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President's Report

June 2013

The summer term is in full swing. We began an early start session immediately after commencement. On June 10, we began our “regular” summer semester, and we will have one additional late-start opportunity for students to complete coursework over the summer. Thus far, our summer enrollment is up about 1%, and we are tracking ahead of numbers from last year for Fall. This is not a trend we have seen for the last year or so—we are encouraged by the enrollment numbers thus far.

So, we have settled in after a memorable commencement ceremony which featured Assistant Secretary of Labor Jane Oates as the keynote speaker. We also “celebrated” our new graduates with Harper Alumni license plate covers which they received as they exited the commencement ceremony. We have one more commencement to go. This Friday night (June 21 at 7:00 p.m.) we will celebrate all those who have earned their GED with us this year. For many families this is a transforming moment and the celebration is joyful. We invite the Board to join us for the ceremony.

The 25th Annual Harper College Foundation Golf Outing was a huge success. The weather was perfect, the course challenging, and the golfers were gracious and generous. The final totals are still being tabulated and all the money raised will be used to support scholarships for our students. Many thanks to the Golf Committee, our sponsors and Harper faculty and staff who supported the effort by measuring puts, drives, and figuring out who was closest to the pin!

This time last year, the entrances and ring road were under construction. This year, we begin major renovations to Building H which will house our career and technical programs. These programs were temporarily moved to Building D two years ago. Building H is a state-funded project so we remained patient and diligent in following State rules and procedures. In addition, we will be creating interim parking capacity while we begin construction of a parking structure on the east side of campus. This interim parking will be ready by fall. Finally, we continue with our maintenance projects which include roof replacements, repairing masonry and the like. This month, Sightlines, a facilities research group, will be providing the Board with a presentation as to how Harper is doing with deferred maintenance and utilities as compared to comparable colleges. Tom Crylen and Darryl Knight have been doing a fantastic job managing these complex projects.

Included in the Board packet this month are several notable items. The Board will take the first step in approving next year's budget. This process began last December when Ron Ally reviewed the five-year financial plan. The revision of the shared governance system is also

presented in this month's packet. The process used in modifying shared governance was inclusive and iterative. Much of the feedback received from the campus community was incorporated in the design of the new system. Enhancements include consistency in how recommendations flow through the approval process, wider vetting of recommendations, and improved communication. The cornerstones of the new system are two policy councils which will review and consider recommendations.

Earlier this month I received the reports and recommendations from our two College-wide task forces: Job Placement Task Force and Diversity and Inclusion Task Force. We are reviewing the recommendations carefully as they have both strategic and budgetary ramifications. We will report to the Board in July the recommendations and our next steps. In both cases, the Task Forces were diligent in responding to the President's charge and have done some fine professional work.

Below are notable accomplishments and activities.

Student Success

- As part of our Success Strategies, we are implementing a new student testing process this summer to accommodate a 17% increase in students needing placement testing; 713 new degree-seeking summer and fall students have already been tested. In addition, the COMPASS testing at our partner high schools is underway with more than 4,500 exams administered so far this spring. Although testing is continuing through early June, we have already experienced a 30% increase in spring semester high school testing.
- Fire Science faculty member Sam Giordano was named one of the top 14 Fire Science Instructors in the Midwest for 2013. The top instructors list highlights fire science educators who have performed excellent in the classroom, on campus, and in the community.
- The recent Aligning Skills conference that Harper hosted in April created a new partnership with The Gap. The Gap representative who attended the conference was able to tour Studio V and was very impressed. As a result, Harper is now participating in *The Gap For Community Colleges-Partnership Program*. This program is designed to help prepare community college students for the workforce through on-campus and in-store learning. Gap Inc. employees facilitate workshops for the students and there is an opportunity for students to gain valuable insight by participating in Job Shadow assignments in the stores. Upon completion of the program, there is the possibility for employment at Gap Inc. and the chance to be awarded scholarships for those students who have completed the courses.
- Matthew McLaughlin, Admissions & Testing Manager, and Michael Szela, ERP Systems Technical Manager, presented at the Ellucian Illinois Conference which was held at Joliet Junior College on May 21. Their conference presentation, "Placement for Success: Synthesizing and Streamlining Students' Course Placement" outlined the system Harper has implemented which automatically synthesizes placement data from Banner to clearly articulate placement results. More than 400 participants representing over 60 Illinois colleges and universities who use the Banner and Colleague systems attended this conference in an effort to share best practices and creative solutions.
- Efforts to internationalize Harper College have taken off this year. With an emphasis on short-term international courses led by Harper faculty, we offered 5 programs, visited 7

