

February 5, 2007

To: Deans

Fr. Gerald E. Lang
Larry Hornak

Re: Goal Three of the 2010 Plan

First we want to thank you, on behalf of the Implementation Team, for the comprehensive reports we received relative to Goals One and Two. While your analyses of these goals relative to your college or school may seem to have occurred long ago, we assure you that your responses have contributed greatly to strategic planning activities throughout the summer and fall.

During the fall semester, the 2006 Report on WVU's 2010 plan was released. The 2006 Report highlights programmatic changes throughout the university and contains quantitative measurements of WVU's enrollment, financial stability, student body, faculty members, physical environment, research activity, and regional impact. Copies of this report will be distributed during the spring, and the report can be downloaded from the WVU 2010 Plan website, <http://www.wvu.edu/~2010plan/annualreport.htm>.

The Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education and the Graduate Student Experience and the Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Task Force on Advising and Career Placement have released their recommendations for improving graduate studies and advising and placement services at WVU. An Advising Implementation Team will be chaired by Associate Provost Cheryl Torsney, and a Career Placement Implementation Team will be chaired by Dean David Stewart. To guide the implementation of the Graduate Education Task Force recommendations, an Assistant Vice President for Graduate Education position will be created and filled during the Spring 2007 semester.

Work to meet the needs identified by colleges and schools continues with the President's Task Force on Administrative Infrastructure for the Research Enterprise, which will release its report shortly. Additionally, a new Task Force on Technology-Based Learning and Academic Programs has been formed, and its charge statement is available on the 2010 Plan website. Information about each task force, including charges, reports, and implementation activities, can be found at <http://www.wvu.edu/~2010plan/>.

During the spring semester we will continue our efforts to analyze and respond to each of the five goals of the WVU 2010 Plan. At this time, we seek your insight regarding the objectives of Goal Three, which focuses on our desire to enhance the educational environment for student learning.

One objective addresses **infrastructure and technology**. WVU's Ten-Year Master Plan, available at <http://www.wvu.edu/%7Efacserv/MasterPlan.cfm>, reflects university needs for learning and research space as well as technological improvements. Each college and school

should also assess both their technology and infrastructure requirements as well as the needs of their on-campus and distance students.

- What infrastructure or technology needs will your college or school encounter over the next ten years? How will your college or school meet these needs?
- How can your college or school use technology resources to improve the learning of on-campus students?
- What programs or courses are offered online? Which additional programs or courses have identified the greatest demand to expand online offerings?

A second objective is to **develop innovative intellectual opportunities**. Recently, numerous books and reports have been warning that American education is declining. There is a universal call to increase interdisciplinary studies, employ innovative teaching techniques, and provide students with the skills to be lifelong learners.

- What interdisciplinary programs or courses does your college or school support? How can interdisciplinary studies be encouraged?
- What programs or courses exist to foster increased writing and information literacy? Which other programs or courses could integrate these skills?
- What are the requirements of the capstone course in your college or school? How can the capstone experience be enhanced?

The third and final objective related to Goal Three concerns ways that each discipline can **provide incentives for exceptional teaching**. In 2006, two teaching professorships were filled at WVU, the Bolton Distinguished University Professorship and a professorship of Chinese language in the J. Vance and Florence Highland Johnson Chinese Studies Program, but not every deserving teacher will be awarded a teaching professorship.

- How do your units identify exceptional teachers? What are the criteria by which teaching is judged?
- Besides awards and merit pay, how does your college or school encourage innovative and effective teaching?

Please send your response electronically to jessica.thomas@mail.wvu.edu by April 2, 2007.

We hope that responding to these questions assists you in thinking proactively and creatively about the educational environment necessary for student learning in the years to come. Again, we thank you for your serious commitment to the success of the 2010 Plan. It is only through your commitment that we can change and become more successful.

cc: Implementation Team