

President's Report

March 2012

The last month has been a blur! Everyone seems to be moving at a furious pace and I think it is safe to say that students, faculty, and staff alike are looking forward to the upcoming Spring Break! Although seeking a warmer weather location isn't necessary given this glorious weather we have been experiencing, the break will provide time to refresh and return ready for the many activities that are associated with the end of the academic year.

We have been keeping a careful eye on the operating budget of the College as our credit hour production has not met the revenue forecast that was anticipated when the budget was approved last summer. Our enrollment trend mirrors what is occurring across the state and nationally. We will finish the year with approximately 2% fewer students (headcount) than was anticipated. Overall, this has led to a 5% reduction in credits attempted (FTE), which creates a \$2 million differential when comparing expenses to revenue. This reduction will be offset by lower expenses for utilities this year (thanks to a very mild winter and better monitoring), a significant swing in anticipated expenses for health insurance, and position vacancies during the budget year. This, coupled with the contingencies that were established for enrollment shortfalls and uncertain state funding, will still yield a balanced budget at year end.

Earlier this week we confirmed the membership of the search committee and timetable for the recruitment and selection for our new Chief Advancement Officer. We have contracted with Lisa Dietlin's firm to lead the search and we anticipate interviewing final candidates in mid- to late-June. Our search committee will have a nice complement of Foundation Board members, staff, and faculty. Vice Chair Rita Canning, who also serves as liaison to the Foundation Board, will serve as a member, as well. The Chief Advancement Officer will have three primary reporting units: **Development** (Major and Planned Gifts, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Grant Writer), **Advancement Services** (Budget and Audit, Gift Processing and Acknowledgment, Scholarships, and Art Curator), and **Alumni Relations and Special Events** (Alumni Program and Distinguished Alumni Program, Community Catalyst, Marketing and Social Media). We are planning to reassign the community relations function to Phil Burdick's organization. The position will work closely with Phil and the President's Office. We do not anticipate changing the overall College budget for the Advancement Office.

During this last month, the College has developed the first iteration of the FY13 Operational Plan. This plan precedes the development of next year's budget. Last week, the Executive Council reviewed the proposed plan and was enthused by what would be accomplished. The College's leadership team is proposing an action agenda for next year that will support the

continued momentum we have built. The Operational Plan, coupled with work that will be accomplished in support of the Strategic Plan, promises to make FY13 very exciting. There is a keen focus on managing the student entry and flow process. We will also initiate a new focus on career services, particularly internships and placement functions. These plans will be reviewed with the Board as we approach the budget authorization process for next year.

Last week, I met with a group of manufacturers as we continue to build a coalition to support the emerging focus on advanced manufacturing. This involves educational programs that lead to credentials and a manufacturing career pathway for students. We have requested that our partner manufacturers provide capstone internships as students complete the initial certificate in advanced manufacturing. We anticipate a minimum of 50 paid internships being available for our students as we launch the program. In addition, we have many manufacturers that have volunteered to share training space and equipment. There is a sense of urgency in our business community to respond to the ongoing need for skilled workers in this field. These positions are well compensated and in highly technical environments. We will continue to work closely with these employers. Maria Coons and her group have been very active in leading this initiative.

Several notable national presentations were made during the past month, placing Harper's student success agenda in the national spotlight. Earlier in the month, I had the opportunity to engage in professional presentations with two of our high school superintendents. Dr. Nancy Robb, Superintendent of District 211, joined the Harper delegation that attended the Achieving the Dream (AtD) conference in Dallas. Nancy joined me and two faculty members (one from District 211 and one from Harper) in making a presentation about our very successful math partnership. The Board will hear a presentation from these two faculty members during our meeting this month. A few weeks after the AtD conference, Dr. David Schuler, Superintendent from District 214, and I were asked to make a presentation to a national advisory committee of secondary superintendents sponsored by the College Board. The College Board invited David and I to attend this meeting (at their expense) and discuss our Northwest Educational Council for Student Success—the consortium consisting of Districts 211, 214, 220 and Harper College. This consortium champions all of the activities related to college and career readiness. Both of these presentations went very well and I was very proud of the relationships and partnerships we were able to showcase and demonstrate to these respective audiences.

Our College-wide task force on governance met for a half day retreat this past month. We are currently developing a set of “guiding principles” that will be used in developing design criteria for shared governance with the College's core values as an anchor for these guiding principles. We will provide an update to the Board in June, and will also seek input and comment.

In addition to what has been mentioned above, please take note of the following activities and accomplishments:

Information Technology

- Completed the project to create a compact, printable version of the student inquiry form. This form provides key information to admissions staff, academic counselors and others in support of servicing the student.
- Completed the update of the Foundation's Blackbaud Financial Edge software system to the most current version. Financial Edge includes general ledger, AP/AR, payroll, billing

and invoicing, grant management and more. It is integrated with Blackbaud Raiser's Edge, the fundraising module used by the Foundation.

