

Dear Colleagues,

As we have almost reached the beginning of March and the end of the academic year is quickly approaching, I thought it important to report on the efforts of many of our colleagues as well as give a general update to you all. Here are some highlights:

Contract Negotiations

- New contract agreements were ratified by the Full-and Part-Time Lecturers' Unions on January 31 and February 14, respectively. Both agreements were unanimously approved by the Board of Regents at their February meeting. I know you all join me in providing our sincere thanks to all four negotiating teams for their hard work and collaboration that resulted in these successful outcomes. The team members included:
 - **Full-time Lecturers' Contract Negotiating Teams:** Representing the EMU-FT Membership were Lisa Laverty (Chief Negotiator), Zachary Jones, Laura Martinez, Joan Sitomer, and Tom Wagner. Representing EMU Administration were Arnold Fleischmann, Mary Linblade, Todd Ohmer, Fraya Wagner-Marsh, and David Woike (Chief Negotiator).
 - **Part-time Lecturers' Contract Negotiating Teams:** Representing the EMU-PT Membership were Zachary Jones (Chief Negotiator), Sandy Becker, Lisa Laverty, Joan Sitomer, Tom Wagner. Representing EMU Administration were Candice Hunter, Debra Jackson, Todd Ohmer, Mary Ramsey, and David Woike (Chief Negotiator).

Search Updates

- Of the 37 faculty searches underway, 7 are open with offers pending, and 5 are successfully closed with offers accepted.
- Dr. Jeffrey Kentor, senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor of sociology at the University of Utah's College of Social and Behavioral Science, will be joining Eastern Michigan University on May 1 as associate provost and associate vice president for graduate studies and research. I know you all join me in giving Dr. Kentor a warm welcome to Eastern Michigan University. For more information, please visit <http://www.emich.edu/univcomm/releases/release.php?id=1361413335> for the press release on Dr. Kentor's appointment.

Student Success, Life, and Well-Being

- Student success, often characterized via student retention and graduation rates, is a top priority here at Eastern. In the past few months, the Division of Academic and Student Affairs has reinvigorated its emphasis on this most important academic outcome. Some recent actions/plans aimed at improving Student Success include:

- Beginning in December 2012, Student Success was made a standing agenda item for discussion and update at all Board of Regents' Educational Policy Meetings.
 - Key metrics associated with student success (e.g., student characteristics, progress to degree, retention and graduation rates) were presented at the December 2012 Board of Regents Meeting along with an ongoing reporting calendar.
 - The key metrics first detailed at the December 2012 Board of Regents Meeting were reported on at the recent February 2013 Meeting.
 - Also at the February 2013 Board of Regents Meeting, a schedule was provided of next steps including:
 - Conducting an inventory of current student success-related initiatives as well as a gap analysis. These results will be presented at the April Board of Regents' Meeting.
 - Preparation by the Division and Campus Community of a Student Success Plan to be presented at the December 2013 Board of Regents' Meeting.
 - To view the presentation on Student Success at the February Board of Regents' Meeting, please see link at http://www.emich.edu/provost/pdfs/presentation_feb_13_bor_epc.pdf
- Seeing an advisor and registering for classes as early as possible are two very important steps all our students need to take to make sure they have the right class schedules in support of their degree requirements. Starting this Winter Semester, a new email communication campaign will remind our students about the opening of registration on March 14 as well as encourage them to meet with an advisor and register as soon as they can. This theme of "See an Advisor & Register Early" will also be part of the upcoming FastTrack sessions for FTIACs and new transfers. We would appreciate everyone passing along the message of "See an Advisor & Register Early" to make sure our students make informed and timely decisions about their class schedules for the Summer and Fall Semesters. University Advising and Career Development Center will have extended hours for peak registration.
 - Academic Success Partnerships received a federal grant to create a support program for EMU students, formerly in foster care, aimed at achieving a successful transition into adulthood, completion of a college degree, and attainment of career-related employment or graduate school acceptance. The \$673,749 award is for three years. Research indicates that 70% of youths who are aging out of foster care plan to attend college – but between 3 and 11% complete a college degree. The program, Mentorship Access Guidance In College (MAGIC), seeks to increase the graduation rate of foster care alumni, promote a successful transition to adulthood, and support workforce readiness. MAGIC is aimed at providing life skills training, mentorship, housing stability, social enrichment, and financial literacy. The MAGIC website can be found at <http://www.emich.edu/magic/>.

