Academic Affairs: Update—Fall 2013

A newsletter published by the provost for the faculty and staff of Eastern Washington University

Provost’s Message

As we finalize what has proved to be a very busy fall quarter, I want to share with you developments that have taken place in some current academic issues. I believe that you will be encouraged by the developments highlighted in this newsletter.

Most of you know that, in early December, the Board of Trustees voted in favor of remaining on quarters. The BOT also directed the university to continue its efforts in improving student success. As you will see on the following pages, the Student Success and Retention Committee (SSRC) has a full agenda and is making considerable progress on a number of initiatives. One reason for such good progress relates to the committee’s governance. The SSRC is a collaborative committee, created from a shared concern about improving student success and student learning. I am deeply appreciative of the leadership of Professors Sam Ligon and Julia Smith in working to establish the SSRC.

In closing, I wish you happy holidays; I thank you for the many contributions you make to Eastern and for the passion you exhibit for our students. I hope you will conclude, as I have, that the state of Academic Affairs is strong.

Best wishes,

[Signature]

New Faculty

Nearly seventy new faculty have just completed their first quarter of teaching here at EWU. New faculty include Taryn Fletcher, Accounting and Information Systems; Jenny Hyde and Jodi Patterson, Art; Eric Abbey and Anthony Masiello, Chemistry; Yun Tian, Computer Science; Merri Jones, Dental Hygiene; Nathaniel Greene, Mark Holmgren, and Nicholas Larsen, Economics; Susan Bachmeier, Joyce Bodeau, Stephanie Boughter, Elizabeth Phillips, and Charlene Shepard, Education; Deacon Band, Robert Gerlick, Meghdad Hajimorad, Ginelle Hustrulid, Donald Jorgensen, Kyle Larsen, and Margaret Mortz, Engineering and Design; Sean Agriss, English; Patricia Grandos and Karen Haworth, English Language Institute; Anna Dvorak, Geography; Chad Pritchard, Geology; Kevin Murray and Jonathan Ramos, Government; John Collins and Joseph Lenti, History; Kelley Evans, Libraries; Wensheng Cai, Management; Rick Biggerstaff, Carlos Castillo-Garsow, Raymond Dempsey, Anthony Frenk, Frank Lynch, Kelly Lynn, Rebecca Meyer, Gayle Millsaps, Christopher Mullins, Wade Neilson, and Andrew Oster, Mathematics; Miguel Novella, Modern Languages and Literatures; Jenny Kellogg, Music; Robert Krueger, Occupational Therapy; David Weise, Philosophy; Christi Brewer, Jessica Radke-Snead, and Jeremy Schultz, Physical Education, Health and Recreation; Cody Johnston and Douglas Rutledge, Physics; Jessica Berry, Shanna Davis, Thupten Phelgye, Rebecca Ruud, and Danielle Sitzman, Psychology; Ning Li, Public Administration; Sharon Bowland, Timothy Hilton, Cindy Nover, and Christopher Williams, Social Work; Adam Boyd and Chase Ogden, Theatre and Film; and Kerry Brooks, Urban and Regional Planning. Congratulations on your first quarter at Eastern!
CBA 2013 – 2016 Offers New Provisions for Faculty Salaries and Merit Increases

With the completion of bargaining in summer 2013, the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) has accomplished many important things. Most notably, the agreement ties faculty salaries to market averages by academic discipline, an approach much different from the across-the-board approaches used in many faculty contracts.

In addition, after 2015-2016, full professors who meet performance expectations in teaching, scholarly/creative activity, and/or service may qualify for base increases. These merit increases are tied to Faculty Activity Plans and require faculty to exceed expectations in teaching in order to be eligible. With the new contract, college and department policies and procedures will be used to establish the measurable requirements in completing and fulfilling Faculty Activity Plans.

In fall quarter, the UFE, with Professors/UFE Officers Michael Conlin and Gary Krug, and EWU Provost Rex Fuller, partnered to present workshops for department chairs, department personnel committees, and college personnel committees. Workshop items included contract changes and procedural requirements for a variety of faculty-related topics, including tenure and promotion, workloads, and Faculty Activity Plans.

Undergraduate Studies and Student Success

In late July, the university welcomed Dr. Charles (Chuck) Lopez as its new Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies and Student Success. Dr. Lopez oversees the Academic Success Center, the TRiO Program, the Transfer Center, the Office of Community Engagement, the Learning Commons, and the University Honors’ Program in addition to co-chairing the Student Success and Retention Committee (SSRC). The SSRC has taken under review and discussion the current general education program, a revision of the first-year experience, and a system for identifying at-risk students early in each quarter.

General Education Review and Reform

Co-chaired by Professors Kevin Decker and Mindy Breen, the General Education Review and Reform (GERR) Committee has held three all-campus forums to solicit feedback about Eastern's general education program.

GERR’s charge from the SSRC, approved in April 2013, is to “advise the SSRC on matters related to general education, including philosophy, outcomes, goals, curriculum, and pedagogy. We expect that the process will include:

- A review of philosophies and approaches to general education (Summer 2013);
- Consultation with faculty and other university constituencies about general education philosophy and goals through mechanisms like open forums (Fall Quarter 2013); and
- A statement of philosophy and goals for general education (December 2013).

Beyond that, with the guidance of the SSRC, we expect this committee to create a proposal for a new general education structure for approval by the university governing bodies in the spring of the 2013-2014 academic year.”

GERR Timeline

- April 2013: GERR Committee was formed.
- May 2013: GERR and the SSRC brought to Eastern consultant Sally Murphy, Senior Director of the General Education Program at Cal State University-East Bay, for informational meetings on how CSU-EB revised and improved its general education offerings.
August 2013: GERR and the SSRC sponsored a campus visit and informational session from AVID for Higher Education.