- A number of technology infrastructure upgrades were performed by Technical Services staff members during February, primarily occurring over the Presidents' Day weekend. These updates included operating system updates for a number of servers including servers supporting the Harper Exchange email system, updates to the Service Desk systems and updates to the Cisco ACE network management system.

Public Safety

- The Harper College Police Department hosted a "meet and eat" with Palatine Fire Department's Station 84. The meeting was designed to let the groups get to know each other better in a non-crisis setting. It also allowed the public to see the two agencies collaborating over a meal. Station 84 responds to most of the calls at Harper as it is the fire station closest to the campus.

Human Resources

- Paula Saltzman, Diverse Workforce Recruiter, and Kim Zielinski, HR Assistant, attended the Sixth Annual Diversity Recruitment Fair at Elgin Community College. The fair offered an opportunity for community colleges to meet with diverse candidates interested in employment with their institutions.

Student Success

- Bobby Summers (Chair, Political Science) took six students from Harper's Model UN Team to the Chicago International Political Simulation. Harper College was the only community college in the competition. Harper College took 3rd place at the competition. The team consisted of the following members: Nicole Thomas, Slew Oshana, Marco Herrera, Hugo Traveseras, Noah Yosif, and Umur Acar.
 - Nicole Thomas won Outstanding Delegate in her committee – Politburo of the USSR.
 - Slew Oshand and Marco Herrera won the Political Simulation Award for their representation of Romania in the Security Council and the General Assembly.
- Harper College is third in the country and first in the Midwest after the first round in the Student Mathematics League (SML), supported by the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges (AMATYC). Harper student Matthew Wilber is currently in a three-way tie for first place nationally. Round 2 of the competition has been completed and the awards will be presented at the AMATYC national conference in November. The Harper team is led by Mathematics Instructor Charlotte Schulze-Hewett.

- The Career Center has been reaching out to our high schools to help students who are undecided about their major holding two Career Treks on campus for Barrington, Schaumburg and Conant High Schools. *Career Liftoff* workshops will be offered this summer for high school juniors and seniors to help them with decision making and career choice exploration before they start their college classes.
- The Spring High School Open House had a record number of attendees with 536 people in total attendance, 234 being students. Prospective students and their parents had an opportunity to tour the Harper campus, attended academic seminars, met Harper students and visited information tables.
- Resche Hines, PhD, Manager of Institutional Research and Sadya Khan, MSED, Research Analyst, presented a session at the Achieving the Dream annual DREAM Institute in February on Harper College's use of a Milestones and Momentum Points Model to exhibit student success and the shift toward a more data-driven culture at the College.
- Craig Stettner, Biology Associate Professor, was a Top-10 Nominee for the 10th Congressional District Community Leadership Award – Friend of the Environment.
- International Studies and Programs and the International Student Office co-hosted Harper's Second International Education Summit attended by 78 faculty and administrators from 14 area colleges and universities. The keynote was delivered by Dr. John Hudzik, NAFSA Senior Scholar for Internationalization, who addressed the group on "The Imperative to Internationalize U.S. Higher Education: Roles for all Institutions." The Summit was brought to a close with two afternoon workshops which focused on ways in which instructors might include subject area content from Africa and Southeast Asia respectively in their classes.
- Student Activities hosted a lecture by Olympian/author/activist Dr. John Carlos. This Black History Month-related event sold out with 347 patrons attending, 303 of which were Harper students. A dinner was held in Dr. Carlos' honor prior to the event with several Harper athletes and students.
- Through the Alliance for College Readiness strategy team, Harper is participating in an ICCB Literacy Grant Collaboration with Northern Illinois University and seven other community colleges. Through this collaboration, Harper hosted a Disciplinary Literacy workshop, *Crossroads in CTE and Literacy*, which was attended by Harper faculty and high school teachers within District 512.
- At the Transfer College Fair on February 21, an estimated 700+ students met with representatives from 73 colleges and universities. At the Adult Student Transfer Fair held that evening, approximately 150 adult students met with representatives from 27 colleges and universities.
- Last month (February) Harper's Wrestling Team participated in the NJCAA National Wrestling Championship in Rochester, Minnesota. Harper placed 8th overall, but finished second to Nassau College for the Non-Scholarship Highest Point Total Award. Three student athletes were recognized as All-Americans:
 - Chris Gonzalez – 8th, 157 lbs.
 - Charles Argue – 8th, 197 lbs.
 - Curtis Blaydes – Champion, 285 lbs. (Heavyweight)

