**West Virginia State University Friday, April 3, 2009**

**Academic Affairs R. Charles Byers, Ph.D.**

**Faculty Senate Report** **Vice President for Academic Affairs**

The Office of Academic Affairs is preparing written internal procedures on routine tasks to establish consistency and uniformity in administering academic and financial policies.

**Chairperson Elections** for the Departments of Chemistry, Criminal Justice, and Health, Human Performance and Leisure Studies for 2009 – 2012 will be scheduled.

**Nominations for Dean** for the College of Arts & Humanities and Natural Science & Mathematics will be requested beginning April 10, 2009

A 12 **New Student Experience Task Group** of faculty and university administrators met and drafted a course from college and department input. The course will be entitled 101 Freshman Experience: College of (for each college). It fulfills our requirement that was presented to the WVHEPC in the: March 2008 document on Retention and Graduation Rates.

The course will have a common course description, course objections, and student outcomes. The course will be required of all first-time students within their first two semesters of college work. Transfer students who have completed at least 30 credit hours and are admitted in good academic standing may have the Freshman Experience course waived. This will be the policy but will not be printed in the course description; it will be handled with good advising. The course format will allow for commonality and flexibility in delivery of content. By affording each college the opportunity to incorporate specific content, it is hoped that college identity and retention will be increased. This one hour course will be taught in both large and small classroom settings.

Your support for this course is requested. It should increase the number of well informed students who will be inspired to graduate from West Virginia State University.

The **Advising Task Group** report was presented to a select group. The group was assembled to review the Summer Advising Program. Several changes will be implemented beginning this summer. Notably, advising will be centered in each college. Telephone advising will continue for students who are unable to attend advising sessions.

There have been several meetings this week with **consultants on Library design**. A preliminary report will be received for review. The Yale library consultant teamed with our master plan consultant to seek the needed input for our future “Center of Learning.”

The WVSU Research and Development Corporation is in the final stages for approval for an **intellectual property policy**. Upon completion the policy will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate for the Research Committee to review and make recommendations. The goal is to have one West Virginia State University Intellectual Property Policy.

The **Deans Council** is currently addressing the following concerns:

Summer School registration, registration for transfer students, Information skills policy,

2 +2 issues, new student advising, faculty hiring recommendation form, RBA Credit Equivalency Form, Fall Schedule, Advising for undecided students, Minors for RBA students, Program Review documents.

The **Academic Affairs Council** met March 17, 2009 in 217 Ferrell Hall. Academic Affairs Strategic Planning was the main focus of the meeting. The next meeting will be April 16, at 1:30 P.M.

Activities of the **Vice President for Academic Affairs**

March 20 -- 26 Washington, DC Title III Office of the US Department of Education

 Consulted with officials on Title III Part B, Part A, CCRAA, and Title VII

March 27 – 29 Indianapolis, IN Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Sciences and Related Sciences national meeting

March 29 – April 1 Atlanta, GA Association of Research Directors