



WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

Accreditation News

Middle States

Commission: West Chester University has received an outstanding report (available at www.wcupa.edu/middlestates) from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education Evaluation Team that visited our campus on March 20-23, 2011. The report findings are based on WCU's comprehensive self-study, as well as on the team's campus visit. (The Middle States Commission awards WCU's institutional accreditation, which must be renewed every 10 years.) In June 2011, WCU will be formally notified of the action taken by the Middle States Commission in response to the report.

Council on Social Work Education: In March 2011, the Department of Undergraduate Social Work hosted a highly successful site visit by a visiting team from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). Before leaving campus, the reviewers praised the program highly. Formal notification of reaccreditation is expected.



EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

News for WCU Faculty and Staff

President Greg R. Weisenstein

Budget News

I want to thank all of you for your ongoing advocacy on behalf of West Chester University and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education. Our message—the enormous return on investment that our PASSHE institutions bring to the Commonwealth—is resonating in Harrisburg. We have been hearing encouraging statements from legislators about the possibility of restoring a portion of the proposed funding cuts to the state-owned institutions. Our advocacy efforts have also given the PASSHE universities a unique opportunity to inform citizens across the state about the outstanding value of institutions such as West Chester and the work that we do.

Along with advocacy, we are working across the campus to develop the revenue sources that we can control. My thanks to everyone who has submitted ideas. Your suggestions are extremely helpful in the effort to offset declining state support by enhancing existing revenue streams and creating new ones. At the same time, we will continue to identify ways in which we can become even more efficient in what we do while retaining the excellence that we have all worked so hard to achieve. The new revenue streams and our enhanced efficiency will allow us to have greater control over our future and help support important

programs and activities that may be vulnerable to budget reductions. Above all, new and expanded revenue sources and greater efficiency will enable us to protect the real heart of the University: our employees. I encourage you to continue sending your budget-reduction and efficiency items to our suggestion box.

While we believe that we will avoid seeing a reduction in state appropriations at the full 50 percent level that Governor Corbett recommended in his budget address, we have continued to plan for a scenario that assumes a 25 percent reduction in Commonwealth support. In planning, we intend to be inclusive and informative through University town-hall meetings and through discussions within divisions at the local level. Budget updates and advocacy information have also been made available through the president's website and newsletter. The following steps have been taken as part of the budget planning process:

Actions Completed in April 2011

1. To assist us in managing the consequences of the recommended budget reduction, establish a fiscal stabilization fund from 50 percent of the divisional rollover dollars.



2. Incorporate the feedback from previous budget summit meetings into finalized and guiding principles that will steer necessary budget reductions.
3. Based on the guiding principles, identify criteria to apply in proposing potential budget reductions, and discuss those recommendations with the Administrative Budget Committee (ABC). Subtract the proposed campus-wide reductions from the total institutional target reduction of \$8.835 million, and then distribute the balance proportionally across the divisions as a starting point.
4. Based on the guiding principles, identify a divisional process (to be approved by the president as described below) for achieving recommended budget-reduction targets utilizing divisional criteria to determine the programs and services that could be modified or eliminated and the personnel who may be affected.

Actions to Be Completed in May and June 2011

By May 18, 2011:

1. The divisional budget-reduction working documents will be updated to incorporate additional revenue enhancements and other newly available budget information. To the draft divisional budget working documents for FY12 will be added a rank ordering of possible reductions so that adjustments can be readily made if additional state and/or stabilization funds are available.
2. The revised divisional budget-reduction working documents will be discussed by ABC, with tentative recommendations then made to the president.
3. The president will take into consideration the use of stabilization funds to backfill programs and services essential to WCU's core mission, WCU's mandated obligations to students and employees, and the avoidance of further revenue reductions as a result of higher state reduction levels. Using stabilization funds for selective investment in programs and services with a high potential for success will also be considered.

By June 1, 2011:

An institution-wide, prioritized budget-reduction working document will be drafted by ABC and recommended to the president. This document will take into consideration the use of stabilization funds to

ensure WCU's smooth transition to reduced dependence on the Commonwealth.

Between June 15 and June 30, 2011:

The president and Cabinet will review and update the budget-reduction working document and recommendations based on the final state-dollars appropriation and tuition-increase decision. The president will adjust the divisional reduction targets accordingly.



