**West Virginia State University Friday, September 7, 2012**

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

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

We have two new additions in Academic Affairs:

**Dr. T. Ramon Stuart,** Special Assistant for Retention – working with our students to increase our retention rate. The highly successful State Stride event on August 23 was his initiative. He is very active with our students as he plans programs to cause them to return semester after semester and graduate.

**Nathan Gainer** – Assistant Baseball coach and Director of Early Enrollment and Extended Studies. He is now overseeing our Early Enrollment program in which we already have approximately 230 students enrolled in WVSU courses taught in three Kanawha County high schools. And he isn’t finished yet. He also works with Cal Bailey with our baseball players. Kim Cobb, who formerly directed our Early Enrollment program, became a faculty member in the Department of Communications & Media Studies.

We all mourn the death of Mrs. Mimi Blaylock, Director of the Regent’s Bachelor of Arts degree program. She served this institution well for more than 30 years. Prior to her death the degree program was being moved to the College of Professional Studies. **Dr. David Howard** has been given a joint appointment with Social Work and the RBA program; he will teach a Social Work class and have released time to direct the RBA program. He will receive clerical support from Deanna Taylor, who formerly worked in the Office of Academic Affairs. She also provides support for the Social Work Department since the retirement of Ruth Cisco.

A new academic department was formed with the beginning of this academic year in the College of Business & Social Sciences. Chaired by Dr. Billy Joe Peyton, the **Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences** contains the programs of Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology & Philosophy. Program coordinators head each of the programs to assist with coordination of schedules, student advising, recruitment of adjunct faculty, etc.

The **Year 4 Compact report** is being finalized for presentation to our Board of Governors on September 20 and submission to the HEPC by October 1. The report covers academic year 2011-2012.

At the end of the 2012 Spring semester, meetings were held with four area Community & Technical Colleges (Bridgemont, Kanawha Valley, Mountwest, and Southern) to explore opportunities for collaboration and establishment of articulation agreements with them. In early August, an intensive meeting was held with Kanawha Valley to continue the process and we anticipate **5 new articulation agreements** will be signed during this semester – this will bring the total to 7 with them. The University will work vigorously with the other CTCs with which we have begun discussions to likewise develop articulation agreements.

Fiscal constraints have been at the top of our activities as we have entered the 2012-2013 fiscal year. We have had a one-time **cut to the Academic Affairs budget** of over a $1 million for this academic year and those funds are to be returned for FY 14. There are discussion between HEPC & the legislature for a permanent 7.5% cut for FY 2014. Thus far the most drastic cuts have been in adjunct faculty, vacant positions in low enrollment areas, and summer school budgets. President Hemphill is committed to holding tenure, tenure-track, and classified staff harmless. We continue to scrutinize every expenditure in Academic Affairs.

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At the June meeting of the Board of Governors, approval of the Intent to Plan a **Master of Public Administration** degree was granted. We are awaiting approval from the HEPC of the Intent to Plan.

Dr. Darrell Johnson, consultant and former Director for Continuing Education for The Ohio State University conducted several training session with faculty and staff on setting up a **Continuing Education Program** at West Virginia State University, on September 5, 2012.

President Hemphill officially changed Extended Studies to **Continuing Education** to reflect the several forms of education to take place as Academic Affairs establishes the office with a new direction.

We have **reorganized** some of the groups that conduct the business of **Academic Affairs**:

* The **Academic Affairs Administrative Staff** consists of the Vice President and the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Academic Deans, and the two Special Assistants to the VPAA; they meet weekly.
* The **Council of Academic Program Coordinators** will consist of the Academic Affairs Administrative Staff, Department Chairs, and Program Coordinators; they meet monthly.
* **Academic Leaders** will consist of the Academic Affairs Administrative Staff and Department Chairs; they will meet on an as-needed basis.
* The **Academic Affairs Staff** are those who work in 101 Ferrell Hall.
* The **Academic Affairs Council** is unchanged; it meets monthly.
* **Student Retention** will be a renewed function for Academic Affairs.
* **Institutional Research and Effectiveness** is no longer in Academic Affairs.
* **Honors Program** is officially in Academic Affairs.
* **International Programs** is a new program and office for Academic Affairs.