- Nursing faculty Joanne Leski served on the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) Review Panel for Associate Degree Programs in Atlanta. The Peer Evaluation Review Panel verifies the findings of the visit team as presented in the Site Visitors' Report compared to the program self-study and catalog and makes a recommendation for accreditation status to the Commission.
- The Hospitality Department recently beta-tested a seminar and certification program for the International Food Service Executives Association. IFSEA hosted the District Managers of Quest Food Management Services. Professor Pat Beach provided a 4-hour seminar followed by the certification test. IFSEA currently certifies over 6,000 executives in the food services industry.
- Human Services faculty Valerie Walker provided the keynote presentation at the Palatine Kiwanis' Annual Awards Luncheon. The Human Services program and Human Services (HMS) Club have developed a collaborative partnership with Kiwanis for service learning opportunities which can benefit student assignments, HMS Club activities and community events.
- Student Conduct Officer Laura Bennett served as conference chair for the Association for Student Conduct Administration's national conference in February. She presented two programs: a panel on "Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment in the Community College Setting," with colleagues from Columbus State Community College and Waubensee Community College, and another titled "Considering What Matters: Current Practices in Campus Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment."
- The Admissions Outreach department has converted to a new product for the "Live Chat" feature on the Admission's page on the Harper website. The new product, Live Help Now, is proving to be a more intuitive and practical program with many useful features. This product assists the department in its ability to handle an increased volume of inquiries with higher efficiency, which helps to better serve our students and prospects.
- The Admissions Outreach department held a Health Care Information Session in the Wojcik Conference Center. Over 150 prospective health care students attended.
- Admission decisions have been made for four of the five limited enrollment health care degree programs. All openings were filled for the Dental Hygiene, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Cardiac Technology, and Radiologic Technology degree programs. The area continues to accept and process applications for the Cardiac Technology and Radiologic Technology program alternate lists; alternate lists for Dental Hygiene and Diagnostic Medical Sonography have already been identified. As has been the case in the past, admission into these programs is competitive. Admission decisions for the Nursing (RN) degree program as well as the Practical Nursing Certificate program will be made by the end of March.
- Richard Middleton-Kaplan's article "Teaching Peace," co-written with Patrick Henry, appears in the newest issue of *Peace Research: The Canadian Journal of Peace and Conflict Studies* (42.1-2). In the article, Richard describes teaching about peace and nonviolence at Harper in Fast Track, Honors, and English 101 classes, while Patrick discusses his experience teaching a seminar at Whitman College in Washington state.

- Faculty members Lin Cui, Mary Gawienowski, and Alice Roberts from the ESL and Linguistics Department presented “Flip the Switch: Helping Students Think in English” at the Illinois Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages – Bilingual Education (ITBE) 38th Annual Convention held in Lisle.
- Faculty members Judy Kulchawik from DAS, and Julie D’Agostino from Nursing, presented an Orientation Week session for faculty: “Contextualized Learning in Career Programs and Academics: What We Learned in Our Travels.” Judy Kulchawik was also named a member of the Multicultural Fellow Faculty Cohort for Curriculum Design.
- Faculty librarian Amy Kammerman facilitated a workshop for faculty titled “Infusing Research Skills.” This workshop examined the way students conduct research, how to design research projects for students, and how to assess students’ research skills. Amy was also invited to serve on the ACRL/CJCLS (Association of College and Research Libraries/Community and Junior College Libraries Section) Library Technical Assistant Education Committee.
- The One Book, One Harper program kicked off the spring semester with its third event for *The Ballad of Trenchmouth Taggart*. Delving into the theme of coal mine wars, labor unrest, union busting, and race relations, students, faculty, and community members came to a film screening of *Matewan* (offered on two separate dates). The final event of the week was an in-depth discussion with two experts in the discipline, Steve Rosswurm and Carl Oblinger, moderated by Jim Edstrom.
- The Tutoring Center has had a busy spring semester. In the past few weeks, the Center had 2,735 total student contacts; 3,143 contact hours; 954 students; 13 CTC student contacts.
- As a pilot, three Biology tutors have been scheduled for the first time for walk-in tutoring in the Harper College Library.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- Early enrollment in the InZone summer youth program is up 44% from the same period last year.
- The Fast Track area has been meeting with current students to review the realignment of the program. All Fast Track classes will be scheduled within designated semesters.

Communications Office

- The Marketing Department won EIGHT awards for marketing excellence from their peer organization, The Higher Education Marketing Report. Harper competes for these awards against other large community colleges as well as large four-year institutions. Harper won a Gold award for our *Daily Herald* inserts, silver awards for our annual report, course schedule, scavenger hunt poster, a bronze award for our spring registration promotion and merit awards for direct mail, our new mobile application and our cultural arts brochure.

In closing let me say how enormously impressed I was with the cast and crew who successfully opened "As You Like It" this past weekend. The seriousness the cast brought to their work, the professionalism of the stage, costume, set, audio, and program crews was so impressive. The play director, Kevin Long, demonstrated a level of excellence that exceeded my expectations. His attention to detail and passion for the people he works with while exploring the subject of drama, integrates and demonstrates the best in teaching and learning. I personally came away from my small role with a new appreciation for the courage one must have to seek a spot on the stage. I was humbled by our students and faculty alike. This was truly an awe-inspiring experience for me at Harper. Thank you Kevin!

Spring is here! Enjoy the warmer weather.

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