

December 6, 2010

To: Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff

From: John Kijinski, Dean

RE: A&S Update for December

Here are a few items that I think everyone in A&S should know about. Some of this partially replicates items from VP Horvath's update from Academic Affairs, but, in an effort to communicate with faculty and staff, I think it's better to repeat than to leave out information. Please also note that we continue to post links to the minutes from A&S Chairs' Meetings on our home page.

Roger Byrne, Ingrid Johnston-Robledo, and I are very grateful to chairs, faculty, and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences. We've enjoyed working with you for the past semester. We're facing hard times, but we're impressed by the continued professionalism, collegiality, and good will that members of the College have shown toward us and toward one another. Roger, Ingrid, and I hope you have a great winter break and a wonderful holiday season.

### **ASSESSMENT AND THE MIDDLE STATES MONITORING REPORT**

As you all know, we have a Monitoring Report that is due to Middle States by April of 2012. What they mostly want us to work on is assessment. I've asked chairs to do two things that will improve assessment here (and Middle States' view of assessment here) that can be accomplished rather painlessly. Thanks in advance for your help on this.

1) Two years ago Dave Ewing and I asked chairs to prepare curriculum maps for their departments. Doing a curriculum map involves preparing a chart that shows how each course in a program is connected to the declared learning outcomes of the program. We still need a curriculum map from 9 departments. I've asked chairs to get these electronically to Ingrid Johnston-Robledo before the semester ends.

2) We also need further information on learning goals in syllabi. Within our Monitoring Report to Middle States, we will have to show evidence of how we have improved our efforts at assessing student learning outcomes at the individual course level. Within the preliminary report from Middle States, we were told that we must begin to "publish consistent statements of expected student learning outcomes at the institutional and program level as well as for *every course*" [emphasis added]. So that we can take an immediate step toward meeting this request from Middle States, I have asked chairs to work with their faculty so that all syllabi for spring semester contain the following section:

\* \* \* \*

#### **Student Learning Objectives/Intended Learning Outcomes**

For courses in the major, these objectives should match at least one of the program's learning outcomes. For CCC-approved courses, learning objectives should match learning outcomes for CCC category for which the course is approved.

**Optional but recommended:** It would also be helpful if this section of the syllabus also contained an explanation of how course activities, content, and assignments will provide opportunities to achieve the learning outcomes of the course.

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We are working out a system by which all A&S syllabi are given electronically to Ingrid so that she can report on compliance.

I know that this will seem like a gratuitous pain to many, but it is essential that we demonstrate to Middle States that we have taken the required steps to improve our assessment system. Also, and more importantly, we really should communicate to students the reasons why they are taking a particular course, other than that it is “required,” and this is a simple, and I hope effective, way of accomplishing this.

### **COORDINATOR OF CAMPUS ASSESSMENT**

As you already know, Dr. Jackie Swansinger has agreed to take on the position of Coordinator of Campus Assessment. I want to say that I’m very pleased that she is willing to take on this role. Everyone in our office is looking forward to working with her. It’s wonderful to see an experienced and respected member of the faculty willing to take on this essential role.

### **BUDGET & VACANT POSITIONS**

As Dr. Horvath has reported, 10 vacant lines from within Academic Affairs will have to go unfunded for the foreseeable future to meet the deficit created by recent budget cuts. To discuss how these cuts should be made, the deans and other members of Dr. Horvath’s Vice President’s Council have met with the University Senate Planning and Budget Committee; we will meet with them again over the semester break. I don’t know how many of the 10 positions will come from our College. I’ll be able to announce in January which positions which will be frozen.

### **RETIREMENTS IN A&S**

Jack Berkley (Geosciences)  
Steve Mayo (Music)  
Janet Meissner (Mathematical Sciences)  
Stephen Rees (Theatre and Dance)  
Peter Sinden (Sociology)  
John Stinson (English)  
Judith Feniello (Geosciences/Physics)  
Vicki Gage (Theatre and Dance)  
Dawn Geary (Visual Arts and New Media)  
Donald Lang (Music)  
Leonore Loft (Modern Languages and Literature)

Congratulations and good luck to these colleagues.

## **NEGOTIATIONS ON POLICIES FOR REAPPOINTMENT, CONTINUING APPOINTMENT, AND PROMOTION**

As Dr. Horvath reports, the State-wide UUP has given permission for SUNY Fredonia UUP leadership and administration to negotiate on the draft personnel policies that were approved by the University Senate last spring. The negotiations teams have begun their work. Members of the UUP team are Edward Giblin (NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist), Bridget Russell (UUP Chapter President), Janet Mayer (UUP Professional Grievance Officer), and Katie Sacco (UUP Delegate). Members of the SUNY Fredonia administrative team are Michael Daley (Director of Human Resources), Virginia Horvath (VP for Academic Affairs), David Herman (VP for Student Affairs), and John Kijinski (Dean, College of Arts and Sciences). We hope to have this process completed by the beginning of the new semester.

## **MOVING TOWARD A NEW COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS**

The Visioning Committee (formed by Dr. Horvath) to discuss the structure of the new college (due to become a reality in fall of 2012) continues to meet. As I reported earlier, the committee is made of the following people: Bob Booth and Liz Lee (VANM); Tom Loughlin and Helen Myers (Theatre & Dance); Karl Boelter and Paula Holcomb (Music); Jefferson Westwood (RAC).

## **NEW SCIENCE BUILDING**

Planning for the new science building is moving forward. The project should go out to bid in January.

## **DEAN'S ADVISORY COUNCILS**

I have met with the Natural Sciences Advisory Council and also separately with the Chair and Vice Chair of that council. We have decided to work on ways of making the work of this council have more impact on campus and on our students. I'll be talking with science chairs more about this in the coming weeks and early next semester.

I have also met with the Arts and Humanities Advisory Council. Among other things, we plan to expand the council to include alumni and friends with a background and interest in the social sciences. I'll be talking with social sciences chairs more about this in the coming weeks and early next semester.