- From January 17th - 22nd, EMU observed its 27th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration. Almost 3,000 students, faculty, staff and members of the local community came together for one of the most extensive series of university-wide events in the country to commemorate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Events included a Day of Service, a Tribute Basketball Game vs. Miami (OH) and the President's Luncheon, which honored student and community humanitarians. The President's Luncheon also featured a keynote speech by prominent anti-racist writer and educator, Tim Wise. For a full listing of events, co-sponsors and Planning Committee members, go to our MLK Celebration website: <http://www.emich.edu/mlk>.
- The Student Affairs Advisory Committee has changed its name back to Student Leader Group and has reconfigured its committee membership. The new configuration has added a student representative from each college. There is an online application site for students to apply for positions on the committee: <http://www.emich.edu/slgl/>. I am excited about the opportunities for student leadership and voice that will result from this new process. Please help by encouraging students to apply for the 10 open positions; the application deadline is March 15.

Enrollment Management

- The building of the Fall 2013 class is off to a great start. FTIAC admissions are up by 12%, and Transfer admissions are up by 15%. In addition, as of this week, we have 650 Fast Track registrations, compared to 627 on March 7, 2012. We are trending 20 registrations per day. Graduate applications are tracking flat with last year.
- With regard to the academic preparedness and diversity of the fall 2013 incoming class, African American applicants are up by 3%, and Hispanic applicants are up by 31%. Applicants whose high school GPA is above 3.5 are up by 39%; and applicants with high school GPA between 3.0 and 3.49 are up by 25%.
- Grant Thornton continues to assist with the completion of a graduate web application, including testing and migration. Integration of graduate applications with Banner is close to completion. Additional opportunities are being explored to continue the streamlining of the undergraduate transfer application process.

Programs and Academic Support

- The Physician's Assistant (P.A.) Program achieved the following key milestones:
 - The application for Provisional Accreditation has been submitted and a site visit is scheduled for April 2013.
 - EMU and St. Joseph Mercy Health System have extended their robust and expansive clinical partnership to include the P.A. Program.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding between EMU and St. Joseph Mercy Health System has been signed that will provide for a shared High Fidelity

Simulation Center and an Anatomical Cadaver Dissection Lab located at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital

- Implementation of the new redLantern Advising and Tracking Software System is continuing. The implementation of redLantern includes three modules and will take place over the next 18 months. Brief descriptions of the three modules and their status are as follows:
 - uAchieve is used by students and advisors to create progress reports that allow for 'what if' planning and a clear picture of the student's progress towards graduation. uAchieve is currently live for students beginning with the academic year 11/12 catalog only. Catalog updates will be managed going forwards and a broader rollout to FTIACs will begin with the upcoming Fast Track sessions.
 - uDirect is a planning module for students to construct a program "map" that provides a clear path to graduation. Course planning guides and degree/curricular requirements are currently being populated. Completion of this phase is planned for this Fall.
 - uSelect is a module specially designed to support transfer students via course equivalences and articulation agreements. This module will begin implementation in 2014.
- In the College of Technology, work continues on the forward-thinking strategic model being developed to guide its efforts and advance its competitiveness. A final report is forthcoming by the end of March.

