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WKU President's Office

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2010 Spring Commencement, State Budget, Dedication of New Facilities, and Status of Pending Searches

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

Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 10:07 AM

To: faculty-all; staff-all

Fellow Faculty and Staff:

As we approach this weekend's Commencement ceremonies and wrap up another academic year, I wanted to take a moment to thank all of our faculty, administration, and staff for your hard work this year in producing the largest and most capable class of graduates in the history of WKU. We will have record numbers at Friday night's graduate ceremony and at both of Saturday's undergraduate ceremonies. The achievements of these students continue to set new standards for classes which follow.

On other fronts, we continue to track discussions in Frankfort regarding a state budget. The Governor has called a Special Session for May 24 and has proposed a compromise budget. We remain hopeful that House and Senate leaders will come together to approve a budget for the coming fiscal year. We are preparing a budget based on the assumed budget reduction included in the House, Senate, and Governor's versions, and an assumed tuition increase of 5 percent for in-state students and a 6 percent increase for out-of-state students. The Board of Regents will convene in June for the purpose of reviewing and approving a budget for the coming year.

Last week was a significant week for many involved in the dedication of four new facilities including the Preston Center addition, the reopening of College High Hall (which now houses the Math Department), the dedication of the Chandler Memorial Chapel, and the dedication of a clubhouse for the baseball program. Perhaps the most significant event last week was a preview performance in the newly restored Van Meter Hall for our President's Circle donors on Friday night. A medley of songs from *Beauty and the Beast* provided an impressive preview of what will be the first major production in the new Van Meter Hall next October.

Regarding the Chandler Memorial Chapel, everyone can now begin thinking about using the Chapel for appropriate services, memorials, weddings, and other functions typically conducted in a reverent setting. Rachel Goodman in Special Events, 745-2497, will coordinate reservations (along with the Faculty House and Kentucky Building).

Finally, we continue our march through a number of important searches. The final candidates will interview next week for the position of Vice President for Research and President of the Research Foundation. All totaled, we recently completed or are involved in 11 searches for high-level positions across our colleges and administrative units. Some are completed—Provost and Athletic Director—some are under way, and some are just beginning. Everyone on campus should be invigorated by these opportunities to bring new talent and leadership to our campus. We will keep you posted as these important efforts unfold.

I look forward to seeing many of you this weekend. Let's have a great summer. Thank you.

Gary A. Ransdell