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From: Joe Rives, Assistant to the President, Planning, Budget and Institutional Research

Date: July 25, 2007

Re: July 2007 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides you with updates on Western Illinois University's:

1. Master planning repair, renovation, and upgrading priorities
2. Nomination to the *College Opportunity and Access Guide*
3. Initiation of the *Higher Values in Higher Education* review/update process

Campus Master Planning

Critical elements to successful campus master planning are classroom safety, security, and technology; a facilities condition assessment; and continued enhancements to university entrances. Progress in each of these areas is described below. These priorities combined with other projects currently in planning, design, or construction phases (i.e., Dr. C.T. Vivian Way, fire suppression systems, Hanson Field, Memorial Hall, Performing Arts Center, Student Recreation Center, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Riverfront Campus) represent current master plan activities on the two campuses of Western Illinois University.

Classroom Safety and Security

On the Macomb campus, Assistant Director of Physical Plant, Mr. Bill Brewer, is completing an inventory of the locking capability of classroom buildings. This information will be used in combination with implementation of emergency response notification (mass callout) systems, chaired by Mr. Craig DeMoss, Assistant Manager, University Information Management Systems, as well as a future evaluation of announcement systems to enhance campus safety and security. All three security features will also be included in the current and future Quad Cities facilities.

Classroom Technology

Consistent with priorities stated in the *Institutional Strategic Plan for Technology at Western Illinois University*, the following agreements were made at the Dean's July 17, 2007, Retreat.

1. The University will bring general instructional classrooms up to minimum technology standards, defined by the President's Technology Advisory Users Group, within three years and then implement a Classroom Rotation Program for upgrades and replacement. Minimum technological standards for the general instructional classrooms include Ethernet connectivity, computer, mounted projector, document camera, VCR/DVD player, audio system with wall mounted speakers, and telephone.
2. The Colleges, University Libraries, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities will develop/implement three-year plans for upgrading computing equipment in discipline-specific classrooms and laboratories.
3. The University will update all academic computing equipment purchased before 2000.
4. The Colleges, University Libraries, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities will continue developing/implementing equipment capitalization programs for computing equipment purchased after 2000.

Director of Special Projects and Interim Chief Technology Security Officer Mr. Mike Dickson and I are currently working on implementation details for the agreements defined above with the Deans. More specific details will be provided in your August 2007 Strategic Plan Update.

Demonstration Classroom Project

The University has purchased, coupled with a donation from the AMX Corporation, new state-of-the-art computing equipment featuring Western's technology standards (described above) and controlled by touch panel displays. These technologies, with a grand opening to be scheduled in the fall, will be featured in Room 180 of University Libraries, as part of the new Digital Commons, and in Room 115 of Western Illinois University-Quad Cities. These rooms will represent the standard for future technology enhancements to general instructional classrooms on the two campuses of Western Illinois University.

Classroom Furniture Upgrade Program

In addition to classroom technology, classroom furniture will be upgraded. Western Illinois University has classroom and laboratory capacity of approximately 13,900 seats. In phase I of a multiyear project, over 2,000 new chairs and furniture have been ordered. Project coordination is being led by Assistant Provost Dr. Judi Dallinger on the Macomb campus and by Associate Provost Dr. Jeanne Clerc on the Quad Cities campus.

Facilities Condition Assessment

Under committee leadership of Mr. Charles Darnell, Physical Plant Director, the University initiated a pilot Facilities Condition Assessment (FCA) in Stipes, Corbin, and Olson Halls with the architectural and engineering firm Woolpert, Incorporated. FCA results provide data on major building systems (i.e., elevators, mechanical equipment, roofs, window wall systems, electrical, plumbing, and finishes) to quantify maintenance liabilities and inform renovation prioritization.

University Drive Enhancements

Following *Higher Values in Higher Education*, improvements to campus entryways continue to be made. On or before August 1, 2007, the current Western Illinois University sign and information display in front of Western Hall will come down and be replaced with a new marquee targeted for installation on August 15, 2007. Parking lot and landscaping enhancements in front of the University Services Building are also proceeding according to plans.

Western Illinois University's Nomination to the *College Opportunity and Access Guide*

Western Illinois University was nominated for inclusion in the Center for Student Opportunity's¹ (CSO) inaugural national *College Opportunity and Access Guide* for first generation, low income, and minority students. The University's nomination was based on input and recommendations from an independent national committee of higher education leaders asked by CSO's Advisory Board to assist in the nomination process. Western's nomination follows our being named as one of the 13 "Best Practice Institutions" nationally for the retention and academic achievement of minority, first-generation, and low income students in 2005 by the Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education.

Institutions currently being considered for inclusion in the *College Opportunity and Access Guide* are being evaluated according to the criteria below. Future Strategic Plan Updates will keep you informed on the status of the University's application.

- The institution enrolls and graduates a significant undergraduate population of first generation and/or minority students, as compared to peer institutions.
- The undergraduate student body exhibits strong economic diversity as defined by percentage of Pell grant recipients, as compared to peer institutions.
- The institution supports high percentage of undergraduate students determined to have financial need, as compared to peer institutions; institution excels in awarding need-based grant aid to students determined to have financial need.
- The institution encourages student engagement through a student-centered and teaching-focused undergraduate educational experience, active and collaborative learning, and student-faculty interaction.
- The institution offers extensive and tailored support programs for students in the areas of precollege community outreach, orientation/transition, academic advising, and mentoring.
- The institution fosters a campus climate that is welcoming and supportive of first-generation, low-income, and minority students, as defined by the mission of the institution and current leadership's commitment to access and diversity.
- The institution has put in place programs that help connect students to campus through on-campus housing options, student activities, and organizations that affirm the cultural, linguistic, and social backgrounds of multicultural students.
- The institution supports successful outcomes for students post graduation, as seen through strong career planning, internship programs, and undergraduate research opportunities.

Strategic Plan Update

Staff from the President's Office, all vice presidential divisions, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities, along with representatives from Spoon River College, Black Hawk College, and the City of Moline, have been appointed to the Higher Values in Higher Education Review/Update Team. We are currently collecting information, dating back to academic year 2003-2004 (the first year of implementation), regarding Strategic Plan accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, actions in progress, and actions not started. This information will be the basis for campus discussions regarding updating *Higher Values in Higher Education*. These discussions will start in the fall after student, faculty, and City of Macomb appointments are made to the Review/Update Team. I will keep you informed of our progress.

¹ *The CSO is a leading national nonprofit college access organization with a mission to promote college opportunity among four-year, student-centered colleges and universities committed to serving first-generation and other traditionally underserved student populations.*

If you have any questions about the information presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* or feedback for the continued successful implementation of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me. Please note that I will be out of the office the last week in July. I have been selected by the Association of Institutional Research to provide a weeklong seminar on designing and implementing comprehensive planning, budgeting, and accountability reporting systems. This seminar will be part of the Foundations II workshop held at Temple University.

cc: President Goldfarb CSEC President Boussard Alumni Council Chair Hoffman
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