A Sampling of Campus Highlights

In this final newsletter of the 2010-11 academic year, I would like to highlight a few among the thousands of accomplishments and contributions of West Chester University faculty and staff. This list is only a small sample of the excellence that is making WCU the finest regional comprehensive university in the nation:

- Through the following awards, the West Chester University Community is able to recognize a handful of the many, many faculty who deserve our congratulations and appreciation for their outstanding contributions.
 - The nominees for this year's **Professor of the Year Award** are as follows:
 - Eleanor Brown**, Psychology
 - Kevin Flanigan**, Literacy
 - Christian Penny**, Professional and Secondary Education

- The Academic Recognition Committee has recommended, and Provost Linda Lamwers has approved, the following honors to be awarded at the December 2011 commencement ceremony:

Emeritus Designation

- James Trotman**, English
- Mildred Joyner**, Undergraduate Social Work
- Edward Pollak**, Psychology
- Wallace Kahn**, Counselor Education
- Kostas Myrsiades**, English
- Linda Myrsiades**, English
- Anthony Zumpetta**, Anthropology and Sociology
- Michael Peich**, English
- John Kerrigan**, Mathematics

Lindback Distinguished Teaching Award

- Christian Penny**, Professional and Secondary Education

E. Riley Holman Memorial Award

- Michael Boyle**, Communication Studies

- **University Forum** has received several RFPs for funding to support projects that will advance action steps in response to the **Campus Climate Survey**. About half of the proposed projects will be funded in full or in part.
- Congratulations to Director of Housing Operations **Peter Galloway** on his recent election to the executive board of the Association of University and College Housing Officers International.
- Many thanks to Dr. **Timothy Lutz** for his excellent leadership as West Chester University’s sustainability coordinator for this academic year. Tim has helped to define both the position and the standards we must meet as a university. His contributions have made us a leader in the sustainability field. We welcome Dr. **Paul Morgan** as our sustainability coordinator for 2011-12.
- The **ISEEK** (Internet Safety and Ethics Education and Knowledge) Institute has been established at WCU by a coordinated effort between the **Computer Science Department** and the Information Services Division. Dr. **Richard Epstein**, from the Department of Computer Science faculty; members of the **Information Services staff**; and **WCU students** collaborated in establishing the ISEEK Institute to explore new and effective means of



promoting education related to Internet safety and ethics, as well as to the many social implications of Internet technologies. ISEEK promotes faculty and student research and publications and sponsors guest lectures and presentations. You can find additional information about ISEEK at www.wcupa.edu/ISEEK.

- Thanks to the leadership of new Annual Fund Director **Susan Vanscovich** and Phonathon Director **Leah Semmelhaack**, the number of contributors to WCU is running more than 1,000 ahead of last year at the same time (6,123 donors as of 3/31/11 compared to 4,743 on 3/31/10, for a 29 percent increase). In addition, gifts to the Annual Fund are running 12 percent ahead of last year (totaling \$1.13 million as of 3/31); many of these gifts support scholarships.
- West Chester University’s **Circle K Student Organization** earned prestigious awards at their annual district convention, which was held in March 2011 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs **Thomas Purce**, WCU’s Circle K advisor, was recognized as the Outstanding Faculty Club Advisor. The entire group earned the Outstanding Kiwanis Relations Award and won first place in the Gold Division for Best Single Service for their annual volleyball tournament. Circle K is an international co-ed service organization sponsored by Kiwanis International.
- **Senior communication studies major Sara Franklin** captured the sixth place award at the **Interstate Oratorical Contest (IOC)** held this month at James Madison University. Begun in 1874, the IOC is the oldest continuously running national intercollegiate speech contest in the country. Earning a bid to attend this tournament is a prestigious honor. Each year the Interstate Oratorical Association issues invitations to only the top two

collegiate persuasive speakers from each state. Sara’s speech on cleaning up hydraulic fracturing, the process for extracting gas and oil from shale, will be published in *Winning Orations* later this year.

- At the recent Greek Life Awards Program, Director of Student Leadership and Involvement **Charles Warner** was recognized as the Outstanding Faculty/Staff Advisor, and Student Affairs Generalist **Cara Jenkins** was named Outstanding Alumni Advisor.
- West Chester University is one of five universities to receive **American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) funding** for the design and implementation of a civic **minor in urban education**. Faculty members from the **College of Education** and **College of Arts and Sciences**, together with representatives from the School District of Philadelphia, are designing a program that will provide future urban teachers with in-depth understanding of culturally diverse populations and issues affecting the education of urban K-12 students. Service-learning requirements will also help to give teacher candidates and other students a firm foundation for successful careers in city schools.
- Congratulations to Conference Services Director **Cheryl Faust** and Conference Services Secretary **Elisa Lees**. As of March 31, 2011, Conference Services had handled more than 40 events attracting 30,000 people and generating gross revenues exceeding \$725,000.
- The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities ranks **WCU’s web presence** at 19th out of the top 100 among “Top Universities Regional North” (http://www.webometrics.info/region_usacan.asp?reg=natnorth).
- Kudos to Women’s Center Director **Adale Sholock** and Assistant Coordinator of Wellness Programs **Alicia Hahn** on their recent partnership with the Chester County Health Department in the *Get Yourself Tested* campaign managed by the Centers for Disease Control with support from MTV.
- Congratulations to the **Department of Literacy** for winning an **International Reading Association Certificate of Distinction** for their programs in elementary education with a reading minor and early grade preparation with a reading minor. The Certificate of Distinction honors outstanding reading and language-arts preparation of elementary, middle, and secondary teachers. In winning the recognition, which will be in place for seven years,

the Department of Literacy programs met all six standards at the Distinguished Level.

