Dear Colleagues,

Graduation is over and many of you are rapidly dispersing around the world to engage in research, lead study tours or even take a needed vacation. Thank you for your commitment this academic year. I have enjoyed working with you all. Here is some brief news:

Academic Quality Issues:

• A new program review process is now out and will impact all future reviews. This process will now take place using WEAVE, which should minimize duplication of work as assessment material will already be loaded onto WEAVE.

• The departments slated for full review next year are Biology and Art & Design. Supplementary review of Social Work and a range of School of Education programs will also take place. These will link to the work already done for external accreditation in these areas.

• Just under 50% of undergraduate faculty have now completed the FSSE survey. It would be good if we increase this percentage. If you have not yet completed the survey we would encourage you to do so. Lynn Merklin is the contact person if you are no longer sure how to connect to the survey.

• The approach to accreditation by the North Central Accrediting Association has significantly changed. Information on this was shared at the General Faculty meeting. The change of approach will begin in July 2012, so the faculty will hear much more about these changes over the next year. More information can also be found on the NCA website.

• With the change in approach to accreditation has come a change in criteria. These are presently in draft form but will be finalized before July 2012.

Other Academic News:

• The Federal Government is expecting all institutions to have definitions of credit hours and all accrediting bodies to check that institutions have definitions and then adhere to them. Emilio Garcia-Marenko is working with the relevant committees to update our present definition to meet this requirement.
• A group of faculty have been reviewing the way our annual calendar works and whether there would be advantages of changing the Christmas/New Year break to make it significantly larger. Ideas were shared at General Faculty and other committees; the discussion will continue next year at the School level.

• The MSA in International Development has had a name change. In the future, students will graduate with a Master of International Development Administration. This nomenclature is in line with similar U.S. programs.

Moves:

• Earlier this week the remainder of Nethery Hall was emptied so that renovations could be completed. Now all the old Nethery Hall residents are housed somewhere else on campus. In a few weeks we anticipate that the first departments will move into Buller Hall and by the end of the summer all departments will be either in Buller or back in Nethery. Thanks so much to everyone for responding to the inconvenience of the moves in a positive way! Thanks, too, to the Custodial and Plant Service personnel who have helped with the moves.

• Andrews University has now entered into an arrangement with the Lake Union Conference to purchase the Lake Union building in stages for Griggs University and other campus entities. Advancement (Including Planned Giving & Trust Services) and Affiliations and Extensions will move into the top floor of the new half of the building sometime in June. Griggs University will move into the lower level of the new building in July.

• In the administration building other adjustments will be made to accommodate Griggs employees who will be housed within existing AU departments. As a result, the Office of the Graduate Dean, all other graduate services that report to the dean, and the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship will move to the third floor of the administration building in space vacated by Advancement.

• Undergraduate Academic Records and the Registrar will expand their space on the second floor.

• A new Office of Diversity will also be housed on the second floor. (A 25% director along with the job description will be shared in another bulletin.)

Issues under discussion over the summer:

• Strategic planning at departmental level
• Confirmation of committee structures and memberships
• A review of grievance procedures across campus
• A review of student evaluations of classes

Please share any ideas you have on these and any other initiatives! Have a great summer.

Andrea Luxton