

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Mike Houston, Chairperson Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Chris Bronson Bill Griffin
Bill Epperly Steve Nelson

From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: December 22, 2010

Re: December 2010 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides an accreditation update, and seeks your review and feedback. Specifically, the University will be responsible for providing the On-Site Review Team with an update of campus-wide achievements, opportunities, and challenges since the time that the University's *Self-Study for Re-Accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools* was approved for submission by the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees.

As you will recall, you approved the *Self-Study* that was endorsed by all campus governance groups on both campuses at your June 2010 Board meeting in order to meet Commission submission guidelines. The bullet points below display the requested information between June 4 and December 21, 2010. Also included are links to press releases for additional information about the topics.

The bullet points below are draft in case there are additional items you or members of the campus community identify that should be included in this report. I will also update this document immediately prior to the team's on-site visit (February 14-16, 2011) and will include it in their welcome packet.

In the weeks ahead I will be working with the On-Site Review Team Chairperson to schedule requested meetings of individuals, committees, governance groups, academic departments, administrative units, community representatives, and Board members. Per Commission procedure, the team identifies who they wish to meet with as they consult and evaluate on institutional performance related to the criteria for accreditation, federal compliance, and the three special emphasis areas (strengthening distance learning, growing two campuses, and measuring/demonstrating our values). I will provide a draft calendar of On-Site Review Team meetings in your January, 2011, Strategic Plan Update.

Returning to the list of campus-wide achievements, opportunities, and challenges,

- June 16, 2010: Western Illinois University's art programs earned accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, following a self-study and on-site evaluation (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8234).
- June 28, 2010: Western will be combining the Center for International Studies with the School of Extended Studies given the synergy between units and opportunities for cost savings (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8247).
- July 7, 2010: President Goldfarb announces University priorities and budget procedures given that the State reduced higher education budgets for Fiscal Year 2011 by \$100 million (or 6.2 percent for

- Western) and that the State still owes the University over \$17 million in Fiscal Year 2010 expenses (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8257).
- President Goldfarb's announcement was accompanied by frequently asked questions to state cash flow and institutional budgets (http://www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8255), in addition to the University's Fiscal Year 2011 Expense Priority Procedures (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8256).
- July 13, 2010: Western announces increases in summer enrollment (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8263).
- July 14, 2010: The Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) released \$4.0 million for design of Phase II on the Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8266).
- August 16, 2010: Western Illinois University is the only Illinois public university and the only Midwestern public university cited among 20 other U.S. public institutions by The Education Trust for successful graduation rates for Hispanic students (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8297).
- August 17, 2010: For the sixth consecutive year, Western Illinois University is ranked among the top tier of best regional universities and is one of only two Illinois public universities ranked among the top 50 in the top tier, according to U.S. News and World Report's Annual College Rankings 2011 edition. Western is ranked 11th as a top public school among Midwestern Regional Universities. In addition, for the sixth consecutive year, the Princeton Review has named Western a "Best Midwestern College" (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8300).
- August 25, 2010: WIU announces administrative changes for fall 2010 (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8319).
- August 25, 2010: College of Business and Technology reorganizes its' departmental structure (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8321).
- August 27, 2010: For the second consecutive year, Western Illinois University has been designated as a "Military Friendly School" and will again be featured in the "Guide to Military Friendly Schools" (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8329).
- August 31, 2010: Go West, Western Illinois University's transit system, has been named the inaugural recipient of the Gold Award for Bus Security Program Excellence from the American Public Transportation Association (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8336).
- September 1, 2010: Western seeks third party comment on its institutional Re-Accreditation Self-Study from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8338).
- September 8, 2010: Western Illinois University's Fall 2010 new freshman, transfer and graduate student enrollments have increased, while total enrollment for the University declined less than one percent due large graduating classes in May 2009 and May 2010 (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8348).
- September 13, 2010: Jackie Thompson, who has served as vice president of administrative services at Western Illinois University since 1997, will retire July 31, 2011 after 41 years of service (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8357).
- September 23, 2010: Six Western Illinois University faculty members have been named 2010 Provost's Award of Excellence Winners. They were recognized for their achievements at a reception in the University Union Lamoine Room (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8399).