- In early March, WCU’s **Facilities Department** implemented a contract trash and recycling program that is estimated to save the University at least \$150,000 annually. Earlier in the year, Executive Director of Facilities Management **Greg Cuprak** and Energy Projects Manager **Bruce Wilson** submitted bids for the University’s electrical provider and were able to save approximately \$700,000 for a one-year contract.



Recitation Hall Restoration and E.O. Bull Center Renovation

- Dr. **Edward Lordan**, of the Department of Communication Studies faculty, was recently inducted into **the Student Affairs Legacy of Leadership** at the Eighth Annual Legacy of Leadership Dinner. He was honored in recognition of his outstanding work as advisor to the Communications Club.
- Reference Librarian **Stephen Marvin’s** *Dictionary of Scientific Principles* has been issued by Wiley & Sons and is the culmination of many years’ work. As the

publisher describes the book: “*Dictionary of Scientific Principles* presents a unique and timeless collection of (almost) all known rules or laws commonly called principles, identified throughout the history of scientific development, their definition, and use. . . . A staple addition to every library, the dictionary will also be of interest to scientists and general readers”

(<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-047014680X,descCd-description.html>).

- The Division of Student Affairs recently held their 14th Annual **Student Leadership Awards** in recognition of this past year’s outstanding efforts by our student leaders and student organizations. Among the awards, Dr. **Deanne Zotter**, from the Department of Psychology faculty, was honored as WCU Greek Community Faculty Leader of the Year. Associate Sykes Student Union Director **Christina Brenner** was honored as Student Organization Advisor of the Year for her work with the Off Campus and Commuter Association (OCCA).
- Dr. **Paul Morgan**, WCU’s 2011-12 sustainability coordinator, and Amazon Center for Environmental Education and Research (**ACEER**) Director of Operations **Marguerite Gould** are developing an international green-schools initiative that links East Goshen Elementary School (West Chester), Montgomery School (Chester Springs), Radnor Middle School (Radnor), Episcopal Academy (Newtown Square), and Souderton Area High School (Souderton) with partner schools in the Amazon Basin of Peru. The project will focus on school gardens, recycling, watershed stewardship, and green design and technology.
- The Percussion Ensemble of Costa Rica visited the WCU campus in January 2011 and presented clinics and performances for the university community. In addition to performing traditional classical percussion-ensemble repertoire, the group performed several compositions by Costa Rican composers. The **WCU Percussion Ensemble** also prepared one of the Costa Rican pieces and performed alongside the group. In March, members of the WCU Percussion Ensemble traveled to Costa Rica to present two concerts. The group’s director, Dr. **Chris Hanning**, Department of Applied Music, conducted a master class with students from the music conservatory and presented a clinic on drum-set techniques. The WCU ensemble was featured in the national Costa Rican newspaper.

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• **Athletics Kudos**

- Congratulations to **Women’s Softball** Head Coach **Diane Lokey** and her team for sweeping all three games at the double-elimination pod of the 2011 PSAC Softball Tournament. West Chester (34-19) fell to Indiana (Pa.) this past weekend in the PSAC Championship’s double-elimination tournament but hopes to learn Wednesday that the team has been selected for the NCAA Division II Women’s Softball Tournament.
- West Chester University placed three players on the 2011 All-PSAC East **Women’s Tennis Squad**, and head coach **Tina Tharp** earned the league’s Head Coach of the Year honors for the second straight season.
- **Swimming** Coach **Jamie Rudisill** recently earned his ninth PSAC Men’s Coach of the Year honor. Under his guidance, the Golden Rams men recently won their 13th straight PSAC title, while the women’s team posted their fifth straight PSAC title.
- Congratulations to Coach **Ginny Martino** and the WCU **Women’s Lacrosse Team** for reaching the finals in the 2011 PSAC Tournament, which was hosted at Vonnie Gros Field this past weekend.
- Congratulations to Coach **Harry Hammond** and the **Men’s Golf Squad** for qualifying for the 2011 NCAA Division II Men’s Golf Regional Championships.

Best wishes, everyone, for a safe and satisfying summer, both on and off campus.
