

## Update/Faculty Senate Report

May 10, 2006

*Submitted by Sue K. Hammersmith, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
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### THE YEAR IN REVIEW

As we end the 2005-06 academic year, I feel a great deal of pride in the accomplishments of our Academic Affairs Area over the past year and eager anticipation for the coming year. We have faced a number of challenges, but we've also enjoyed some significant accomplishments and successes. I'd like to take this occasion, as we end the academic year, to review some of the progress we've made over the past year as well as some of the goals, challenges, and opportunities we face in the year ahead. This is a "snapshot" summary, as I'm determined to keep it short enough to be palatable during this busy, final week of the semester. Of necessity, it will fail to make reference to many of the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff. It is enough, though, to indicate the tremendous energy and initiative we have seen in the past year throughout Academic Affairs.

In May 2005, we identified five goals for the coming year. Among the highlights in our progress toward achieving those goals are the following activities, accomplishments, and works in progress.

#### **GOAL 1: We will have sustainable resources sufficient to sustain and carry out our mission.**

Despite the "gloomy" atmosphere of state support for public higher education, UWGB has enjoyed some major, solid accomplishments over the past year.

- The academic deans devised a new summer school model which significantly increased 2005 summer enrollments, met UWGB's summer tuition targets, and generated significant program revenues for their divisions and budget units.
- The Adult Degree Program (formerly, Extended Degree Program) moved to a new funding model. Rather than draining resources from the participating academic units, the new model actually contributes additional funding to the participating units. It also allows program growth on a self-funded basis.
- The University's **capital campaign** successfully completed Phase I, which raised money for the Kress Events Center, and entered Phase II, which will raise money to support the academic side. Additional named professorships, academic program support, scholarships, and quality enhancements will be the focus of Phase II.
- The Chancellor, joined by UWGB students, faculty, alumni, and myself, successfully presented our **growth agenda** to the UW Board of Regents. Regents committed their support at the April meeting, and the Governor lauded UWGB's agenda at the May meeting last week. We are cautiously optimistic that this campaign may succeed in securing a renewed commitment of public financial support for UWGB.
- We sustained last year's mandatory budget reductions without gutting the academic program, and we have put in place a planning and review process that will guide us through both good times and challenging times in the future.
- We secured state funding (**\$1.6 million**) for a major remodeling of the Student Services building. This will enable our student services professionals to move toward a more integrated service model which will benefit both students and the professional staff.
- The **Institute for Learning Partnership** secured generous corporate support for the next three years, allowing us to continue our annual conference for local school districts despite decreased state funding.
- With support from the Governor's budget, we were able to award a number of faculty and staff with **base salary adjustments**. While these were not nearly as much as I would have liked, they are a significant step in the right direction. If we want to hire and retain top-notch faculty and staff, we must have the salary dollars to recognize the quality of their contributions. I feel a great deal of satisfaction that we were able to begin making progress in that direction.

#### **GOAL 2: We will have programs and services of high academic quality and integrity that are flexible and responsive to the needs of the region.**

Accreditation is one measure of high academic quality and integrity. Awards and recognition are another measure. In the past year:

- Both the **Nursing** and the **Social Work** programs received the longest-term reaccreditations possible from their respective professional associations.
- The new **Masters of Social Work** program has passed its initial probationary period with flying colors; full accreditation is expected to be conferred this summer.

- Our **Education** program was certified by the Department of Public Instruction as fulfilling all the new PI-34 requirements.
- Our **Theatre** students competed successfully in Region III Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival again this year.
- **Music** students performed and competed abroad.
- UWGB **Dietetics** students swept the state-level awards in their field this year.
- The **Fourth Estate** was singled out for national recognition for excellence among collegiate newspapers.
- UWGB's **Students in Free Enterprise** chapter once again won the regional competition and is competing at the nationals next month.
- UWGB **National History Day** winners again competed successfully at the state level.
- The **Phuture Phoenix** program that so many faculty, staff, and students participate in continues to be recognized throughout Wisconsin as a model of excellence, responsive to regional needs.

These are just a few examples of the continuing quality and integrity that pervade our academic programs and services here at UWGB, thanks to the commitment and competence of our faculty and staff.

I also take pride in the new academic initiatives that faculty and staff have pursued in the past year. Even without new resources, our faculty and staff have been creative and resourceful in meeting new needs in the region. Some examples (in various stages of development) include:

- An **International Business** minor (approved)
- A proposed **First Nations Studies** major (ready for Senate action).
- A **Bachelor of Applied Studies** degree (currently under review)
- **Hmong language and culture** continues to be popular
- Coming in fall 2006: a course in **Arabic**

We also continue to make improvements in our student services, campus life, and residential life. This year, for instance, our students enjoyed increased support for their technology needs (e.g., residence hall help desk service, wireless sites across campus), internship opportunities, opportunities for study abroad and exchange experience, and information services.

### **GOAL 3: We will have active and productive partnerships that meet the changing needs of our community, region, and professions.**

In the past year we have strengthened our partnerships with a number of other educational institutions in our region.