countries, and had 58 students participate. In the winter, students completed biology research in the tropical rainforest of Costa Rica. In spring, students studied humanities in Austria and Germany. This summer, students are studying art and humanities in Turkey and Greece, completing a sociology research project in London, and learning Spanish in Ecuador. Additionally, seven students spent a full semester abroad this past year through the Illinois Consortium of International Studies and Programs studying in England, Ireland, Costa Rica, and Japan.

- Six student athletes received NJCAA awards for academic achievement. Samantha Wallenberg (volleyball), Kelly Sommers (volleyball), Sancha Ogden (women's soccer/basketball), and Zach Hummel (wrestling) won the award for Superior Academic Achievement (3.80 - 3.99 GPA). Bree Nishibun (women's soccer/softball) and Mitsui Ishioka (women's soccer) won the award for Exemplary Academic Achievement (3.60 – 3.79 GPA). Six out of the twelve Harper teams had an average fall-spring GPA of 3.0 or higher. All of the teams had an average fall-spring GPA of 2.0 or higher.
- The annual Academic Convocation was held on May 9. This year 112 graduates were recognized for outstanding academic achievement and distinctions in their disciplines, including 27 graduates with 4.0 grade point averages. Dr. Ken Ender and Dr. Judy Marwick presided over the ceremony and recognized each of the honored graduates. Many of the teaching faculty and advisors for the various honors programs and societies were present to recognize the academic achievements of the graduates. About 440 guests attended the ceremony. Special honors included: the James Brown Memorial Honors Transfer Award was given to A.J. De Villa; the Professor Powell and Larry Moats Extra Five Minutes Faculty Award was awarded to Dr. Alicia Tomasian; and Trustee Laurie Stone was recognized as the James J. McGrath Awardee. Speakers for the evening included: honoree A.J. DeVilla; Elisa Galvan and Kelli Halfman, who both received the Motorola Solutions Foundation Award for Excellence; and Elizabeth Minicz, distinguished faculty member; who received the Motorola Solutions Foundation Endowed Award for Teaching Excellence.
- The 2013 Harper College Commencement Ceremony was held on May 18. We were honored to have Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA), give the commencement address and receive an honorary degree from Harper College. There were 541 students who attended the ceremony along with 164 faculty and administrators and about 3,000 guests.

Below is a copy of a letter from an adult graduate who wrote a letter of appreciation to the Women's Program:

This is Teneisha Hall. I wanted to let you know that I graduated May 18th from the Dental Hygiene program. I truly couldn't have done it without your help. I still remember the first meeting we had where we sat down and went over all the pre-requisites I needed to complete before I could even apply to the program. Thank you so much, Susan!!!! The Women's Program has helped me with advice, resources, scholarships, and books. Most of all, you helped me realize my dreams. Thank Joan (Prendergast) for me!!! She was the best with finding scholarships for me to apply to. I once believed that scholarships were for high school grads and A students. However, she showed me that there were plenty of opportunities for me to apply for. Once I was awarded the scholarship from the Women's Program, I applied for three other scholarships and won them all. The staff was always nice and courteous to me. I hope that Mr. & Mrs. Canning know how helpful and hard-working you all are! From the bottom of my heart - Thank you all!!!!

