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UA3/9 Announcements

WKU President's Office

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Commencement/Summer Initiatives/Two-Way Traffic Change/DUC Renovation/Opening Convocation/Spirit of Western Award/Thank You!

Ransdell, Gary

Sent: Tuesday, May 10, 2011 2:45 PM

To: Faculty-All; Staff-All

Attachments: F&S Email 051011 Attachme~1.docx (15 KB) ; Spirit of Western - List ~1.docx (11 KB) ; Spirit of Western Award An~1.doc (628 KB)

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

Commencement Weekend—It is Commencement Week at WKU! As we wrap up another academic year, I want to thank, in advance, all of the faculty and staff who are working hard to plan this weekend's ceremonies—and participate in them as well! This will be the first time we will attempt three undergraduate ceremonies in one day. Saturday will be a big day on the WKU campus. Help us make all the parents and friends who visit us for the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies feel welcome.

Summer Initiatives—You received, last week, a communication from John Osborne and our Department of Facilities Management outlining all of the campus projects which we will attempt to complete by the time students return in August. The list you received represents an ambitious agenda; but nevertheless, this important list of projects is necessary in order to ensure that our campus operates effectively and efficiently. We want to continue to make our campus a place where our faculty and staff are inspired to perform at a high level and where students are encouraged to achieve their intellectual dreams. Perhaps the most disruptive of the summer projects will be replacement of steam lines in five different locations. These steam lines in most cases are more than 60 years old. A couple actually failed over the course of the past year, but in order to provide heat we had to defer the replacement until this summer. I have attached the list and the map where projects will occur for you in the event that you missed last week's e-mail.

Two-Way Traffic—By now you all have received a couple of notices about the change in two way traffic on College Heights Boulevard beginning the first of June. The Campus Master Plan Committee has spent several months—and actually have discussed for the last few years—this change in traffic flow. Based on a recommendation from the Master Plan Committee, the Administrative Council recently made the decision to make this change this summer. We believe it will facilitate better traffic flow on our campus and continue to achieve our objective to minimize vehicular traffic in the center core of the campus. Please be careful when navigating College Heights Boulevard in the summer and when everyone returns to campus following your summer destinations. Old habits sometimes die hard, so please be aware of the changes on College Heights Boulevard!

DUC Renovation—At the last Board of Regents meeting, the Board approved the Student Government Association's recommendation to increase the Student Activities Fee in order to pay for a portion of the cost of the final phase in the renovation of the Downing University Center. I commend Student Government for a very thorough analysis leading up to this decision and will enjoy watching Student Government continue to lead this effort. The decisions to be made with regard to programming the interior renovation of the DUC will be lead by new SGA President, Billy Stephens, and a dedicated committee of students. This is their project, and I am confident that the anticipated improvements to this 40-year-old building will serve future generations of students well. The student committee will work closely with the architects in the months ahead to complete the design phase. There will be ample opportunities to brief the campus on how the renovation project will be staged in order to minimize the inevitable disruptions it will bring to our campus.

This project also represents the first request to the Council on Postsecondary Education to approve a student initiated fee outside of the tuition parameters. At its recent meeting, the CPE approved the tuition exception policy which paves the way for a student-approved fee like this. Colton Jessie, the current SGA President, Billy Stephens, the SGA President Elect, and I will submit our Regents' approved proposal to CPE in June under this new exception.

Perhaps the important part for our campus to understand is that this action relates only to a student-approved fee for a facility like a student union or a student activities center. Money generated through this tuition exception policy cannot be used for any other purpose and could not be approved without a 75 percent approval vote of Student Government. The student activities fee will terminate when the agency bond debt service for the renovation has been fully paid.

Opening Convocation-Spirit of Western Award—Please reserve the date of August 22, 2011 for our annual Faculty/Staff Opening Convocation. We will gather in Van Meter Hall at 8 a.m. I look forward to being with you as we begin the 2011-2012 academic year. In anticipation of that Convocation, we seek your nominations for our 10th Annual Spirit of Western Award. A description of the award and a list of past recipients are attached. Please submit your nominations by June 30—the end of the current fiscal year—to Dr. Walker Rutledge in the English Department who will chair this year's selection committee. This is an important opportunity to recognize special individuals whose WKU spirit is particularly deserving of recognition. Thank you in advance for your nominations. I look forward to sharing the 2011 recipient with you on August 22.

Thank You for a Great Year—Thank you to all of our faculty, staff, and administration for an outstanding academic year. It was a significant year where our University made considerable progress in spite of difficult financial conditions. Over the course of the year, we cut \$3.1 million state appropriated dollars from our budget, yet we were able to achieve a combined 3.5 percent compensation increase for most faculty and staff. We welcomed several new Vice Presidents, and we applauded the University Senate and our new Provost, Gordon Emslie, for significant progress in clarifying and improving a broad range of University policies. We watched our students compete exceedingly well at the national level. Many faculty earned prestigious national awards and several students participated in our expanding study abroad programs. Congratulations to everyone on an outstanding year, and thank you for your service and loyalty to our campus and our learning process.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and pleasant summer. Travel safely; rest well. I look forward to communicating with you prior to the called Board of Regents meeting on June 24, when the Board will be presented with our budget for the coming year. Thank you.

Gary A. Ransdell

Attachments

Summer Projects 2011

College Heights Blvd: Notice of change: This project will be changing the “One Way” traffic to “Two Way” traffic from the entrance of the Hub Lot to the stop sign located at the corner of Avenue of Champions and College Heights Blvd. just before Parking Structure #1. This change will become effective in June. A specific announcement on timing will be forthcoming.