- September 24, 2010: University receives final Fiscal Year 2010 reimbursement. Monies for Fiscal Year 2011 are still owed (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8403).
- October 14, 2010: Western Illinois University has been selected as a "Best for Vets College" by Military Times EDGE magazine. Western, ranked 25th, is one of only two Illinois public institutions in the top 25, and is one of only three Illinois public universities, out of 101 colleges and universities, selected for the recognition (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8458).
- October 15, 2010: The University's Peace Corps Fellow program was recognized for its innovation and contributions to rural life in Illinois by two national non-profit organizations, [Innovations in Civic Participation](#) and the [American Association of State Service Commissions](#) (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8466).
- October 20, 2010: W. Garry Johnson, who has served as vice president of student services at Western Illinois University since 1997, will retire June 30, 2011, after 31 years of service (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8482).
- October 29, 2010: The public phase of the \$60 million campaign, Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education, for Western Illinois University was announced to donors, alumni and invited guests at an Oct. 29 WIU Foundation event (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8510).
- November 4, 2010: The public phase of the \$60 million campaign, Set the Standard: Higher Values in Higher Education, for Western Illinois University was announced to donors, alumni and invited guests at an October 29 WIU Foundation event on the WIU-Macomb campus, and today Western's Quad Cities campus hosted a special event to address the needs of the Quad Cities campus (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8522).
- November 4, 2010: A new signed agreement between Dot Foods and Western Illinois University allows Dot employees and their families to take courses to complete WIU's Bachelor's in General Studies via distance learning options. The partnership extends to all Dot Foods locations across the nation (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8521).
- November 8, 2010: The Multicultural Center was the first WIU facility to receive LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8536).
- November 9, 2010: Five finalists will be considered for the position of Western's 11th president. Interviews were held on the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses Nov. 15-17; Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1; Dec. 1-3; Dec. 6-8; and Dec. 8-10 (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8539).
- November 16, 2010: Chicago man arrested for making bomb threats at Western Illinois University (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8563). Subsequent information is available at <http://www.connecttristates.com/news/story.aspx?id=544534> and www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8615.
- November 29, 2010: Internet bandwidth increased in the residence halls by 47% (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8588) and a similar increase will be announced for WIU's administrative/academic network once state contracts are approved in January 2011 (before the start of the spring semester).
- November 30, 2010: Western Illinois University's School of Nursing recently achieved status as a Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE)-Accredited Nursing Baccalaureate Degree Program (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8593). The University also received approval from the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to offer the RN-BSN degree completion program on-line.

- December 9, 2010: The University Economic Development Association recognized the WIU Peace Corps Fellows Program with the national Award of Excellence in Community Development (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8614).
- December 10, 2010: Beginning January 2011, Disability Support Services (DSS) will become the Disability Resource Center (DRC) to reflect a new vision and service enhancements (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8617).
- December 16, 2010: With a new signed agreement, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges students now have the opportunity to complete Western Illinois University's Bachelor of Arts in General Studies degree via distance learning options (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8622).
- December 17, 2010: The Western Illinois University Board of Trustees approved contractors for the heating plant renewal project and the electrical work for Corbin and Olson halls, discussed the presidential search, and approved the updated Mission Statement that was endorsed by all governance groups on both campuses at its December 17, 2010 meeting in Macomb (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8624).
- December 21, 2010: Alumni Association launches a new mobile site to increase institutional connectivity with its membership. All graduates of Western are members of the Alumni Association, (www.wiu.edu/news/newsrelease.php?release_id=8632).

Thank you once again for your review and feedback. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding accreditation preparation and/or the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*.

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| cc: President Goldfarb | COAP President Tibbitts | Associate Provost Dallinger |
| Provost Thomas | Faculty Council Chair Rowson | Associate Provost Hawkinson |
| Vice President Johnson | Faculty Senate Chair Devolder | Assistant Vice President Williams |
| Vice President Thompson | SGA Chairs Liles and Rosenow | Planning, Budget, and IR Staff |
| CSEC Pres. Herrington | Alumni Council Chair Clawson | President's Office Support Staff |