

Report to the Faculty Senate

*Submitted by Sue K. Hammersmith, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Green Bay
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I. CONGRATULATIONS TO DISTINGUISHED FACULTY

Three of our faculty have been selected for major academic honors. Please join me in congratulating these faculty and also in recognizing that awards such as these honor not only the individual recipient but also their colleagues, units, and mentors who provided the kind of atmosphere and encouragement in which such creative excellence flourishes. Congratulations to all.

- **Denise Scheberle** (Public and Environmental Affairs) was presented the **University of Wisconsin Regents' Teaching Excellence Award** last week. Only two of these awards are given each year, and Denise's selection truly places her as "the best of the best." Denise's acceptance remarks at last week's Board meeting were moving and humorous, and they honored not only her accomplishments in the classroom but also the level of support and creative encouragement which she receives from her colleagues here at UWGB. Denise said she is just one of many excellent teachers here at UWGB.
- **Denise Sweet** (Humanistic Studies and Native American Studies) has the rare and distinct honor of being selected as Wisconsin's second **Poet Laureate**. This is a four-year appointment and will take Dee across the state to share her poetry and love of poetry with the citizens in Wisconsin, including events at the Neville Museum here in Green Bay this fall.
- **Cheryl Grosso** (Communication and the Arts) has been selected to receive the **Frankenthal Professorship**. The Frankenthal Professorship will support Cheryl's continued development as an outstanding scholar, composer, and performer in her field of percussion.

Again, congratulations to these wonderful colleagues, and thanks to all who encouraged them along the way.

II. PRESIDENT RILEY'S MESSAGE

I want to share with you a few highlights from President Riley's remarks at last week's Board of Regents meeting. These will give you a sense of his priorities and style. (Bear in mind, this is just a thumbnail sketch of a much more eloquent address.)

Priorities:

1. Students first

- Will seek direct contact with students across the system.
- We must reverse the trend of serving proportionately fewer students from families with incomes in the lower 40%. Increase financial aid for those students. Cannot become a UW System of the well-off.

2. Transparency

- Board meetings will be broadcast on-line by streaming video.
- Will make more publicly visible what our priorities are and how decisions are made.
- Will seek ongoing conversations with reporters and the media.

3. Efficiency

- Will seek more administrative efficiencies (governor wants 10% reduction).
- Has hired Harry Peterson (formerly with UW, now at Western State in Colorado) as consultant, who has interviewed all Chancellors and will make recommendations on UW System efficiencies.
- Has asked UW Colleges and Extension to work together for administrative efficiencies, and has put both of those Chancellor searches on hold in the meantime.

Message for Faculty and Staff:

"We're in the human potential business.... This academic year, I pledge my energy, advocacy, and support for their [faculty and staff] efforts."

President Riley also said one of his major messages for the legislature will be that we must keep faculty and staff salaries competitive if we are to attract and retain the outstanding faculty and staff that have made the University of Wisconsin system so effective.

Adult Learners:

The State of Wisconsin ranks 30th in our enrollment of adult learners. We must do more to serve adult learners.

- Construct and offer curricula that are accessible and valuable to working adults.
- Offer delivery that works for these students – e.g., offer courses and student services electronically, evenings, and weekends as well as during the traditional times.
- Do we have sophisticated ways of evaluating learning gained through life experience, outside the classroom.

President Riley notes that our "traditional" students are now looking more and more like nontraditional students, so these approaches will help them as well. He cautioned us not to make too sharp a distinction between the traditional and nontraditional students – e.g., when a 20-year-old student is working two jobs and going to school, is s/he "traditional" or "nontraditional"? When a 21-year-old technical college graduate enrolls with us, is s/he "traditional" or "nontraditional"? When a 45-year-old "empty nester" enrolls with us full-time, without a job, and without childcare responsibilities, is s/he "traditional" or "nontraditional"?

III. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

We continue to develop international education initiatives. These include:

- Application to host a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (thanks to Kim Nielson).
- Institutional partnership with a major conservation area in Costa Rica (thanks to Troy Abel and Kevin Fermanich).
- Two visiting scholars from Thailand (thanks to Derek Jeffreys).
- An upcoming visit by representatives of the DelBianco Foundation in Florence (thanks to Sarah Meredith)
- Further development of the International Visiting Scholars Program (thanks to Troy Abel, Sarah Meredith, and Bob Wenger).
- Development of a Social Work study abroad site in Guatemala (thanks to Loretta Larkey and Cristina Ortiz).

There no doubt are additional developments I've failed to note, but this gives you a sense of the interest and activity.

Chad Goeden, who has served as our International Education Program Manager, will enter the Peace Corps at the end of September. Chad has done wonderful work with our students and programs, and he will be sorely missed! Chad's last day is Friday, 9/17.

IV. DOWNTOWN LEARNING CENTER

Tomorrow, 9/16, will be the ribbon-cutting and open-house for a new UWGB Downtown Learning Center in Washington Commons. This facility provides space for teaching, conferencing, retreats, and meetings in the downtown area, with easy access for members of our business and professional communities. The facility includes:

- Classroom, with instructional technology, which seats up to 48.
- Conference room which seats up to 10.
- Office space that could be used for private meetings.
- Food services are available for special events.
- Free parking in the covered garage.

This beautiful facility is available, free of charge, for UWGB events. For more information (including reservations), go to <http://www.uwgb.edu/downtown/>. (See attached.)

UWGB's new Downtown Learning Center is funded entirely by Outreach and Extension, using no GPR funds (i.e., no funding was taken from on-campus instruction or operations to fund this facility).

A special thanks to all those who made this possible, but in particular to Jan Thornton and Bob Skorzcewski in Outreach, and to Gary Herlache, Dave Kieper, John Jirak, and Jim Sams in Computing and Information Technology.

V. FRESHMAN CLASS

This year's freshman class has hit the ground running! The new FOCUS orientation program was very successful, ending with a talent show that blew the roof off! Results of the Freshman Survey are attached. Some highlights about this year's class:

- o Largest freshman class ever.
- o Largest number of minority students to date.
- o Half are first-generation college students.
- o They are academically prepared (average high school GPA is 3.32; average ACT is 22.6).
- o They come from 67 of Wisconsin's 72 counties.
- o UWGB was their college of choice.

VI. CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Several important searches are nearly complete, just awaiting the candidate's signed acceptance of our offer. These include searches for a new Registrar, International Education Program Manager Services, and Interim Director of Assessment Services. More information about the selected candidates and their backgrounds will be announced following their formal acceptances. Meanwhile, please join me in offering a great "Thanks!" to Mike Stearney and Sally Mancoski for their great work in the Registrar's Office during the interim.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue H.

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