College Heights Blvd.: College Heights Blvd. will be milled and repaved from Intersection of College Street and College Heights Blvd. to just beyond the cross walk connecting the sidewalk to Center Street. This project will be providing traffic calming treatments and much needed repair to the failing asphalt.

Creason Lot: This lot will be closed down this summer for construction. This lot has been redesigned to provide better circulation and pedestrian safety. Another important feature of this project will be to include a Bus Entrance and Exit to Hwy 68-80. Project is scheduled to be completed by the Fall Semester.

Virginia Garrett Loop; New Parking Lot: This project is being done in conjunction with the new music rehearsal hall project. This project is scheduled to be done this summer and open by the fall semester.

Parking Structure #1: This phase of the project should complete the major repairs needed to extend the useful life of this structure. Repairs will include minor concrete patching, new roofing for all three stair towers, additional drains, and some miscellaneous repairs. All this work will be completed during the summer.

Food Service Projects: There will be various food service projects throughout the campus. Fresh Food Company and DUC Food Court will be receiving improvements and upgrades.

Mechanical Repairs at DUC: This project will repair condensation and water leaks at the following areas; Cupola Room, Dish room, and Red Zone.

Kentucky Building HVAC Upgrades: The Kentucky Building will be undergoing HVAC upgrades. The schedule will be closely coordinated with the Events staff and more information will follow.

Upgrade Acoustical & HVAC @ FAC: This project will be complete this summer.

Campus Steam Line Repairs:

There are five locations which will undergo steam line replacements:

1) Alumni Drive @ Wetherby; 2) Avenue of Champions to Bates-Runner Hall, 3) small section of line exiting Heat Plant, 4) Bemis Lawrence to Barnes-Campbell and 5) from Minton Hall to AOC. Street closings will be announced by Parking & Transportation.

Renovation of Grise Hall Common Areas: Already under construction, this project will update the common areas of Grise Hall.

Water Line Replacement: The primary water line servicing the Faculty House, Industrial Education Building, and Helm Library will be replaced this summer. This project will affect traffic on Hilltop Drive near the Gated Lot. Parking and Transportation will make the proper announcements before this temporary disruption occurs.

Campus Renovation Projects: There will be numerous renovation projects across campus. If the project affects your area, the project initiator, building coordinator and zone tech will receive a Project Initiation Notice in advance.

Colonnade Repairs: This project continues the water damage and structural repairs of the Colonnade. Work is scheduled to be done during the summer months.

P&T Parking Lot Maintenance: There will be minor repairs and maintenance activities, such as sealing and striping, in numerous parking lots this summer. These will be coordinated with local activities to the extent possible.

Music Hall: This project will continue to progress this summer with a completion date scheduled for December, 2011.

Helm Library Windows: This project will complete the remaining replacement windows in Helm Library.

Ductwork Cleaning: Interior ductwork cleaning will take place in Cravens Library and the Kentucky Building and will be complete this summer.

Steam Plant Gas Boiler #2: We are currently installing the second and final high efficiency natural gas boiler in our heat plant. This project will be completed this summer.

Not Pictured on Map:

Agriculture Center Partial Roof Replacements: This is a project that is addressing several of the worst areas identified by DFM and consultant. This project is scheduled and will be complete by the start of fall semester.

Sidewalk, Retaining Wall and Step Repairs: There will be numerous sidewalk, retaining wall and step repairs across campus. These areas will be identified on a map and announced before actual construction commences.

You can access the map at this link:

<https://asaweb.wku.edu/docs/PDCSummerProjects2011.pdf>

Two-Way Traffic Change

In early June, traffic on all of College Heights Boulevard on WKU's campus will become two-way. One-way traffic will change to two-way from near College Street to Avenue of Champions.

The changes should improve traffic flow from the west side of campus to the north. This movement has become more difficult since construction projects along Kentucky and Center streets closed sections 14th and 13th avenues. Converting all of College Heights Boulevard to two-way traffic will provide more direct travel to the top of the Hill, especially for emergency and service vehicles.

College Heights Boulevard is already two-way from State Street to the Rock House parking lot near College Street as well as between Avenue of Champions and University Boulevard.

Avenue of Champions, which runs south from College Heights Boulevard at Parking Structure One to University Boulevard, will remain one-way.

A three-way stop will also be added at the entrance to the Wetherby/Schneider Hall parking lot.

The change, which was approved by the University Master Plan Committee and the Administrative Council, will be evaluated after a year.

The exact date of the change will depend on when repairs to College Heights Boulevard in the area of College Street can be completed. Signs announcing the change will go up in late May.

For a map of the traffic change, go to <http://asaweb.wku.edu/docs/CHB2WayMap042111.pdf>.

Spirit of Western Award Past Recipients

2010—Walker Rugledge
2009—Juanita Bayless
2008—Mary Ellen Miller
2007—Carl Kell
2006—David Lee
2005—Bart White
2004—Jim Highland
2003—Cindy Jones
2002—Lee Robertson



TENTH ANNUAL SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Western Kentucky University *SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD* will recognize a member of the faculty, staff, or student body who best represents the vivacity, enthusiasm, loyalty, and inspirational principles of the WKU experience. This recognition will be presented each year at the Faculty/Staff Convocation and will carry with it a \$1,000 award to the recipient. Members of the University community may nominate a deserving individual who best meets these criteria:

1. The nominee has made significant contributions to the Western experience.
2. The nominee has been involved in a variety of activities that have improved the lives of those who share the Western experience.
3. The nominee's significant and varied service activities are to be understood as non-occupationally related, i.e., the accomplishments of the nominee are not to be an extension of his/her job at the University.

Nominations for the award should summarize the nominee's achievements on one page (double-spaced) and should be submitted no later than Thursday, June 30, 2011.

Mail/Email to: *SPIRIT OF WESTERN AWARD*
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