions on a wide range of subjects. I believe that all of us who participated found these meetings to be an important step towards the improved communication necessary for shared governance. It was valuable for me and my staff to hear directly from the deans and chairs about their goals and challenges.

The deans and chairs felt that they had a better understanding of the roles of all of my staff in supporting their efforts. We have already responded to some of the concerns raised in the colleges and we will continue to work together to address the others.

This academic year started well and I wish you all continued success.



### ***Camden Update-Dr. Tyrone McCombs and Dr. Beth Wassell***

The members of the Rowan at Camden Task Force have been working diligently in subcommittees to explore new academic directions and potential programs for the Camden Campus. The Education subcommittee is working with the College of Education to discuss the possibility of an urban education undergraduate major and a doctoral program in Educational Leadership at the Camden Campus. There are also efforts underway to collaborate with the Camden Board of Education to create and offer (1) degree programs for paraprofessionals, (2) extensive professional development and graduate courses to Camden School District faculty and staff, and (3) pre-college courses for high school students. Members of the EOF, Honors and Pre-college subcommittee have begun to explore initiatives to enhance the recruitment, services and

academic offerings for students of this population. The English as a Second Language (ESL) subcommittee is developing academic links between ESL students and the major healthcare corporations and businesses in the area as a way to expand the services of the program beyond the campus. A subcommittee of individuals is also meeting with the local community college to develop a dual admission program for students who study in the City of Camden.

In addition to the work of the Task Force, Dr. Farish and Dr. Houshmand presented a white paper outlining some of the plans for the expansion of the Camden Campus to the New Jersey Economic Development Agency (EDA) in an effort to receive the state funding that had been promised for the construction of a new building.

### ***Summer Update***

Under the direction of Dr. Sosa, and through negotiation between the AFT and the administration, the summer session followed a different funding model in an attempt to reverse the trend of the past few years of decreasing enrollments. As is mentioned in the CPCE report, there was an increase in enrollment of 5% for summer 08. 629 sections were offered and 15 departments received a profit totaling about \$300,000. The departments that profited from the summer model were Accounting and Finance, Management/MIS, Journalism, Educational Leadership, Foundations of Education, HES, Reading,

Special Education, Teacher Education, Art, Theater/Dance, English, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Psychology.

No departments were penalized with the new model and the Provost's office covered the cost of the department chairs' summer salary. I am gratified to hear of the work of the AFT and some of the departments to engage in conversations to enable all participants to benefit from summer offerings. It is important that we continue to move forward in offering summer courses needed by our students.

### ***CPCE Update- Dr. Horacio Sosa***

Just one year after the launch of its first programs, the College of Professional and Continuing Education has experienced tremendous growth in its program and course offerings as well as student enrollment. In fall 2008 the CPCE is offering seventeen online/web assisted courses, and approximately twenty-five face-to-face courses either on the Rowan University main campus or at one of the following five off-campus locations: Cumberland County College, Camden County College, Brookdale Community College, Bancroft, and Jamesburg. We now offer eleven academic programs in collaboration with thirteen academic departments and a total of 250 students enrolled in CPCE classes. The continuing education unit continues to develop workshops and professional development

opportunities for teachers and school districts as well as the local business community. Non-credit offerings this fall include a CPA seminar series, a Writing Workshop Series, and the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium for Learning Consultants.

In addition to efforts to establish and grow the for-credit and non-credit program offerings, the CPCE is also actively working to increase summer semester enrollment. In summer 21008, two of the five sessions offered were three weeks in duration and tuition was discounted. An extensive advertising campaign was also launched. As a result of operational changes and increased advertising we saw a five percent increase in enrollment.

### ***Enrollment Update- Mr. Albert Betts, Jr.***

The Office of Admissions enjoyed another successful year. Actual enrollments for Fall 2008 were 1353 freshmen and 957 transfer students compared to our goals of 1400 freshmen and 900 transfers. Freshman minority deposits increased by 12%, reflecting our continuing commitment to achieving diversity.

As we began recruiting for next year's class, campus tours for prospective students were offered Monday through Thursday throughout the summer. Despite the closing of Route 322 and the many construction projects across the campus, the summer tours were extremely well-attended with between 50 and 100 guests on-hand most days.