

# *Report to the Faculty Senate*

*December 15, 2004*

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

## **I. FACULTY HONORS**

Two of our faculty have received wonderful honors recently.

- **Rebecca Meacham** (Humanistic Studies) has won the prestigious 2004 Katherine Anne Porter Prize in Short Fiction for a book of nine short stories, entitled *Let's Do*. According to the story in last week's "Log," the judge who selected Meacham's book said she is "one of the freshest voices I've encountered in a long time" and described her stories as "deliciously subversive, brave and outrageous."
- **Ganga Nair** (Natural and Applied Sciences) has been named "Chairman for Southeast Asia" for a UN-sponsored project in the conservation and management of natural resources. This appointment, which will run for three years, follows intensive consultation work in the People's Republic of China over that past year or so.

Please join me in extending a hearty congratulations to both Rebecca and Ganga. I look forward to hearing more about their work.

## **II. COMMITTEE ON BACCALAUREATE EXPANSION (COBE) INITIATIVE**

**A high priority in the next biennium – for both the UW system and the legislature – will be to promote the completion of baccalaureate degrees by more Wisconsin residents.** Wisconsin ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the percent of population with associate degrees but drops to 33<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in the percent of population with bachelor's degrees. Twenty years ago, Wisconsin was among the nation's leaders in education. We've steadily lost ground, however, since the late '80s, when enrollment caps were enacted for UW institutions. This "education lag" is now recognized as a major impediment to the economic development of the state. We now lag behind our neighboring states, and if we follow the current trend, in a few years our educational peers will be Arkansas and Mississippi.

**The UW System budget proposal for the next biennium includes \$1,000,000 to fund a few pilot programs to produce more baccalaureate graduates in Wisconsin.** This is an initiative that has strong legislative support as well. At last week's meeting of the UW Board of Regents, UW System's Larry Rubin gave a progress report on efforts over the past year to facilitate Wisconsin Technical College graduates' ability to enroll in UW baccalaureate programs. The meeting was attended by a member of the state legislature, who had initiated this discussion in 2003, as well as a number of officials from the Technical College system.

UWGB has emerged as a leader in this effort. I was asked to present on the good working relations we have among the public post-secondary institutions here in Northeast Wisconsin and on what we could do to produce more baccalaureate degree holders here in the Green Bay area. For a copy of my remarks, go to <http://www.uwgb.edu/provost/bor12.04.htm>. Following the presentation, we were encouraged by President Reilly and the Board's Education Committee to move forward with the development of a pilot project. Funding was discussed briefly, and I said we could only do this with additional GPR funding as well as the tuition revenues generated.

## **III. PLANNING AND BUDGET UPDATE**

Over the next month, I will develop a draft of a strategic plan for the Provost's area, drawing upon the activities of all the Provost's budget divisions and the good work of the Academic Affairs Planning Committee. The Academic Affairs Planning Committee will work on this draft plan in January, for campus review later in the spring. Also over the next month, the division heads who report to the Provost will develop their 05-06 budget requests. These are due to me January 15, 2005. I will be inviting the Senate Standing Committee on Planning and Budget to meet with me and my Administrative Council to discuss their budget requests before I submit our budgets at the end of January.

## **V. PERSONNEL ITEMS**

A search will be undertaken for a new **Coordinator of Assessment Services**. David Prestby (interim coordinator) has resigned, and we are hoping to fill the position as soon as possible. A copy of the position announcement is attached. I would be grateful if you could assist us by encouraging application by any good potential candidates you may know.

Eleven faculty are coming up for tenure this year, and eleven faculty searches are in progress.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sue H.*

Sue K. Hammersmith, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs