

Provost's Report to the Faculty
August 15, 2012

As we look back on the 2011-2012 academic year, activity in three areas comes to mind. The first is our continuing emergence as a destination institution. The second is progress in integrating strategic planning, budgeting, and assessment. The third is greater efficiency in policy and procedure review, development, and implementation.

The deans, in consultation with their faculties, further defined the identities of their units by articulating overarching themes and focuses. Data were collected and disseminated about various matters, including credit hours produced, utilization of classroom space, etc. We are rapidly moving toward our goal of making more data-based decisions. The Faculty Senate was also instrumental in helping UWG make so much progress.

Policies were reviewed, affirmed, and modified where appropriate. A policy on policies was developed and implemented. The internal process for course and program changes was adopted. An online institutional assessment system was developed and implemented. Courses that were causing backlogs in student progress toward graduation were identified. A periodic evaluation process for deans was drafted and adopted. Policy to streamline and clarify the tenure and promotion process was developed.

At the undergraduate level, the student grade appeal process was streamlined and clarified. The process for student class schedule reinstatement and waivers of drop for non-payment was revised. A policy for tracking cases of academic dishonesty was developed and will be implemented this fall. A faculty roster verification process was implemented. Revised forms include: request for hardship; grade of incomplete; independent study, internship, directed readings, variable credit; late drop/late add; semester to quarter grade replacement; and grade appeal.

A graduate studies website is being developed. Multiple graduate studies policies were reviewed and modified where needed. As a result, multiple graduate studies forms were redesigned. Work in this area included: change of program, course load policy, course requirements for program completion, degree time limit, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, grade appeals, grading system, graduate academic standards, graduate faculty appointment, registration for thesis and dissertation hours, responsible conduct of research, and transfer credit.

In conjunction with student affairs and the UWG community, the report of the President's Special Commission to Improve Graduation Rates was published, the Year Two RPG report was completed, and our Complete College Georgia plan was developed, which succeeded the RPG plan. The Online Degrees Task Force released a white paper that led to affirmation of on-line learning by the UWG community. UWG continued its leadership in the STEM areas with UWise, UTeach, and several other projects.

Our Quality Enhancement Plan was drafted. Our SACS compliance certificate was drafted. A revised graduate catalog was drafted. The undergraduate catalog was extensively re-written for clarity.

Four permanent deans were appointed, as were two interim deans. We will be searching for a dean and an associate provost for research and sponsored projects this fall, and deciding on a succession plan for another deanship.

This year, academic affairs will assist the president in addressing salaries and Complete College Georgia. I look forward to another year in which a lot of activity will lead to many enhancements as we pursue our vision. Welcome back to a very full year!