

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

From: Joe Rives, Interim Executive Assistant to the President, Quad Cities, Planning and Technology

Date: June 26, 2008

Re: June 2008 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* provides you with *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018*, accreditation, technology, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities updates.

Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018 Update

After your June 2008 approval of *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018*, the following actions have supported initial implementation of the updated Strategic Plan.

- The Center for the Application of Instructional Technology is developing a new Strategic Plan Website. At Trustee Epperly's request, three dashboard measures related to campus sustainability planning and accomplishments have been added: the University's diversion (recycling) rate, the percent of the Physical Plant's permanent improvement budget allocated to sustainable projects, and the University's energy utilization index. The new Website will be running by your next Board meeting.
- University Relations and University Marketing are working on bound copies and brochures of *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018* for distribution to the campus and external communities. These new materials will be shared at your next board meeting.
- Using *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018* as a guide for the self-study process, Western Illinois University applied to the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools to do a customized self-study. If approved by the Commission, Western will study the five criteria for accreditation in addition to special Strategic Plan topics of distance education, growing and strengthening the two campuses of Western Illinois University, and measuring and enacting our core values. I will provide a copy of the University's request and the Commission's response in future correspondence.

Accreditation Update

All co-chairs for the University's self-study for re-accreditation (displayed below) have accepted their appointments. President Goldfarb and the Vice Presidents made recommendations for each of the

teams and volunteers were solicited through previous *Strategic Plan Updates*. This summer team invitation and charge letters will be prepared and the co-chairs will be completing some preparatory work. In the fall volunteers will again be requested, and the University will begin its self-study process. Supporting the self-study process will be a new accreditation Website that is being developed by the Center for the Application of Information Technologies and Quad Cities Technology Services. This new Website and complete team membership lists will be provided in future correspondence.

Criterion 1: *focuses on mission* and evaluates the extent to which Western Illinois University operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.

- *Joe Rives, Executive Assistant to the President, Quad Cities, Planning, and Technology Co-Chair*
- *Steve Nelson, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees Chairperson, Co-Chair*

Criterion 2: *focuses on planning* and evaluates the extent to which the University's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

- *Kristi Mindrup, Director of Administrative and Institutional Services, Co-Chair*
- *Bill Brewer, Assistant Director, Physical Plant, Co-Chair*

Criterion 3: *focuses on instruction and assessment of student learning outcomes* and evaluates if the organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.

- *Lori Baker Sperry, Associate Professor, Women's Studies, Co-Chair*
- *Jessica Butcher, Assistant to the Vice President of Student Services, Co-Chair*

Criterion 4: *focuses on research and creative activities* and evaluates the extent to which Western Illinois University promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.

- *Aimee Shouse, Chairperson, Womens' Studies, Co-Chair*
- *Beth Seaton, Director, Sponsored Projects, Co-Chair*

Criterion 5: *Emphasizes service* and evaluates whether Western Illinois University, as called for by its mission, identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

- *Marcia Carter, Associate Professor, Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration, Co-Chair*
- *Chris Merritt, Director, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, Co-Chair*

Should you or other members of the campus community wish to participate in one of these accreditation teams, please contact me.

University Technology Update

Mr. Mitch Davidson, Executive Director of Technology Infrastructure Support Services, accepted a new position as Chief Information Officer at Bemidji State University and is no longer employed at the University. This position will not be filled at this time. Instead, Mr. George Dranes, Assistant Director of the Computer Center; Ms. Cyndy Moore, Manager of Telecommunications; and Mr. Dan Romano, Associate Director of Computer Infrastructure Support Services will work as a team to coordinate the service and delivery of Western Illinois University's comprehensive voice and data networks.

Currently, University Technology staff is working on many projects to help achieve the priorities and goals of *Higher Values in Higher Education 2008-2018* and *The Institutional Strategic Plan for Technology at Western Illinois University*. This includes: documenting the University's computing and telecommunications networks; implementing additional bandwidth for the Macomb and Quad Cities campuses; increasing storage space for students, faculty, and staff on the Storage Area Network; creating one centralized University Help Desk; planning/opening a new computer store; and continuing with the Electronic Classroom and Computer Replacement programs in Academic Affairs. There is a University Technology directors retreat scheduled for July 3, 2008, to review project status and to engage in both short- and long-term technology planning for the University. Retreat outcomes and recommendations will be shared in future correspondence.

Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Update

Work on the new Western Illinois University-Quad Cities Website is nearing completion. We will have it running prior to the start of academic year 2008-2009. The new Website will feature a new look and enhanced functionalities/interactivity, including "apply and donate" on-line and virtual tours of the 60th Street and Riverfront campuses. I will provide you with the URL to the new Website in future correspondence.

We continue to work closely with the department chairs/school directors and deans on scheduling coordination. On July 8th there is a meeting with those mentioned above, Ms. Kristi Mindrup, Director of Administrative and Instructional Services, and me to make sure scheduling of fall 2008 required major courses do not conflict. As the number of multiple course sections continues to increase, it remains important that our students can access their needed courses to prevent attrition or increased time-to-degree. The partnership with Academic Affairs is very important to the students and greatly appreciated.

We also continue to work on increasing our community presence and partnerships.

- On July 4th, there will be students, faculty, and staff from Western Illinois University-Quad Cities participating in East Moline's AMVETS parade, and special thanks go to Trustees Nelson and Elhert for being in the parade with us.
- On July 9th there is a meeting between Western Illinois University-Quad Cities and Black Hawk College as we think of methods to increase our strong partnerships (e.g., discussing ways to enhance dual enrollment, implementing the grant for shared recruitment and retention activities between our two campuses).
- On July 10th, US Bank Corp will be presenting a check to support the Writing Center on the Riverfront Campus.
- The Office of Academic and Student Services is working on a start of the academic year 2008-2009 "Coats for Kids" drive, which is a seven-county regional effort in the Quad Cities area.

Additionally, the Assistant Director of the Physical Plant and I have been working with community leaders to identify potential space options for the Engineering Program prior to the opening of the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus. Dean Erekson will be joining these efforts as programmatic space planning begins.

Should you have questions about the updates in this report or if you have feedback for 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 Spelman Associate Provosts Baily and Clerc
 Vice President Hendricks Faculty Council Chair Bailey Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
 Vice President Johnson Faculty Senate Chair Devolder President's Office Support Staff
 Vice President Thompson SGA Presidents Dulski and Garrison