Physical Plant

- The Capital Development Board has finally approved construction on Building H to begin and interior demolition is underway. Barring any further delays, occupancy is scheduled to occur over winter break of 2014 so the building is on line for the spring 2015 semester.
- Pending Board of Trustees approval this month, Physical Plant will immediately begin the following projects in order to have them completed before the upcoming fall semester:
 - As part of the interim parking project we will begin constructing temporary contractor staging and additional parking spaces to offset those lost due to several east campus construction projects. This will include space for equipment and materials on the northeast corner of campus, approximately 138 additional parking spaces between Lot 1 and the baseball field, and approximately 30 parallel parking spaces on a currently unused section of Ring Road on the north side of campus. The existing hammer/discus throw area will be permanently relocated to the west of the softball field to better serve our student athletes.
 - To prepare for new CNC equipment for the manufacturing program the existing Welding Lab in Building D will be modified. These machines will ultimately reside in Building H when that project is completed.
- Last week we experienced a ceiling failure in Building E while new roofing was being installed. Work has been halted on that project as forensic work is being conducted to analyze the cause for the failure. We will have more information to share on this project next month.

Information Technology

- Phase Two of the project to replace Telemagic with Microsoft Dynamics for Harper College for Businesses was completed. Phase Two provides support for Business Edvantage, where students can qualify for in-district rates through a business partnership with the College.
- The Information Technology team provided and installed new video networking technologies that allowed the graduation ceremony to be broadcast live in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). This included video, audio, and closed captioning so individuals in the PAC had a clear view of the entire ceremony.
- Completed the Banner Financial Aid system upgrade which provides access to the latest regulatory updates and adding several feature enhancements.
- During May, the Technical Services team installed a document scanning system for the Accounting Department. This scanning station allows the scanning and storage of payment related documentation, saving significant storage space and providing faster retrieval of archived documents. The Servers team installed new servers to support management of document fonts, provide redundant servers for the IT disaster recovery response system, and provide a development environment for new Microsoft SharePoint projects. The Technical

Services team installed upgrades to the Sorensen Video Phone systems which assist hearing impaired students. And a number of security systems were updated which support Harper's voicemail, service desk, and Chase banking systems.

- The SARS system, used by academic advisors to schedule student appointments, was upgraded to the most current version, thereby maintaining support with the vendor.

Human Resources

- Paula Saltzman attended the National Conference of Race and Ethnicity in New Orleans. As a new National Advisory Council member, Paula became a member of the Career, Job Placement & HR committee and met with committee members several times during the conference to plan for future events.

Police Department

- Chief Alsup was recognized with a State Senate Resolution in recognition of his service to the Northwest Suburban Alliance on Domestic Violence in 2012 by Senator Matt Murphy.

Finance and Administrative Services

- Ron Ally has accepted an invitation from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) to serve on a team working on a project funded by the Gates Foundation. The project will have two primary products, a set of best practices that document optimal approaches for aligning financial resources with student achievement through the budget process, and an award program wherein educational institutions can be recognized for incorporating these best practices into their budget processes.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The final goal leaders' meeting for FY13 was held. A new dashboard was presented to the group. Current strategies were reviewed and new strategies that evolved from the recent strategic planning retreat were reviewed.
- The NEC research project was completed. Results will be presented at the July Committee Meeting of the Whole.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- The InZone (summer youth camp) program is in full swing. The program is experiencing record enrollment. Campers are participating in various sports camps, and taking courses in world languages, computers, art, music, science, cooking and are participating in many other exciting activities.

- The Small Business Development Center in collaboration with the Computer Training department in Continuing Education started a program that matches new small business owners with students in web development courses. The students' capstone experience is to develop a website for those small businesses. A win/win for all!

Advancement

- The Educational Foundation held its quarterly meeting in early June. Elizabeth Minich, who received the Motorola Faculty Award was honored. In addition, Jose Vital, faculty coordinator from the HVAC program, met a senior executive from Grainger—to thank them for a \$10,000 contribution for the HVAC program.
- A feasibility study is underway to determine if the Foundation should engage in a major gifts program in conjunction with the College's 50th Anniversary which will occur in a little less than five years.