Sept/Oct 2013: GERR Co-Chairs Breen and Decker brought the GERR white paper “Eastern Inquiry” to the Academic Affairs’ Summer Retreat, Chairs’ Workshop, and Deans’ Offices to ask what the education of an Eastern student in the twenty-first century should look like.

Oct/Nov 2013: GERR members brought “Eastern Inquiry” questions and presentations to campus forums in Cheney and Riverpoint and to department meetings.

December 2013: GERR will draft a general education goals’ statement, a distillation of feedback from “Eastern Inquiry” forums and meetings.

Winter 2013: GERR will work with the intention of drafting a proposal for a revised general education structure based on the goals’ statement integrated with best practices from other universities, GECR course capacity and use analysis, and budget information.

Spring 2014: GERR will submit the review-and-revision proposal to SSRC; deliberation will take place in various units, including Student Affairs, Advising, and Electronic Learning and Off-Campus Programs.

June 2014: SSRC will submit its recommendation for implementation of changes in general education to the Chief Academic Officer.

Divisional Highlights from the Colleges, JFK Libraries, the Office of Global Initiatives, and the EWU Extended Campus

EWU faculty, staff, and students can be proud of the strong academic tradition and rich variety of experiences offered by our colleges, JFK Libraries, the Office of Global Initiatives, and EWU’s Extended Campus. Selected highlights follow.

College of Arts, Letters, and Education — CALE

New Master in Teaching (MiT) Cohort will Launch in Summer 2014

In response to student demand, CALE’s Education Department will initiate a new cohort of MiT students, beginning in summer 2014. Courses will be offered on the Riverpoint campus. The MiT program has been designed for students who have planned a career change into the field of teaching. Structured as an intensive five-quarter program with day and evening classes, the program links coursework to the K-12 classroom experience (approximately 900 hours) and meets the new statewide certification requirements for K-12 teachers. Graduates of the program receive their Washington State Residency Teacher Certifications as well as their M.Ed. degrees.

College of Business and Public Administration — CBPA

Master of Public Health (MPH) Moves Forward

The MPH is an interdisciplinary program that draws upon the knowledge, skills and abilities, competencies, and talents of a number of disciplines to address the many aspects of public health. The MPH consists of a core foundation of classes in public health with an initial four options in public health specialties. These options are health promotion, epidemiology, health services administration, and American Indian healthcare. The MPH curriculum has been structured to meet the accreditation standards for the Council on Education on Public Health (CEPH), the only accrediting body for master’s programs in public health. As well, the curriculum meets
competencies for the Association for Schools in Public Health (ASPH). The MPH degree has received final approval from the Washington State Council of Presidents with approval pending from the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU).

College of Science, Health and Engineering — CSHE

Online Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene offers Degree Completion

Having received internal university approval in April of this year, EWU’s online BSDH degree completion program has been approved by the Washington State Council of Presidents and has moved for final approval to NWCCU. The program will allow place-bound dental hygienists who hold two-year degrees from accredited dental hygiene programs to complete their baccalaureate degrees. EWU degree-completion requirements include dental hygiene courses and a broad-based upper-division component of General Education, cultural and gender diversity, and international studies courses.

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Social Work — CSBSSW

Social Work Cohort and MSW Hybrid

CSBSSW and the School of Social Work will initiate a new cohort of part-time MSW students, beginning in summer 2014, in Everett, Washington. The program, which has operated continuously since 1999 at Everett Community College, can accommodate as many as sixty students. In addition, the college and school are launching a part-time MSW hybrid program to supersede the former Yakima and Spokane part-time MSW programs. Course delivery will consist of face-to-face delivery on weekends at the Riverpoint campus each quarter in concert with Canvas offerings and additional methods of distance delivery. It is expected that this new hybrid will serve the needs of part-time MSW students throughout eastern and central Washington.

John F. Kennedy Memorial Library — JFK

Digital Commons Comes to EWU

JFK Libraries will soon bring online a digital commons (a hosted institutional electronic repository), which will allow for electronic posting of journals, peer-reviewed articles, student scholarship, institutional resources, elements of campus life, collections, books, applied research, conferences, and streamed concerts. Bepress (University of CA-Berkeley) has been selected as the provider for the digital commons. Having worked extensively with higher education institutions, the provider allows for EWU branding and offers excellent technological support, including linking Canvas to the digital commons.

Office of Global Initiatives — OGI

International Partnerships for a Global University

One hundred twelve students participated in study-abroad experiences in twenty-five countries during academic year 2012-13 (an increase of 11% over the previous year) through faculty-led programs, internships and service learning, and traditional study abroad (direct enrollment and exchanges). As a part of fall 2013 recruiting and partnership efforts,
EWU faculty and staff met with prospective students in China (1+2+1 Sin-American Dual Degree Program) and Kazakhstan (Bolashak Study-Abroad Scholarship Program) and, this past October, hosted visiting delegations from the Chinese Ministry of Education and Universities and the University of Agder in Norway.

**EWU Extended Campus**

**University Center at Lower Columbia College Opens**

The partnership between Eastern Washington University and Lower Columbia College took another step forward on October 16, 2013 with the dedication of the LCC University Center. EWU sent a twelve-person delegation led by Dr. Rex Fuller to LCC for the dedication. EWU is the primary university partner with Lower Columbia College in its efforts to bring four-year degrees to the Longview/Kelso area. At present, EWU offers all of its online degrees and certificates and its BS in Applied Technology to LCC students. EWU occupies more than half of the available space in the University Center and has a full time staff member at Lower Columbia to assist in recruiting and advising students. For fall 2013, EWU enrolled twenty LCC students into its programs without extensive advertising or recruitment.