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UA3/9 VP for Research / President of WKU Research Foundation -- Search Committee

WKU President's Office

Gary Ransdell

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Vice President for Research/President of WKU Research Foundation -- Search Committee

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

Sent: Wednesday, November 04, 2009 11:14 AM

To: faculty-all

Fellow Faculty:

As many of you know, we have been through some significant transitions in our campus research environment over the last year or so. Now that I am about halfway through my "listening tour" conversations with the faculty in each academic department, I am beginning to weave together consistent themes and insights from many of our faculty about what you seek in our campus research environment. There are no easy or universal solutions, but I am getting a sense of what faculty across our varied and diverse disciplines are generally seeking. My intent, therefore, is to try to arrive at a research infrastructure that serves the physical sciences, the social sciences, the health sciences, the liberal arts, and education in as equal a manner as possible. Yes, we would like to grow our research volume in order to create some financial capacity for as many faculty as possible. We also want to be sure that those who choose and need to publish and seek private sector collaboration are well-served too. My intent, therefore, is not to try to become a "research university" as much as it is to allow this important dimension of our academic community to flourish.

Three individuals who have been part of our academic community for several years have provided significant service over the last several months to WKU and our research programs. Dick Bowker, Buddy Steen, and Steve Haggbloom have provided important leadership and addressed many internal infrastructure concerns expressed by some faculty. All three of these individuals have indicated a willingness to continue to serve our research programs as long as needed.

It has become clear, however, that we need to combine the duties of Vice President for Research and President of the Research Foundation. I have asked six individuals representing three of our colleges and the WKU

Research Foundation to serve as a search committee to pursue the process to identify a permanent Vice President for Research and President of the WKU Research Foundation. Recent observation suggests that these duties are best combined into one senior level position. The search committee will be chaired by Dr. Keith Andrew, Head of the Department of Physics and Astronomy. Also serving on the search committee will be Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, Dr. Sherry Powers, Dr. Bud Schlinker, Dr. Thomas Nicholson, and Mr. Greg Stivers. Greg serves as chair of the WKU Research Foundation Board. I would hope to have this search run its course by mid-spring and have a new Vice President onboard by July 1. The salary and benefits for this position will come from the same budget line that has heretofore covered the position previously held by Dr. Sadiq Shah. The new Vice President will then immediately begin the process of identifying a permanent Head of the Office of Sponsored Programs. In the meantime, Dick Bowker will preside over our general research administration, Buddy Steen will serve as President of the WKU Research Foundation, and Steve Haggbloom will serve as Interim Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs. They each will continue in their duties as Dean of Graduate Studies, Director for the Center for Research and Development, and Head of the Psychology Department, respectively.

As always, any feedback or insight from any member of our faculty will be appreciated.

Thank you.

GAR:sh