

# Provost News

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*Dr. Gerald W. Intemann, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs*



## A Message from the Provost

Dear Colleagues,

As another successful academic year draws to a close, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some important developments on the budgetary and programmatic fronts.

### **The 2011-12 Budget Picture and Meeting Student Needs**

We are all awaiting news from Harrisburg on what budget proposal will emerge in the legislature that will hopefully restore some of the drastic reductions proposed by the Governor in PASSHE's base appropriations. We must also wait until late June for the Board of Governors to set new tuition rates, which could significantly affect university revenues.

In the meantime, current students are registering for fall and new freshmen will begin arriving in less than a month, and it is vitally important to provide enough seats for all our students. However, this is a major challenge in light of the planned \$7 million budget reduction for 2011-12 in Academic Affairs. Such a reduction, which is likely to occur, would mean a loss of approximately 38 vacant faculty positions (along with several manager and staff positions). In order to provide students with their fall schedules, we will need to increase class size where feasible, and we will need to carefully review all of our scheduled fall offerings and consider canceling those classes that are low enrolled and not essential to meeting major requirements. But, we also must move with all deliberate speed to hire the temporary faculty to cover the remaining unassigned classes. We are doing this by using one-time funds from our divisional reserve and from unrestricted designated accounts. However, we must recognize that this structural deficit of about \$2.5 million will need to be permanently addressed in 2012-13.

### **Prioritization of Academic Programs**

The IUP academic community has talked for some time about clarifying our mission, setting priorities, eliminating duplication, reducing or eliminating programs and services not central to our work, and focusing our efforts on what we are known for and what we do best. We have talked on this campus for years about the need to evaluate and increase the resources allocated to strong programs central to our mission and our future. Two years ago at our academic charrette, faculty leaders emphasized the need to achieve better strategic balance in our academic offerings and preserve our highest quality and most-valued programs. There was broad consensus then for the need to identify high quality programs that are viable, effective, and central to our institutional mission and to enhance them through resource reallocation. Accomplishing this task is especially urgent now for IUP given the budgetary environment and the likelihood of continuing declines in state support.

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## Message from the Provost (cont.)

When Middle States visits us in five years it will be incumbent on us to demonstrate the real effectiveness of the strategic planning process as measured by the reallocation of resources to programs of high strategic value.

We have now developed and embraced an academic strategic vision for the University that will chart a new course to academic excellence and fulfill our mission as PASSHE's only doctoral research university. But to successfully navigate this new course and support our strategic priorities, we must identify the choices and make the necessary decisions. In addition to pursuing external funding, we must work within our budget to find the resources that can be reallocated to support our programmatic priorities. We must take a serious look at our entire array of academic programs and be willing to make decisions based on the importance, viability, quality, and cost of every program. We must be willing to eliminate some programs and to reallocate those resources to support other programs of high need and to pursue new growth opportunities.

The college Deans and I are holding meetings to clarify our mission and purposes within Academic Affairs, and to recommit ourselves to the task of setting strategic priorities among academic degree programs. The goal is to develop a preliminary plan that will guide the future reallocation of resources, which must be meaningful if we are to be successful in these very challenging times. We wish to better support programs that are central to the university's strategic mission, that are of the highest possible quality, that promise the highest viability and opportunity for success, and are financially affordable for IUP.

The next step in this prioritization process will be to share and discuss this preliminary plan with department chairs and APSCUF over the summer in order to develop a more refined plan that will guide reallocation of resources. Further discussions will take place with academic departments once the faculty return in the fall. When the plan is finalized, any proposed curriculum changes will follow the normal curriculum process.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation to all of you for your dedication and good work this year. These are very challenging times for IUP, but with your help and working together, I am confident that we can meet those challenges and be stronger for it.

Have a restful and rewarding summer.

Best regards,  
Jerry Intemann, Provost



## News from the Academic Division

- ✦ Lisa Hammett Price (Special Education and Clinical Services) has received the International Reading Association's Dina Feitelson Research award. Price received the award along with Anne van Kleeck, and Carl J. Huberty, for their article "Talk During Book Sharing Between Parents and Preschool Children: A Comparison Between Storybook and Expository Book Conditions," published in *Reading Research Quarterly*.
- ✦ Lynda LaRoche (Art) received *NICHE* magazine's annual Art Educator of the Year award in February
- ✦ IUP has received \$951,578 from the National Science Foundation to renovate biology laboratories in Carl S. Weyandt Hall, home to the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The funds will be used to renovate and upgrade twelve spaces in Weyandt Hall that are used for student biology research and student research training activities. The funds are part of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The project is divided into three segments, with the first segment scheduled to begin in March and conclude in December. A second segment will be completed in 2012, and the last segment in 2013.



