

Most important season 'tips off' this week in Charleston

Although WVU has been experiencing two tremendous seasons in football and basketball, the most important season is just getting started, and it will have a much greater impact on the future of WVU and your future.

The state legislative session got under way yesterday (Jan. 10). As to what this season will bring to WVU and higher education is, in large part, in your hands.

The new legislative leadership and Gov. Joe Manchin have both spoken about taking action on behalf of higher education, but the more they hear from West Virginia citizens, the better chance we have of having significant, positive legislation for everyone.

Positive legislation goes beyond giving more autonomy to higher education institutions. The legislature and governor must return previous budget cuts to higher education if they want higher education to continue to be successful and to continue to be the state's most successful money-making agency.

By keeping higher education successful, everyone wins. Students and their families get some relief from the yearly tuition increases while facing federal assistance cuts. Students also win because they get a better product because we're able to retain and attract quality faculty.

The institutions win because they can better plan budgeting with guaranteed dollars rather than having to wait for monies after the semester begins and student headcounts are confirmed. They also benefit because they can finally pay employees at competitive levels and in the case of

classified employees can finally pay them at current market rates rather than years behind market.

The WVU Staff Council has taken a consistent message to the governor and legislative leadership, asking

them for additional financial support for higher education. Now they need to hear that same message from you.

I've provided the

governor's contact information in my past two columns (and it's available in archived *Spirit* articles on the WVU Intranet:

<http://intranet.wvu.edu/>). If you have any questions, call the Staff Council office at 293-5965.

It's really up to you. If you want to continue to live on outdated wages, then keep your mouth shut. On the other hand, if you're tired of living paycheck to paycheck and living on an underfunded, outdated salary schedule, then take action and let Charleston know how you feel. Let legislators know how much you miss the \$77 million of lost income to you and your co-workers during the past six years.

West Virginia can't have it both ways. It can't expect to run a world-class education system while continuing to cut its budget and short-change the very workers who keep this system functional and make money for the state.

Do your part to help yourself and your fellow employees or expect another year of broken promises and minuscule raises.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of faculty, staff and administration, nor those of The Mountaineer Spirit.



Terry Nebel
REPORT
STAFF
COUNCIL

Task force activities enhance 2010 Plan; information online

SUBMITTED BY THE 2010 IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

WVU's 2010 Plan, Building the Foundation for Academic Excellence, guides decision-making throughout the University to enrich the academic core of WVU. Progress toward the goals of the 2010 Plan is presented in the 2006 Report.

During the past year, the 2010 Plan's influence has been visible throughout the institution, from administrative decisions to student-support programs. As the 2006 Report demonstrates, WVU has made progress in three broad areas during the first year of implementation: aligning the strategic goals of colleges and schools with the 2010 Plan, developing recommendations to address areas of concern and initiating innovative programs to complement learning.

The report highlights programmatic changes throughout the University and contains 29 quantitative measurements of WVU's enrollment, financial stability, student body, faculty members, physical environment, research activity and regional impact.

Academic advising and career placement are central to the success of WVU's 2010 Plan. The dedication of our students and success of our graduates are critical to WVU's reputation for academic excellence. For this reason, a joint Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Advising and Career Placement Task Force was created.

The task force report emphasizes the need for career services to coordinate student-employer interactions and the need for advising to enhance communication between advisers, students and academic units by utilizing technology more effectively. An Advising Implementation Team will be chaired by Cheryl Torsney, associate provost for academic programs, and a Career Placement Implementation Team will be chaired

by David Stewart, dean of Student Affairs.

Graduate education is a key to academic excellence. Graduate students play a critical role in advancing scholarship and in teaching undergraduates. Consequently, the Provost's Task Force on Graduate Education and the Graduate Student Experience pursued a comprehensive assessment of WVU's treatment of graduate education and research.

Among the task force's recommendations is a "Preparing the Professorate" academy for graduate teaching assistants. Another recommendation calls for coordinating the efforts of the colleges, research office and units supporting student life. As a result of task force recommendations, Provost Gerald Lang will announce a new initiative for graduate education in the near future.

The report of the President's Task Force on Administrative Infrastructure for the Research Enterprise will be available 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 Web site.

Faculty, staff and administrators are invited to learn more about the WVU 2010 Plan, 2006 Report and task force activities online at:

<http://www.wvu.edu/~2010plan/>

Members of the 2010 Implementation Team are: Lang, co-chair; Lawrence Hornak, co-chair, professor in the Lane Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering; Laura Brady, director, WVU Center for Writing Excellence; Mary Ellen Mazey, dean, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences; Terry Nebel, manager, outbound support in WVU's customer service department and Staff Council president; and Christopher Plein, assistant dean, School of Applied Social Sciences.

The next Spirit will be published Thursday, Jan. 25. Deadline for submissions is noon Monday, Jan. 22.

In the meantime, check the Intranet (<http://intranet.wvu.edu>) for daily news updates.



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