

Members of the ASU Community:

Since assuming the position of interim provost in late May, I've spent the last four weeks immersed in dialogue and document review, learning more about the issues, challenges, and opportunities facing Academic Affairs during the next year and how I can best align the goals of Academic Affairs with our overall strategic planning process. This e-mail is the first of several that I'll be sending throughout the coming year to keep you updated.

### **My Charge**

Dr. Rallo's charge to me for the next year is clear and simple: develop the structural elements necessary to improve recruitment, facilitate retention, and establish specific frameworks within Academic Affairs that will provide a solid foundation for the new provost and the new vice president for student affairs/enrollment management and that will directly relate to institutional strategic initiatives.

Therefore, you'll be hearing a lot throughout the coming year about several issues of consequence:

- Introduction of the Vision 2012 Strategic Plan
- Collaborative initiatives in retention and recruitment
- Discussion across the campus regarding a new vision statement
- Implementation of the next stage of planning/budget/assessment model through the introduction of "Strategic Planning Online" (an integrated software package) and a refined approach to institutional effectiveness
- Creation of an action plan for the Hill Country Initiative
- Development of a feasible approach to the management of distance education
- Introduction of the concept of HSI (Hispanic-Serving Institution)
- Establishment of an integrated approach to student learning assessment, particularly in light of accreditation mandates
- Alignment of institutional goals with those of the Texas Tech University System
- Implementation of the new Academic Master Plan and its alignment with/centrality to the overall institutional strategic plan

### **Communication**

Keeping the campus informed is one of my primary goals, given the significant level of issues and initiatives that we will address during the 2009-2010 academic year. To that end,

- The Provost's website will be updated to provide more information on the initiatives cited above.
- Periodic announcements such as this e-mail will be used on a regular basis.
- Regular meetings will be held with specific segments of the university (e.g., those services that could become part of a new student affairs division; those offices that are normally part of a "enrollment management" initiative [admissions, registrar, financial aid]).
- Maintaining the centrality of academic affairs as the core of the institution has been further enhanced through the development of a new entity: The President's

Leadership Council. Established by Dr. Rallo, the Council is comprised of all six deans, Dr. Nancy Allen (Interim Vice Provost), Ms. Sharon Meyer (VP for Finance and Administration), myself, and Dr. Rallo. We meet every two weeks, with an agenda that has as a “standing item” the alignment of academic priorities with overall institutional priorities. The deans will keep you updated on progress as it affects your departments.

- Additionally, an all-faculty assembly has been scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 9:00 a.m., in the University Auditorium. The initiatives and challenges cited above will generate multiple questions, so I wish to provide the opportunity for ASU faculty to learn as much as possible about what we'll be working on during AY 2009-2010. More information about the assembly will be distributed as the date nears (please don't confuse with the Convocation, scheduled for the afternoon of Friday, August 21, as the official welcome to our new students).

### **Search Process for New Provost**

The search process for both the Provost and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management will occur concurrently, but separately. Dr. Toni Sauncy, as President of Faculty Senate, will chair the Provost's search. This process will be aided by the retention of a professional search firm. The Vice President search will be chaired by Dr. Maurice Fortin. No search committees have been named as yet. Dr. Rallo's goal is to complete the searches and have both successful candidates introduced at the Vision 2012 Planning Forum in April 2010.

### **Budgets**

Establishment of our final budget for FY 2010 is affected by the following dates.

- June 20: Latest date that the Governor can sign the FY 2010 appropriation bill.
- July 15: our revised budget, based on legislative appropriations, is due to Texas Tech University System.
- August 6-7: TTUS Board of Regents approves our FY 2010 budget.
- Immediately after the BOR meeting: Dr. Rallo, Ms. Meyer, and I will make final budget allocations. Any excess dollars will be apportioned based on strategic initiatives ([http://www.angelo.edu/services/strategy/documents/Objectives\\_2010.pdf](http://www.angelo.edu/services/strategy/documents/Objectives_2010.pdf)) and a review of the cost benefit analyses that many of you submitted earlier this spring to request additional funding.

### **Organizational Changes**

- After a year of significant contributions to the university's recruitment and retention efforts, Dr. Kevin Lambert has chosen to return full-time to his position as Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts.
- As a result, the following offices/agencies formerly under Dr. Lambert's jurisdiction now report to me on an interim basis:
  - Financial Aid (Ms. Lyn Wheeler)
  - Admissions (Ms. Lorri Moore)
  - Registrar (Ms. Cindy Weeaks)
  - First-Year Experience (Dr. Gloria Duarte)

- Student Life (Mr. Nolen Mears)
- Honors (Dr. Shirley Eoff)
- Center for Academic Excellence (Dr. Susan Neste)
- Dr. Lambert's interim position—Interim Associate Vice President for Student Support and Retention—has been further defined to become an Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, answering to the new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. The job description for this position is under review; a search should begin within the month.
- Dr. Rallo has directed Ms. Meyer and me to revise the university's organization chart to establish a structure that will guide the university in its growth to 10,000 students. Ms. Meyer and I have recommended that the new chart be used conceptually to direct the hiring of strategic positions (e.g., the new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management and the aforementioned Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management). The revised organizational chart will be posted on ASU's website in the next few days.
- The previously-announced search for a Director of Community Relations has been suspended until we confirm the status of the FY2010 budget.

I view as a distinct privilege the opportunity to serve as the provost for the coming year. I will look forward to working with each of you as we move toward achieving our collective goals for ASU.

Thanks.

*Jim Limbaugh*



**James Limbaugh**

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