**During AY 2010-2011 (July 2010–April 2011) IUP faculty and staff were awarded almost 12 million dollars in grant funding. There were six awards of \$500,000 or greater and 35 awards greater than \$50,000.**

### Accreditation News

- ♦ The Eberly College of Business and Information Technology programs, including the Master of Business program have received AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) accreditation for five years
- ♦ The Psychology (Psy.D.) program has been re-accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA) until 2017.
- ♦ The Computer Science program has been recommended for five-year accreditation to the accreditation board of ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). The final vote regarding this recommendation is expected in July 2011.



### University Professor

Dr. Lynn Botelho (History) has been selected as IUP's University Professor for 2011-2012. She was chosen from a field of many exemplary faculty members in an extremely competitive process. During her tenure as University Professor, Dr. Botelho will write a monograph offering a historical perspective of aging as it was viewed during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This book promises to be the first wide-ranging study of old age during this period of European history. She will also create a new dual-level course that combines the history of medicine with the history of the body.

## **Division Highlight**

### **Office of Distance Learning and Continuing Education**

The Office of Distance Learning and Continuing Education (ODLCE) is the most visible remnant of IUP's old School of Continuing Education. The School's academic programs have moved out to the colleges, but ODLCE maintains the responsibility for supporting non-traditional students in two broad categories:

- ♦ **Non-matriculated on-site** - these are typically transient students from other institutions taking IUP courses for credit toward a degree elsewhere. Also included in this group are non-credit community university studies students and visiting high school students. Additionally, we are responsible for marketing Summer and Winter session programs as these are open broadly to populations beyond our traditional campus students.
- ♦ **Distance learning** - these are students who study either completely online or, much more commonly, supplement their IUP face-to-face course loads with an online course or two. Of course, we do not develop academic curricula, but we do offer a growing range of support services to faculty and departments as they migrate their traditional courses to the mediated environment, and we are also gearing up to provide more proactive support to students as they decide to study online.



While maintaining good and strong relationships with non-traditional on-the-ground students is an important part of our mission, most of our efforts are currently focused on building out IUP's capacity and scale-of-offering in the online market. Over the past six months, we have taken up the challenge of the Graduate Online Program Initiative (GOPI), which will lead to the creation of three brand-new fully-online credit-bearing programs: the Master of Arts in Adult and Community Education (first cohort, Fall 2011), the Certification Program in Special Education for licensed teachers (first cohort, Spring 2012), and the Master of Science in Food and Nutrition (first cohort, TBA).

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## Office of Distance Learning and Continuing Education (continued)

The ODLCE strives to provide instructional design and pedagogical support services to faculty as they adapt their courses, and in support of this goal, IT Services has recently transferred an Instructional Design Specialist (Brian Carothers) to ODLCE, where he will join Dave Porter in this effort. Upcoming efforts include working on a bachelor's degree completion program with Communications Media and a Master of Science in Nursing, both fully online.

IUP is, in a very real way, an early adopter of distance education technology through the efforts of first a few, and then many individual faculty members, courses began going online as early as the late 1990s. With the decision to launch GOPI, we are poised to begin a renewed effort to advance and support distance education program development.

ODLCE is preparing to build a robust central service organization that can provide real technical and administrative support to faculty in course and program development, based on research-driven choices to meet the changing and emerging needs of today's students across the country. We believe that there is a very real potential to create a new and significant revenue stream to the institution by enrolling students across the Commonwealth and, perhaps more significantly, from outside the state.



### **WINTER SESSION UPDATE**

During the 2010-2011 Winter Session (December 20, 2010-January 7, 2011), IUP offered over 70 courses fully online in the third pilot program of this type. This session was the biggest of the three, with increased enrollments by over 50% from the previous year. The courses that ran included 68 undergraduate and 3 graduate courses. Of the 68 undergraduate courses, 32 (47%) were Liberal Studies courses. The enrollment for Winter Session 2010 increased by 43% over 2009 numbers.

The Winter session has emerged as an important opportunity for our students. It allows for continued progress toward degree completion, and for the generation of significant revenue to the institution including some funds distributed to the colleges. Winter term will continue fourth pilot year (2011-12) and progress to a regularized session beginning in 2012-13.