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UA35 Reflection & Upcoming Events

WKU Provost

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Reflection and Upcoming Events

Emslie, Gordon

Sent: Friday, May 20, 2011 3:07 PM

To: Faculty-All

Dear Colleagues:

I would like to thank all of you for making my first academic year at WKU so worthwhile. It has been a steep learning curve adapting to a new job at a new university, but this transition has been significantly assisted through everyone being as helpful, open and forthright as ever. I truly appreciate the openness and candor that characterize the academic endeavor here.

Through the Listening Tour and the follow-up forums, I believe that we have identified the key elements that will define the path forward for this very special university. Working in close cooperation with the University Senate, we have established and moved forward several important policies, including the addition of the Research Faculty Track, criteria under which the probationary period for tenure-eligible faculty may be extended, and the permanence of the UDP designation. Emphasizing the strong sense of shared governance that exists, some of these policies originated in Academic Affairs and some in the Senate itself. There are still several important draft policies under discussion, and I look forward to their ongoing development.

Fiscally, significant steps were taken to consolidate the college budgets for part-time faculty and to move budgeted dollars from various sources into faculty lines, leaving these other sources to be funded from recurring one-time funds. A number of faculty searches have been conducted over the past few months, with very impressive results. I look forward to welcoming these new faculty to WKU in the Fall.

Speaking of which, dates for several important events at the beginning of the next academic year are listed below. I encourage you to mark your calendars accordingly. I wish you all a productive and refreshing summer, and I look forward to welcoming you all back in August (and this time, I'll recognize a lot more people!)

Best,

A. Gordon Emslie
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

August

August 3 New Department Head 'Boot Camp'

Time: 10am – Noon Location: TBA

Department Heads & Directors Workday

Time: 1pm – 4pm Location: TBA

August 15 New Faculty Orientation

Time: 8am – 4pm

Location: TBA

New Faculty Picnic

Time: 6pm Location: TBA

August 16 Day reserved for college & department meetings

August 17 'Sophomore' Faculty Follow-Up

(for faculty starting their second year at WKU; this is a new session

specifically requested by the faculty concerned)

Time: 9am - Noon Location: Faculty House

New Faculty Orientation – Human Resources Sessions

Times: 8am & 12:30pm

Location: TBA

August 18 Day reserved for college & department meetings

August 22 **President's Convocation**

Time: 8am

Location: Van Meter Auditorium

Reminder of day reserved for college & department meetings

August 23-26 Days reserved for college & department meetings

August 29 Fall Semester Begins