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UA3/9 Fall 2009 Midpoint Report

WKU President's Office

Gary Ransdell

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Fall 2009 Midpoint Report

faculty-all-bounces@lists.wku.edu [faculty-all-bounces@lists.wku.edu] on behalf of Gary Ransdell [Gary.Ransdell@wku.edu]

Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2009 9:32 AM

To: faculty-all; staff-all

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

As we near the midpoint of the fall semester, I wanted to take a moment to communicate on a few items important to our campus community at this time.

Benefits

I want to thank our Benefits Committee for an incredible amount of hard work, analysis, and dedication to our campus self-insured healthcare program. Their message regarding premium costs and benefit provisions has just gone out. While the news this year is not good, the Committee deserves our praise and appreciation for keeping the rate increases as low as possible, especially following six years of no premium increases for most of our employees. This Committee works hard, and I want to be sure that their work is valued and appreciated by our campus family. This was a difficult Benefits Committee process, and I respect the value of a representative committee process in a university community.

Provost Search Committee

We are nearing the October 15 deadline for nominations and applications for the position of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. It is my understanding that the Search Committee has developed a strong pool, but nominations from our faculty have been modest. Therefore, I encourage all of our faculty to assess your professional networks within your discipline and identify deans and chief academic officers across the nation—or the globe for that matter—to ensure that we have a large, highly qualified pool from which to select our next Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Sharon Mutter and her search committee are doing a wonderful job and will begin evaluating and reducing the pool later this month.

Higher One

Some of you may have heard or read about a recent transition in how our students transact their financial activities with the University. All of our students are being issued a debit card which will allow refunds and related financial transactions to be electronically administered, thus creating a far more efficient, secure, and environmentally friendly process for monetary transfers to our students. My compliments to the staff in Financial Affairs for this new partnership with Higher One, a financial company whose only business is college and university student debit card activity.

Fall Break Brunch

The Staff Council is ready to host our annual Fall Break Brunch this Thursday, October 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Downing University Center. University offices are encouraged to allow all of our staff to enjoy this brunch and related activities on Thursday morning. It is also a good time for all of our faculty and administration to express appreciation to our many staff employees who keep our campus active and efficient and provide valuable services to our students and to each of us. Well done, Staff Council. See you Thursday.

Thank you.

Gary Ransdell