

## **Executive Vice President and Provost's Report**

Faculty Senate

May 12, 2008

I will not be able to attend Faculty Senate on May 12<sup>th</sup>. My report will be delivered by David Descutner, interim Executive Vice Provost. The EVPP report will be brief so as to allow time for John Day, Associate Provost for Academic Budget and Planning, to provide an informational presentation on faculty compensation. The contents of my second report for Spring Quarter 2008 are:

### Updates:

- AQIP Quality Checkup Visit
- Deans & Faculty Evaluations
- Workload
- University System of Ohio Centers of Excellence

### Vision Ohio Academic Plan Implementation Updates:

- Admissions/Enrollment Update
- Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education
- Academic Support Unit Review
- Graduate College Task Force

### Informational Presentation:

Faculty Compensation, John Day, Associate Provost for Academic Budget and Planning  
John will present data and models relevant to faculty compensation decisions.

## **UPDATES**

### AQIP Quality Checkup Visit

On April 23-25, a site visit from our accreditation body, the Higher Learning Commission, an accreditation agency within the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, took place. The visit was a "Quality Checkup Visit" which featured a team of two outside reviewers who were charged with the task of assessing the institution's commitment to the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP). During their visit, the North Central team met with faculty, members of Faculty Senate and other constituent group representatives, and administrators. A written report from the review team should be available shortly, but in the exit interview the reviewers gave a positive assessment of the academic quality improvement work being done on campus. In particular, they had praise for the Five Year Vision Ohio Implementation Plan and for the ways in which it is allowing the campus to focus in strategic ways on first-order matters of academic concern.

Thanks are owed to all of the individuals who participated in the "Quality Checkup Visit," and the university's AQIP Committee—Mike Williford, Ann Paulins, Valerie Martin Conley, David Ingram, Marty Tuck, and David Descutner. But credit for the success of the visit largely belongs to Marty Tuck, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, who as the institution's point person for AQIP, did an excellent job at coordinating the visit.

### Dean & Faculty Evaluations

Based on recommendations made by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the chairs of some of the dean evaluation committees, work will be undertaken, on a yet to be determined timeline, by Faculty Senate, faculty, and the deans to survey other universities to determine best practices for dean evaluations. EPSA will consider whether there would be value in conducting a similar review of best practices for faculty evaluation.

### Faculty Workload

The deans and the leadership of Faculty Senate have recommended to me that the workload of Group I Faculty be based on policies developed in each of the colleges subject to the approval of the Executive Vice President and Provost. I have accepted this recommendation.

All of the colleges and Regional Higher Education have developed or are in the process of developing college-based workload policies. Each workload policy will reflect the unique missions of the colleges and Regional Higher Education, but to gain EVPP approval policies must provide for flexible workload options and must demonstrate a commitment to fairly compensate faculty regardless of whether their workload is traditional or flexible in nature. All college workload policies must be in place by the end of AY2008-2009.

### University System of Ohio Centers of Excellence

Discussions are ongoing with Faculty Senate Executive Committee, chairs and directors, and the deans about responding to the USO requirement that universities produce a report by the end of 2008 identifying and establishing goals for their Centers of Excellence. The Provost's group of the Inter-University Council (IUC), which I chair, is working to craft recommendations for the Chancellor on how to define a Center of Excellence.

The information gathered by the Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education will put us in good stead on the graduate and professional side. What remains to be decided is how to determine and document Centers of Excellence on the undergraduate side. At this juncture, there is no consensus on the best way to proceed largely due to the lack of certainty about what the USO will recognize as a Center of Excellence. Before the next Faculty Senate meeting, I hope to be able to provide clarity on that point based on the work done by the IUC Provosts group.

## **VISION OHIO ACADEMIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES**

### **Admissions/Enrollment Updates**

#### Admissions

Current applications number 13,930, up 1033 from this time last year, representing an 8% increase. We have already passed the record number of applications (13,195 in 2002). Nonresident applications currently are up about 11%, mostly due to increases in international

students. Resident applications are up about 7%. The target for fall 2008 freshmen is 4,050, compared to 4,006 in fall 2007.

We currently have 10,748 admits, up 210 from this time last year. The Office of Admissions is being more selective, admitting 5% fewer applicants this year. In addition, they have denied admission to 530 more applicants this year. Compared to last year, they have admitted 369 more freshmen with an ACT score of 25 and above and have admitted 280 fewer freshmen with an ACT score below 25.

Housing contracts (“final admits”) currently are down 148 from last year; this number is an improvement from a couple of weeks ago. Financial aid awards were sent in April. The national and state economies are factoring into families’ decisions in unpredictable ways this year. The staff in Admissions is working with chairs, directors, and individual faculty to increase our yield.

The quality of the freshman class is up from last year. Average high school GPA for final admits is 3.37 this year, compared to 3.32 last year. Average ACT is currently 23.92 compared to 23.74 this time last year.

Multicultural applications are up 348 this year, a 20% increase. International applications are up by 158, an 78% increase. More international applications are expected.

Colleges showing the largest increases in applications are Arts and Sciences, Business, and Engineering and Technology. University College is down about 6% in applications, reflecting efforts to recruit and advise students into specific majors.

Transfer applications are still coming in. Currently we are up by 15 applications, 781 this year compared to 766 last year. The transfer target is 453, compared to 444 last year.

#### Spring Quarter 2008 Enrollment

Athens campus undergraduate headcount enrollment is up 153 from this time last year (we were projected to be up 103). Athens graduate headcount enrollment is down by 6 from this time last year, but FTE is up by 20. Graduate Outreach is up 54 from this time last year. All of the regional campus enrollments except Chillicothe’s have increased from last spring.

Freshman retention is still up one percent from fall to spring this year compared to fall to spring last year.

#### **Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education**

The Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Graduate and Professional Education is in the process of reviewing comments and making adjustments on their draft Self-Study Guidelines and draft Rubric. The data provided to the task force through completion of the self-studies will be used to evaluate each graduate and professional program at Ohio University. The evaluations will ultimately help to determine University System of Ohio Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education at Ohio University and may be a source of determining future internal strategic allocations.

Ben Ogles, one of the co-chairs of the committee, suggests that schools and departments begin working on the narrative sections contained in the Self-Study Guidelines. Based on the feedback received they are unlikely to change from the draft document. Both the Self-Study Guidelines and the Rubric are available at <http://www.ohio.edu/provost/>

### **Academic Support Unit Review**

The Academic Support Unit Review Committee (ASURC) has completed a draft of review guidelines. Academic support unit review, called for in the Five Year Vision Ohio Implementation Plan, is a collaborative process intended to assess each program's quality and effectiveness, to create and perpetuate a culture of continuous improvement, to stimulate planning and outcomes that align closely with Vision Ohio priorities, and to create efficiencies that can lead to new resources for investment in academic programs.

Academic support units include every unit that does not undergo an academic program review for accreditation. The draft is in the process of being vetted by deans and the Executive Staff. The first cycle of unit reviews covering Dining Services, the Kennedy Museum, and Campus Recreation will begin immediately upon the final approval of the review guidelines by the Executive Vice President and Provost and the Vice President of Finance and Administration. Susan Sarnoff serves as the Faculty Senate representative on the ASURC.

### **Graduate College Task Force**

The Graduate College Task Force turned in its final report on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. I would like to thank the following individuals for their excellent work which began in Fall 2007:

Sergio Ulloa, Chair, Physics and Astronomy  
Dominic Barbato, Graduate Student Senate  
Mia Consalvo, Media Arts and Studies  
Kenneth Cutright, Management Systems  
Andrew Escobedo, English  
Dana Levitt, Counseling and Higher Education  
Tootie (Averell) Overby, Physical Therapy  
Michael Prudich, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
*Ex-Officio*: Katherine Tadlock, Interim Associate Provost for Graduate Studies

The final copy of the report will be posted on the Executive Vice President and Provost Web site. I will ask Dr. Rathindra Bose, who will begin his work as the Dean of the Graduate College and the Vice President of Research and Creative Activity on July 1, 2008, to use the report as a basis for substantive discussions with colleges about the structure and function of the Graduate College. At the conclusion of those conversations, I will ask that Dr. Bose come forward with his own report evaluating the recommendations of the task force report and providing a preliminary plan for implementation.