Legislative Relations

The Illinois General Assembly wrapped up a disappointing spring session on May 31. While lawmakers passed some large bills such as Medicare reform, legalization of medical marijuana and an economic development package, they failed to pass desperately needed pension reform and the State still faces a \$7.5 billion backlog in unpaid bills. Community colleges fared about as well as could be expected given the State's poor fiscal condition. State funding for community colleges will be about the same as last year. A proposal to slowly shift the cost of pensions from the State and onto community colleges and state universities passed the Illinois House but was defeated in the Senate. Governor Quinn has called the legislature back into session June 19 to deal with the pension issue.

All six constitutional officers, including the Governor, all state representatives, and 1/3 of the Illinois Senate are up for reelection next November. Campaigns will begin in earnest this summer. Governor Quinn will have at least one and possibly two primary challengers.

Media Relations

- The *Chicago Tribune* featured Harper in a front-page story on bachelor's degree-holders returning to community colleges for better career prospects.
- A new student docent program run by our Observatory was the cover story in the *Barrington Courier-Review* on May 23.
- The *Daily Herald* featured our winning NASA rocket team in a front-page story on Memorial Day.
- The *Daily Herald* covered graduation with a color spread on May 18, with a focus on high-schoolers getting a head start via dual credit.

Community Relations

- We wrapped up our elementary and middle school field trip season in May by hosting 120 students. In all, we hosted more than 1,000 fifth- through eighth-graders this year through 12 campus field trips that included classroom and lab visits and mini-lectures from professors.
- We'll host a delegation of 20 Chinese educators on Tuesday, June 25 and Wednesday, June 26 as part of an AACCC-supported program that will expose the educators, all from two-year and vocational colleges in China, to the U.S. community college system. While on campus, they'll spend time with Chinese students and faculty; tour campus; and hear from administrators, faculty and staff regarding Harper partnerships, initiatives, and career training.
- Former Trustee and Educational Foundation Board Member Kris Howard Jensen was interviewed for an audio history project through the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield on the subject of community colleges. Harper will be among the colleges featured as part of the project. We were approached by the team doing the interviews and selected Kris as the interviewee based on her diverse experiences with Harper.
- Vicki Atkinson spoke at the Arlington Heights Memorial Library on the subject of the "Boomerang Generation" – young adults returning to live with their parents. This was a request through our Community Relations Speaker's Bureau, and Atkinson's lecture earned a mention in the *Daily Herald*.
- Jeff Przybylo spoke at the Palatine Library twice – June 6 and June 13 – on the subject of using public speaking skills to do better interviews. This was a request through our Speaker's Bureau, and we've heard from the Library that Przybylo's presentation was extremely well-received.
- Dr. Ender will address the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce on Thursday, June 27, providing an overview of Harper's student success initiatives.
- Emergency Management instructor David Gervino addressed the Barrington Women's Biz Net group May 30 on the topic of disaster preparedness.

Finally, I wish to end my report with two very significant student achievements. Our "rocket team" placed fourth in this spring's NASA University Student Launch Initiative, where 36 colleges and universities designed and built reusable rockets that could fly one mile into space and safely return their payloads to Earth. Coming in fourth meant Harper beat teams from Northwestern University and MIT. The competition required each rocket to carry one payload, but the Harper rocket team had three: a nose cone; a science mission directorate, and a walking robot. This is a remarkable achievement.

Second, Harper's Track and Field team experienced great success at national finals. Our women took 7th place and had national champions in the 800m, and 3200m. The men placed 2nd and had national champions in the hammer, and 3200m relay. The men also had All Americans in the 800m, 5k, and high jump.

So, summer is underway! We will host our annual Jazz Concert on the plaza beside the lake this Thursday night. Please join us as we continue to celebrate the wonderful achievements of our students, faculty and staff. We have lots to be proud of!

Ken