

Dear Colleagues:

Fall is traditionally the time for harvest festivals—when those who have worked long and hard in the fields take stock of the fruits of their labors. Your dedicated work over the past and previous years has enabled us to welcome a talented group of new students, secure record applications and enrollments, receive new grants, realize bushels of student and faculty achievements, and celebrate the awarding of a Nobel Prize to one of our alumni. It is a bountiful harvest that will serve us well in the months and years ahead.

In my October update, I offer brief comments on: the ad hoc committee charged with developing a process for examining major codes and programs; academic restructuring; the 2009 enrollment picture; and Group I Faculty headcount.

Sincerely,

Pam Benoit
Executive Vice President and Provost

Ad Hoc Major Code and Academic Program Group

Working with Faculty Senate and the University Curriculum Council (UCC) I have put together a group to develop processes in two areas relating to academic programs. I have asked the group:

1. To make recommendations on how to structure the work of UCC so that colleges/departments/schools can expeditiously inactivate major codes that no longer serve important pedagogical, programmatic, or recruiting purposes.

A major code is a four-digit numeric code to identify a specific academic major (e.g., 6121 for Accounting). Major codes are used to distinguish particular concentrations within an academic department/school. There are well over 150 major codes still on the books that have had no student enrollment for three years or more. There may be good reasons for these to persist, but there are probably a number that remain largely out of inertia. It would be helpful to prune those out.

2. To provide advice on how, in the event of mounting budget pressures, a process could be developed that would be respectful of the Faculty Handbook, but allow for efficient major and/or program changes.

Members of the group are Joe McLaughlin, Chair, Faculty Senate; David Thomas, Chair, UCC; Jeff Connor, Chair, UCC Program Review Committee; Allyn Reilly, Chair, Faculty Senate Educational Policy and Student Affairs Committee; Randy Leite, interim Dean, College of Health and Human Services; and Ben Ogles, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Restructuring

Most of the units involved in the academic restructuring have completed part one of a two-step process designed to ensure that matters such as student services, curriculum, promotion and tenure, space, staffing, and accreditation have been discussed and resolved. They are beginning their work on part two which asks units to address elements critical to ensuring a successful move. After I have reviewed the part two responses, I will make a decision about whether to authorize the proposed realignment.

Preliminary Fall 2009 Enrollment

Below are listed some characteristics of our 2009 enrollment, based on preliminary data:

- Largest application pool ever (14,204; +1.1%)
- Largest Athens population ever (21,054; +2.5%). Up 452 over budgeted enrollment and up 517 in headcount.
- Largest undergraduate population ever (17,093; +2.1%)
- Largest overall student population ever (31,759; +6.8%)
- Freshman numbers up (+87; +2.2%)
- Regional Campus enrollment is up (+1,361 overall; +5%-21%; total of +16.3%)
- ACT mean is up (+0.1 to 23.8). We also saw growth in the high end of the ACT range and in the number of students who were in the top 10% of H.S. class. H.S. G.P.A. mean is down from 3.37 last year to 3.36 this year.
- Transfers are up (+578; +11.6%)
- Retention is up (+1.1% to 81.5%)
- Graduate Student enrollment is up (+32; +1.1%); Graduate Outreach (+115; +19.4%)

Group I Faculty

The number of full-time Group I faculty on the Athens campus was 787 in 2007, 774 in 2008, and is 792 (preliminary) in 2009. The increase is due in part to 8 Nursing faculty moving from the regional campuses to Athens and 6 “new” Group I faculty who were formerly classified as administrators in the Voinovich School. Above and beyond the internal growth in Group I capacity, there was an increase of 4 full-time faculty on the Athens campus. Preliminary numbers for the regional campuses are not available at this time.