- In the fall, we finalized articulation agreements in **Business, Education, and Social Work** with the **College of Menominee Nation**.
- We finalized a **General Education Certificate** for NWTC students who plan to transfer into UWGB.
- With UW-Oshkosh, we are moving to provide bachelor degree completion options for men and women with technical associate degrees. We expect the proposed **Bachelor of Applied Studies** to come forward for approval in the fall.
- Last fall Outreach and Adult Access, in collaboration with several other community organizations, opened the new **Business Assistance Center** in Ashwaubenon.
- Currently Outreach is working with St. Norbert College, NWTC, and Green Bay Public Schools to offer credit course options to students in **Green Bay Public Schools academies**.
- We have begun discussions with NWTC and UW-Stout to explore whether we can make an ABET-accredited engineering degree available here in Green Bay. This would allow UWGB's pre-engineering students to complete their engineering degree here in Green Bay (currently they have to leave the region to do so).
- We continue to partner with St. Norbert College and the Green Bay Foundation on the **International Visiting Scholars Program**.
- Last fall UWGB partnered with St. Norbert College and the Oneida Nation to offer an **International Justice Symposium** on indigenous peoples' land rights, with continuing international partnerships developed from that source.

- UWGB initiated and cosponsored with the City of Green Bay, Chamber of Commerce, Green Bay Packers, and others Brown County's first **Diversity Summit**.
- UWGB's Cofrin Library has joined with other NEW ERA institutions to make a common **NEW ERA library card** available to students across our respective colleges and universities.

**GOAL 4: We will prepare students, faculty, and staff to function as citizens of the world.**

This was an ambitious goal intended to address the importance of civic responsibility, respect for diversity, and global awareness as well as the critical thinking and practical problem solving that are the hallmarks of a UWGB education. Some accomplishments over the past year include, in the area of international education:

- We hosted our first **visiting Fulbright scholar** this year (Dr. Ibtesum Al-Atiyat from Jordan) as well as two **International Visiting Scholars** (Dr. Robin Palmer from South Africa, and Julio Alegria from Peru). Both students and faculty/staff benefited greatly from these enriching colleagues, and their visits provide a groundwork for potential future collaboration and exchanges as well.
- We reorganized and strengthened the **Office of International Education** to build on the strong tradition already established and move us to the next level. With more time available for recruitment and outreach, we expect to see an increase in both our international student enrollments and our native students' participation in international and exchange opportunities.
- We formed an **International Education Council**, with community as well as campus members, to promote international education at UWGB and a Globalists group to enhance community support for international education.
- UWGB was awarded a Department of State grant to fund a **Summer Arabic Language Institute** in Jordan. This program will serve high school students, but we are hopeful that an enduring college exchange program may be formed in the future as a result.
- Outreach and Adult Access has worked actively to promote respect and understanding for cultural diversity. One initiative was their leadership in forming **Diversity Circles**. These are now taking place across campus and across the community, and have been institutionalized with the Green Bay YWCA adopting the project. Another initiative is a grant-funded project with the **Oneida Nation** to promote pride, understanding, and success among Oneida youth.

**GOAL 5: We will promote and invest in a culture of learning, professional development, and continuous quality improvement across all units.**

With this goal, we recognized that we must invest in our own people, supporting their learning and professional development. Initiatives to address some of these needs include:

- Our **academic deans and unit chairs** have significant leadership roles and responsibilities at the University. To support them in this regard, in August Dr. David McFarland will come to campus to conduct a two-day session on leadership and team development for academic deans and unit chairs. We hope this is just the first of a series of events to support the professional development of our academic leaders and future leaders.
- In the Fall Semester, the **Instructional Development Council** will host two half-day workshops on "Engaging Students and Revitalizing Interdisciplinarity: A Kick-Off Event for Cross-Campus Teaching Development." Dr. Jillian Kinzie (Center for Postsecondary Research and NSSE Institute, Indiana University) will serve as keynote speaker, and an array of faculty from across campus will serve as presenters and facilitators. We hope this will launch a year-long period of dialog and experimentation to enhance the undergraduate learning experience at UWGB.
- Also in the fall, Dr. Kinzie will meet with Student Affairs Directors to explore implications of UWGB's NSSE results for **student engagement outside the classroom**.
- Information Services and Student Affairs will pilot a new assessment tool designed to assess students' information literacy. The results will be shared. If this seems informative, the project may be continued in future years to support the development of **information literacy** among our students.
- Our classes on **Conversational Spanish** have been a big hit with UWGB employees across campus this year. These will be continued in the coming year.

This year we also have seen progress in improving several institutional processes. These have included:

- The University Committee has worked hard this year to improve UWGB's **curriculum development and approval process**. A set of guidelines and procedures have been developed which, if endorsed at this week's Senate meeting, can be piloted in 2006-07.
- The **hiring process** was further refined based on last year's experience with a new hiring process.
- A **Comprehensive Program Review Cycle** was initiated this year to integrate academic program review, planning, and resource allocation decisions. In 2006-07, the Comprehensive Program Review Task Force will provide recommendations to guide planning, resource allocation, budgeting, and academic program development for the years ahead.
- We have made better use of the web and electronic media on several fronts, including processes to allow **credit card tuition payments, electronic newsletters for parents, streamlined student admissions procedures, electronic filing systems, and international student recruitment**.
- Within Academic Affairs, we made significant improvements this year in operational planning and budgeting

Finally, I would note the work of the **Academic Affairs Planning Committee** this year. We now have an Academic Affairs strategic plan, a vision statement, and performance indicators. We have identified tangible actions that can be taken to move us forward, and we have a solid foundation for developing action plans for each of our divisions.

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These are just some of the areas of progress we've made in the past year. There are many other facts and events that could be added to the list. The important thing is that we have made progress, and significant progress, on several fronts. As we move into the coming academic year, I believe we will be able to build on the past, look to the future, and work together more effectively than ever before.

I wish all of you a rewarding, relaxing, and productive summer. If you travel, go safely. I will look forward to reconvening in the fall for the new academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sue H.*

Sue K. Hammersmith  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs