

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Steve Nelson, Chairperson Bill Griffin
Blake Antonides Mike Houston
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From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: May 12, 2009

Re: April/May 2009 Strategic Plan Update

As Western Illinois University prepares to celebrate the graduation of 2,455 eligible students in this weekend's commencement ceremonies, it also offers opportunity to reflect back on the academic year's Strategic Plan accomplishments and plans for the year ahead. The information in this report is a sampling of information presented to the campus community by the vice presidents and areas that report to the president on April 30 and May 1, 2009.

Academic Year 2008-2009 Accomplishments

This academic year members of the campus community worked together to advance the core values and supporting priorities of the University. Together, members of Western Illinois University:

- Allocated institutional resources to continue implementation of the University's highest priority, providing faculty and staff salaries that meet and exceed the mean of peer institutions.
- Increased the percent of minority students, faculty, and staff; the University's freshman retention and six-year graduation rates; and the percent of degrees that can be fully completed on the Quad Cities Campus.
- Added 12 new faculty positions, operational support for the Centennial Honors College and University Libraries, and external reviewers to the academic program review process to help ensure program quality and viability.
- Established the University Diversity Council, dual enrollment agreements with Black Hawk College and Carl Sandburg College that may save students up to 25 percent of their college costs; the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities College Testing Center on the Rock Island Arsenal; and Board of Trustees/Bachelors of Arts partnerships with 34 Illinois community colleges and the Eastern Iowa Community College District.
- Engaged in self-study for re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of College and Schools.
- Developed new undergraduate degree programs in Anthropology, Engineering, Nursing, and post-baccalaureate certificates in English and Museum Studies, and a strategic plan for the Alumni Association.
- Supported the University Theme, First Year Experience, and late night programming as a socially responsible alternative to alcohol.
- Expanded on-line course offerings from 36 in spring 2008 to 47 in spring 2009, which resulted in increased course enrollments from 809 to 1,365 during this time.
- Received discipline-based re-accreditation in Counselor Education, Music, Social Work, Communication Science Disorders and Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration; and initial accreditation in Music, Theatre, and Nursing; and an accreditation decision by the external agency is pending for Art.

- Continued with Master Plan implementation, including planning for the Performing Arts Center, finishing of design planning for Building One on the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus, remodeling of Memorial Hall, completing a Facilities Condition Assessment to help prioritize campus permanent improvements, creating a long-term plan for university housing and dining, installing fire suppression systems in Thompson Hall, and leasing space for expanded programs in the Quad Cities.
- Opened the uTech store, Dividends, Wi Amigos; an expanded Donald S. Spencer Student Recreation Center; and renovated Capitol Rooms and University Union Book Store.
- Administered the WIU Emergency Alert System and initiated Building Emergency Action Plans for all campus facilities in Macomb and Moline.
- Supported campus sustainability initiatives, including allocation of 15 percent of the permanent improvement budget to sustainable projects, continuing with Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design criteria for new construction, replacing older sedans with hybrids in the University fleet, supporting the environmental summit and We care events on both campuses, and work of the Campus Sustainability Committee.
- Engaged in academic and service excellence by completing 32 book publications; 446 chapter, monograph, or refereed article publications; 851 creative activities; 954 conference presentations; 92 research awards; and receiving statewide and national recognitions for many areas of expertise, including but not limited to, the University's scholarship program; Web 2.0 deployment; transit system; sustainability initiatives; and pandemic, emergency, and institutional planning processes.
- Continued deployment of the faculty computer upgrade program, with 92 new computers ordered, and the update of 40 electronic classrooms, including two new living and learning spaces in Thompson and Grote Halls.
- Received \$9.3 million to support comprehensive fund-raising, including the largest cash gift in institutional history to Western Illinois University-Quad Cities.

Academic Year 2009-2010 Plans

Members of the campus community will continue to work together to advance the core values and supporting priorities of the University during academic year 2010. A sampling of the institutional plans for the next year include:

- Allocating institutional resources to continue implementation of plans to provide faculty and staff salaries that meet and exceed the mean of peer institutions.
- Meeting and exceeding admissions goals.
- Supporting campus efforts to increase student retention and graduation rates, and campus sustainability initiatives.
- Continuing to diversify and internationalize the students, faculty, and staff of Western Illinois University; provision of high-speed, reliable, and secure data, voice, video, and mainframe networks to support the academic mission and service operations of Western Illinois University; and the assessment and planning towards a comprehensive alcohol education program, with expanded late-night/non-alcohol programming options.
- Supporting implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018*, *Campus Master Plans for the Macomb and Quad Cities Campuses*, *the Institutional Strategic Plan for Technology*, and *Set the Standard: Comprehensive Fundraising Campaign for Western Illinois University*.
- Enhancing the role and visibility of Centennial Honors College.
- Engaging in University Theme and First Year Experience programs and activities.

- Completing institutional self-study for re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and preparing for other discipline-based accreditations that include programs in business and accountancy in 2009-2010 and teacher education in 2010-2011.
- Finalizing Building Emergency Action Plans.

Of course these are just samplings of the many accomplishments and plans. At the bottom of www.wiu.edu/UniversityPlanning/strategic-plan.html is link to the presentations made by each of the vice presidents and areas that report to the president. These Provost's and Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology's Websites, www.wiu.edu/provost and www.wiu.edu/vpqpt have additional details on information prepared by the deans and directors in these areas.

If you have any questions about or feedback regarding the materials presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* and/or regarding the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

cc: President Goldfarb CSEC President Lavin Alumni Council Chair Hoffman
 Provost Thomas COAP President Meixner Associate Provosts Dallinger and Hawkinson
 Vice President Hendricks Faculty Council Chair Bailey Assistant Vice President Williams
 Vice President Johnson Faculty Senate Chair Devolder Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
 Vice President Thompson SGA Presidents Dulski and Garrison President's Office Support Staff