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UA3/9 Spring 2013 End of Semester Message

WKU President's Office

Gary Ransdell

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From: Gary Ransdell
To: Faculty-All; Staff-All
Subject: Spring 2013 End of Semester Message
Date: Mon. 5/6/2013 5:07PM

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

As the Spring 2013 Semester draws to a close, I want to address four things before our Commencement ceremonies this weekend.

1. **Commencement**

Thank you to all of our faculty and staff for your many efforts and accomplishments during this academic year. I hope as many of you as possible will participate in this weekend's Commencement ceremonies. It is my favorite WKU event. It has great meaning for each of our student participants and their families. Thank you in advance for all of the faculty and staff volunteers who help make the ceremony so special.

2. **Spirit of Western Award**

I want to encourage you to make nominations for the Spirit of Western award. This award is given each year at the opening Faculty and Staff Convocation in August, which will be August 23 this year. Our tradition is that the last three award winners serve as the selection committee for the next award. Therefore, Julia Roberts, the 2012 Recipient, will chair the committee which includes Freida Eggleton (2011) and Walker Rutledge (2010) in selecting our 2013 Spirit of Western award winner. They will choose from nominations made by our Faculty and Staff over the next few weeks. Please think about individuals who have exhibited an unusually strong passion to our mission and to our traditions as a university community. Please nominate someone who has nurtured the things that make WKU distinctive and who has brought exceedingly strong meaning to our unique form of higher education at WKU. Forward your nominations to Julia Roberts or to my office. Please get your nominations in by the end of June. The committee will make its selection in July.

3. **Budget**

I will be back in touch later this week with our final budget reduction and reallocation decisions. We will be cutting our budget by approximately \$2.1 million. There are, however, four key decisions that I can share with you today. First, no one's salary will be reduced. The two percent raise in this year's budget remains fully funded. Second, no one will lose their employment at WKU. A few employees may be relocated to another department, but no one will have to leave WKU. Third, most University departments are unaffected. There will be no across-the-board cutting. Fourth, some 200 faculty will receive market-salary adjustments at a total cost of approximately \$500,000.

These are all positive outcomes in an otherwise very difficult budget balancing process since we learned that we would be limited to a three percent tuition increase for Kentucky undergraduate students.

I will have specific details to you by Thursday.

4. **Summer Projects**

Finally, I want to remind those of you who will be around during the summer that there will be considerable work taking place along College Heights Boulevard at the front edge of the campus to continue the next phase in replacing our in ground electrical infrastructure. There will be construction disruption in front of College High Hall, Cherry Hall, and Gordon Wilson Hall, but everything will be completed in this regard by early August. There are a number of other summer projects taking place across campus as we sustain our normal summer deferred maintenance schedule.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our commencement ceremonies this weekend.

Thank you,

Gary A. Ransdell