



## College of Arts and Sciences

September 6, 2011

**TO:** Arts and Sciences Faculty and Staff  
**FROM:** John Kijinski, Dean  
**RE:** College of Arts and Sciences Update for September

I hope that the semester has gotten off to a good start for all of you. Dr. Horvath has sent out an update on things of interest to all members of the Academic Affairs Division. I'll add some items here that are particular to the College of Arts and Sciences.

We have new chairs in the following departments:

Geosciences: Jack Berkeley retired last spring; at that time, Gordon Baird took over as chair.

History: John Staples has been succeeded by Mary Beth Sievens.

Sociology, Anthropology, Social Work, & Criminal Justice: Alan LaFlamme has been succeeded by Mary Carney.

Sport Management & Exercise Science: With Beez Schell's departure, Penny Hite has taken over as interim chair.

Hiring:

The College of Arts and Sciences currently has 16 vacant tenure-track faculty lines; another 9 tenure-track lines have been frozen. As President Hefner has said, budgets should be getting better by the 2012-13 academic year. The President's Cabinet has, therefore, given us permission to begin searches this fall for 5 A&S positions to be filled by fall 2012. These positions are in Computer & Information Sciences, Music (piano), Psychology, Sport Management & Exercise Science, and Theatre & Dance. We will know within the next few weeks if we are also able to begin searches for a chair in Communication Disorders & Sciences and a scene shop supervisor in Theatre & Dance. The following departments will have searches for positions delayed until fall of 2012: English, Geosciences, History, Modern Languages & Literature, Music (voice), Psychology, and Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, & Social Work.

### Travel:

We will have to have the same policy on travel as we did last year. The College will contribute up to \$600 for a first trip for non-tenured, tenure-track faculty and \$400 for tenured faculty. Last year, after taking care of essential equipment needs, I was able to add \$200 to that amount retroactively to those whose first trip exceeded the original limit. I hope to be able to do this again this year.

### Planning:

The Visioning Committee for the College of Fine and Performing Arts will continue to meet this year. As you know, we will begin to look for a dean in fall of 2012 so that this new college can be established in fall of 2013.

The College of A&S currently has no mission statement, vision statement, or statement of core values. I'd like to remedy this as soon as possible and certainly before our Middle States Monitoring Report is due.

Last year, the chairs discussed a number of possible versions of these documents. We have agreed on the following drafts. Please give me comments that you might have to make on these documents by October 1. We will discuss your comments in our October chairs' meeting.

### **9/5/11 Draft: Mission Statement of the College of Arts and Sciences:**

As home to all of the foundational disciplines within the university, the College of Arts and Sciences is the leading intellectual and educational unit on campus. Fredonia defines itself as a comprehensive liberal arts university, and it is our College that provides all students with a liberal arts foundation. The mission of the faculty of the College is to help students succeed—both in the classroom and beyond—by providing them with educational opportunities and instructing them in how to participate actively and effectively in the learning these opportunities provide. Our instructional activities—grounded in up-to-date research and creative activity—emphasize both general education and in-depth training within specific disciplines. We are also committed to developing citizens who apply critical intelligence to the problems of the present and the challenges of the future. Therefore, faculty professional activity (teaching, research/creative activity in advancement of the discipline, and service) relates to enhancement of student success and is valued accordingly.

All policy decisions made at the College level (e.g., curriculum and program development, scheduling, hiring, and workload) will be guided according to how they contribute to student success. The College is, furthermore, committed to measuring accurately student success in each of its programs and to changing and improving these programs as a result of information derived from this on-going process.

### **9/5/11 Draft: Vision Statement of the College of Arts and Sciences:**

To be recognized as a College led by faculty who are actively involved their own learning and who bring their enthusiasm, knowledge, skill, and discipline to developing graduates who share these qualities.

### **9/5/11 Draft: Core Values of the College of Arts and Sciences:**

- 1) Our central task is to educate students.
- 2) Teaching, research, and service are integrated faculty obligations. They all serve to enrich the education that we offer our students and to strengthen the standing of the College. We judge the value of these activities according to how well they contribute to the central mission of our College and departments.
- 3) We are committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse faculty and student body. This is essential to providing the sort of learning environment that will prepare our students for working in an increasingly global society.
- 4) We are a community of colleagues, and we value collaborative efforts across disciplines to fulfill the mission of the College.
- 6) We are a College of many disciplines. We respect disciplines as scholarly and creative communities that establish their own methods of inquiry and production and their own standards of evaluation. We are equally committed to equitable treatment of all members of our faculty in all personnel matters.
- 8) We are committed to open communication. Within departments and across the College, we encourage open discussion of academic, administrative, and community concerns.

#### Five year reviews:

All departments that are up for 5-year review have been notified. Assistant Dean Ingrid Johnston-Robledo will be taking a leading role in helping departments with this task.

#### Science Building:

As you've noticed, construction of this new building is moving forward. The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 11 a.m., September 9.

#### Rockefeller Addition:

We are well into the planning phase. The architects will be doing detailed consulting with the Executive Committee and Users Group during the coming weeks.