Facilities

- The new advising space in the Student Center is on track to open in Summer 2013.
- Renovations for the Rackham building are on target to begin in Summer 2013. As part of the renovations, the building will be reconfigured to house labs, classrooms, and faculty offices for the new Physician's Assistant Program
- Funding has been approved for new chillers for the Halle Library and protocols have been created to avoid introducing active mold back into the Automated Retrieval Collection (ARC). We are in the process of contracting a firm to do the work and will publicize a timeline for completion as soon as it is available
- EMU-Detroit has a new location, 25% larger than the previous site, at 7800 W. Outer Drive in Detroit across the street from Wayne County Community College's Northwest Campus. The new site's proximity to Wayne County and Henry Ford Community Colleges will promote opportunities for collaboration with those community colleges students, while the larger facility will allow for an expanded offering of programs to serve the Detroit community.

Technology

- On February 14, the Faculty Development Center hosted a day of events including a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new *Collaboratory*. In addition to serving as a space for faculty collaboration, the Collaboratory will serve as an important part of the Classroom Technology Project. That is, it will provide faculty a space to test and integrate the standard classroom technologies into their course delivery and design.
- As a reminder, the Classroom Technology Project is underway and upgrading all of EMU's classrooms to a minimum standard. The first 100 classrooms are scheduled for completion by the start of Fall 2013. 50 classrooms a year will be on an upgrade schedule to include:
 - Projector or TV, computer, document camera, DVD player, speakers
 - System control console and telephone
 - Brighter/second projectors in auditoriums
- Five campus buildings now have expanded Wi-Fi service installed and operational: Boone, Mark-Jefferson, Marshall, Quirk, and Roosevelt. Ford, Sherzer and Snow are scheduled for installation by April 2013, and Best and Fletcher are scheduled for summer 2013. Additional information on EMU's wireless system, including service by location, is available at <http://www.emich.edu/it/network/wireless/>.
- Sill, Strong and Pierce now have new Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones installed and operational. Welch, Alexander, Boone, the Convocation Center, Ford, and Marshall are scheduled for installation by April 2013, while McKenny, Owen, Physical Plant, Quirk, Roosevelt and Snow are scheduled for July 2013. Additional information on EMU's VoIP system is available at <http://www.emich.edu/it/services/voip/>.

Events and Recognition

- The Washtenaw County Government commissioned the Office of Academic Service-Learning (AS-L) program the B.Side (Business Side of Youth) to develop public service announcements (PSAs) for the county's services. The PSA project was overseen by AS-L director, Jessica 'Decky' Alexander and EMU student Trent Elliot. The film and editing crew was made up of local youth and B.Side youth several who participate in the Michigan Works! Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program. The PSAs will focus on the following services: Veterans Affairs, Washtenaw County Health Program and the Prescription Drug Card, Youth Services, Weatherization Initiative and Michigan Works! and Employment Services. The PSAs will be shown on public access channels, hospital waiting rooms, County websites, and possibly on public transportation.
- The Academic Awards Ceremony will be held in the Student Center Grand Ballroom on March 20, with reception beginning at 2:15 pm and ceremony at 3:00 pm.

Recipients of internal research awards and fellowships will be recognized, along with the Michigan Distinguished Professor of the Year Award Nominee, the EMU-FT Lecturers Outstanding Teaching Award Recipient, and the Distinguished Faculty Awards Recipients.

- Gold Medallion nominations are due March 1. Since this is the first year that these Divisional awards include the former Academic Affairs, I am looking forward to seeing many nominations of creative and energetic people from across the Division. We welcome anyone's participation; if you would like to get involved in the process, please contact Debbie Clearwater (dclearwa@emich.edu, 487-3202) in my office.
- Commencement speakers for the April ceremonies have been approved by the Board of Regents: Scott Reynolds, writer for the Showtime television program "Dexter," and Robert Holman, Jr., for whom the Holman Success Center is named, will be our morning and afternoon speakers, respectively. In addition, Senator Randy Richardville, and generous donors William and Delores Brehm, will receive honorary degrees in the two ceremonies.

In closing, at Eastern Michigan University there is much to be proud of...and great things ahead! My best wishes to you for the rest of the winter 2013 semester.

Kim

Kim Schatzel, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President