

Welcome Back Update/Faculty Senate Report

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

Welcome back! I am very excited about the new academic year. A number of new initiatives and projects are being planned, being implemented, or coming to fruition, and I anticipate the coming year to be one rich with substance, opportunities, and growth. As Provost, I always enjoy exchanges with faculty, staff, and students, and I thrive when the hallways and classrooms fill every fall. I encourage new ideas and I value any suggestions you may offer. I look forward to working with you in the coming year.

I. SUMMER SCHOOL SUCCESS

Deans Erickson and Hughes conducted a successful experiment this summer. In planning for summer of 2005, they had three goals in mind. They wanted to **meet the tuition revenue target negotiated with UW System for the Summer Session of 2005, to offer a cohesive and predictable program with more courses than in the past, and to give more faculty an opportunity to teach.** This experiment appears to have succeeded on all fronts. Summer Session 2005 not only met UWGB's tuition revenue target of \$625,606, but also generated additional income to provide the academic units with additional S&E funds and increase discretionary funds available to the deans in 2005-2006. The summer course schedule was also more cohesive and predictable. In 2005 LAS offered 56 courses and none was cancelled. By contrast, in 2004 LAS offered 33 courses and one was cancelled, and in 2003 LAS offered 33 courses, but cancelled five. More students enrolled in the 2005 Summer Session (1205 in 2005; 961 in 2004) and they took more credits (5857 in 2005; 4365 in 2004). We also increased the number of Distance Education courses, and these proved to be very popular with students and faculty alike. Finally, more faculty had an opportunity for summer teaching. The deans tell me that all faculty who wanted to teach in Summer of 2005 were able to do so. Most earned more than their 1/9th salary. Of the 13 faculty whose classes were funded by our new funding mechanism, only 3 were paid less than 1/9th of salary, and these faculty would have earned no salary in previous years because their courses would have been cancelled for low enrollment. Seven faculty received more than 1/9th of salary. Congratulations and thanks to all who made this possible!

II. INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The Office of International Education will host an open house on **Friday, Sept. 16, from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, in Rose Hall 310/345.** This is the new location for the Office of International Education. Faculty and staff are invited to stop by to meet our new staff – Brent Blahnik (director), Kristin Aoki (advisor), and Courtney Van Boxtel (program assistant) – visit with our international students, and learn more about our study abroad programs, exchanges, and opportunities to support international education here at UWGB.

UWGB currently enrolls 57 international students from 24 countries. These include 15 exchange students, 25 returning students, and 17 new degree-seeking students. One goal is to increase the number of international students here on campus. Another is to increase the number of UWGB students who study abroad (currently, about 5%).

Members of the new International Education Council include Brent Blahnik, Kristin Aoki, Fergus Hughes, Fritz Erickson, Sue Keihn, David Coury, Kevin Fermanich, Marcelo Cruz, Anne Kok, Paula Ganyard, and Diana Borrero-Lowe. The primary role of the Council is to promote international understanding, experience, and scholarship among our faculty, staff, students, and the region we serve.

III. INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES UPDATE

Our decision a year ago to move the administration of the **Interdisciplinary Studies Adult Degree Program** (formerly Extended Degree) to the Division of Outreach and Adult Access, while retaining faculty oversight of the Interdisciplinary Studies major, has brought significant change. Funding for delivery of the program has shifted away from dependence on UWGB's general state allocation. This has created faculty and unit incentives to teach in the program and has allowed program growth – without diverting resources from other academic programs or curricula. Summer enrollments in this program grew by 32% over summer 2004. So far, the fall enrollment are 25% above fall of 2004.

We are fortunate to have such a talented group of dedicated faculty, led by Professor Bill Laatsch, who teach in and support this degree program. I am impressed with our faculty's understanding of and commitment to the importance of lifelong learning to these nontraditional students, and I am proud of the renewed vitality and academic oversight of this program.

IV. WHAT'S NEW IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS?

LIBRARY: MetaLib is a new application that allows cross multi-database searching in one search. It's available for use on the library's web site while library staff continues to refine and enhance the application. Additional computers have been added to the Library so there are now ten group project rooms with networked PCs on 5th and 6th floors. Wireless access is also available at several access points on the 3rd - 7th floors.

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY: All technology classrooms have new instructor workstations and have undergone preventative maintenance checks. Several classrooms were updated with new projectors. Please report any technology problems you encounter (call 2416) so that we can fix them ASAP. Media Services has added five digital editing systems in the old preview rooms, and has the capability of produce color photos from digital images.

COMPUTING: Over the summer, all MAC users received new G5 computers, and 260 PCs were installed in faculty/staff offices and student labs. The D2L course management system was upgraded with some new features. Wireless networking has been installed in the Library and the Student Union. The computer services web site has been redesigned with a searchable eHelp section, dynamic Tech Tips, Hot Topics, and a new section for Network Alerts. If you need assistance with a computer problem please call the Help Desk (2309)

V. FIRST NATIONS STUDIES MAJOR

At the request of the faculty in American Indian Studies, and with the endorsement of the faculty in Humanistic Studies, UW-Green Bay has requested approval for an entitlement to plan a new major in First Nations Studies. This major will build on our very successful academic minor in American Indian Studies (recently renamed First Nations Studies). Development of this major represents a significant part of our plans to serve the diverse populations of Northeast Wisconsin, and it is strongly endorsed by First Nations in our region.

VI. FACULTY FORUM

A Faculty Forum was held on August 25, 2005. The agenda allowed for open question and answer time with the provost and deans, giving faculty an opportunity to ask questions and provide input on various areas of interest. The inaugural forum was well received, and another Faculty Forum will be scheduled mid-to-late October.

You asked for it... Several faculty indicated a need for greater and easier view access to class rosters, for program assistants, advisors, and chairs. I talked with Mike Herrity (registrar) about this, and he believes we can go a long way toward meeting that need. I'll report back to you on that as things are worked out.