**West Virginia State University Friday, May 6, 2011**

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

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

**Academic Affairs Council**

The Academic Affairs Council did not meet during April.

**Deans Council**

The Deans Council is proposing a new class schedule configuration to provide options for M-W morning 75-minute class sessions. Dr. Harper will present that proposal to the Faculty Senate. In addition to aiding in scheduling classes for which the 75-minute time works better, it will also provide some flexibility in our scheduling as we vacate Fleming Hall for its renovation. It may also help students reduce the number of commutes to campus for their classes, thus saving them transportation costs. Projected implementation date for the new schedule configuration is the 2012 spring semester.

Deans have been monitoring the Department Chair elections in their Colleges to ensure they are all carried out by the Faculty Senate as per the Department Chair election schedule.

Sally Marcus Berger talked with the group about the efforts of reducing the WVSU student loan default rate, which would then reduce the interest rate on outstanding loans. It was noted this could be a good recruiting tool for WVSU if students understand their student loan interest rate will be less than perhaps those of some other institutions.

**Academic Departments and Offices**

The Office of Registration and Records has ordered “transcript paper” on which official transcripts will be printed in the future. The Deans Council has provided input on the wording of the descriptive information usually contained on the back of a transcript.

It is anticipated that 246 baccalaureate and master’s degrees will be conferred at our May 15 Commencement; approximately 215 graduates will participate in the ceremony.

The Department of Mathematics and Computer Science has developed a new refresher Math course, Math 020 (Fundamentals of Algebra). It does not carry college-level credit but tuition/fees charges will be assessed at the institutional rate for 3 credit hours for billing and student financial assistance purposes. Performance in the course appears on the student’s record, but credit hours and grades do not apply toward the student’s academic average or toward graduation. Students who are eligible for this course are those who have an ACT Math score of 15-18 or an Accuplacer Elementary Algebra score of 35-83.99.

The Advising had a successful Orientation, Advising, & Registration session for new students was held on April 16 with approximately 50 students attending. The next Orientation, Advising & Registration session will be June 9. Approximately 20 days of telephone advising will be provided during June and July to those students who live more than 50 miles from the WVSU campus and who are unable to attend one of the regularly scheduled Orientation sessions.

**Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Conferences attended by the vice president included: Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association Annual Meeting in Chicago – April 9-12; Advancing Educational Achievement: 2011 Title III, V and VII Project Directors’ Conference. In Washington, DC - April 19-21; and 17th Annual National Conference on Diversity, Race & Learning at The Ohio State University on May 3rd.