Report to Faculty Senate

Janna P. Vice, Interim Provost

November 2, 2009

Student Success

Teleconference with Appalachian State

A telephone conference was held with the Provost at Appalachian State and four other key ASU academic leaders on October 27. EKU had 22 faculty and staff in attendance. The conversation focused primarily on the strategies Appalachian State has used to enhance student success.

Participants’ Observations. After the call, EKU participants identified their key “take away” points from the conversation. Here are a few verbatim responses we received:

1. The academic and student support divisions of the university were working together in a close and integrated manner to improve students’ outcomes.
2. There was a commitment to continuous quality improvement that included redefining the structure of the institution and realigning the budget to better support student success.
3. It is critical to "de-compose" the student body into smaller sub-groups with similar characteristics (e.g., GED holders, 25-or-older undergrads) and target specifically-crafted initiatives or interventions to those groups, rather than treating all students as one homogeneous group who will respond to "one-size-fits-all" initiatives.
4. The institution was open to trying a wide variety of improvements in order to cumulatively improve student outcomes and credited their positive results to the whole rather than to any one magic bullet.
5. There is no substitute for well-crafted and well-informed research and analysis, both in understanding the factors related to student success, and identifying and understanding individual students who are most in need of intervention.
6. They have invested in hiring additional faculty to help with the freshman introduction to college course. Many are not tenure track, but they made a point of noting that they make a concerted effort to create fulltime lines of one sort or another.
7. Bottom line, it sounds very expensive. But, a lesson we should take from all this is that an institution has to seriously and thoughtfully invest where it expects to make real strides.
8. I don’t think they are doing anything we can’t do.

Map Works

As a result of the first round of Map Works (e-surveying students in resident halls), Student Affairs has engaged first-year students who live in the resident halls in more than 9,000 face-to-face conversations about their becoming acclimated to EKU. Students are completing the second round of the survey now. A detailed report will follow.

Distance Learning (Student Success/Regional Stewardship/and QEP)
Work continues toward a comprehensive plan for developing, supporting, delivering, and rewarding Distance Learning at EKU.

1. **EKU Faculty Panel**—An EKU Faculty Panel, experienced in Distance Learning, has been formed to represent faculty’s issues and input into our model. These faculty members were recommended by their respective deans:

   - **Arts and Sciences** - Rick Mott
   - - Steve Sumithran
   - **Business and Technology** - Richard Fern
   - **Education** - Mary Ann Kolloff
   - **Health Sciences** - Mixon Ware
   - **Justice and Safety** - Tom Schneid
   - **Library** - Brad Marcum

   On Friday, November 20, 10 a.m., in Library 108, the Panel will hold a discussion for all interested faculty, staff, and students. The Provost Council, Deans’ Council, Financial Planning Council, Strategic Planning Council, Faculty Senate, Chairs’ Association, the Council on Academic Affairs, the faculty at large, and all other persons interested in Distance Learning at EKU are encouraged to attend.

2. The Sloan Consortium’s annual conference, which is said to be the leading conference for distance education, was very beneficial in identifying the issues, challenges, and importance of developing an institutional model. More details will follow.

**Regional Stewardship**

EKU has named seven Educational Extension Agents to serve throughout the University’s 22-county service region. The primary role for these extension agents will be to serve as a liaison between EKU and their respective county(ies)—to “broker” the services EKU can provide. The focus will be in three primary areas: Education, Economy, and Quality of Living. For more information about the Education Extension Agents, contact Dr. Bob Shadur, our Regional Stewardship Director. The Extension Agents work through the CERA (Center for Education Research in Appalachia), coordinated by Dr. Jack Herlihy.

The Educational Extension Agents are:

- **Terry Wilson** - Clay, Perry, Leslie, Jackson and Harlan counties
- **David Gover** - Wayne, McCreary and Bell counties
- **Kelli Moore** - Laurel, Knox and Whitley counties
Mark Reese - Powell, Estill, Lee and Owsley counties

Bob Rowland - Boyle, Pulaski and Rockcastle counties

Kimi Snowden - Garrard, Lincoln and Casey counties

Carol Gabbard - Madison County

Quality Enhancement Plan

The QEP continues to gain momentum among our academic units. This momentum was evident in October when more than 100 faculty and staff attended Dr. Peggy Maki’s (author and consultant) workshop. The workshop focused on how to write course-level student outcomes that are consistent with programmatic/unit and university student learning goals.

Announcements

Registrar

The Provost Office is pleased to announce that Tina Davis, who has been serving as our Interim Registrar since Summer 2008, has been named EKU Registrar. We are fortunate to have a registrar with the dedication, competence, and experience that Tina brings to this position.

Lunch with the Provost

Faculty Senators are invited to eat lunch with the Provost on Wednesday, November 4, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room, Powell Cafeteria. Please sign in at the register.