

President's Report

August 2012

There is certainly a feeling of autumn in the air! As we approach the beginning of the new term, the crisp dry air is a welcome relief. We have begun the launch period for the fall semester with the first of many welcoming and orientation events for new faculty. New adjunct faculty were welcomed with a four-hour workshop/orientation session. It was wonderful to experience their excitement as they join Harper and anticipate meeting new colleagues and students. Barbara Small and the CAFÉ group did a terrific job with the session. Later this week, I will welcome all new full-time faculty with a reception at my home. This has become a tradition that I look forward to each year.

We are anticipating the arrival of Dr. Mary Knight, our new Chief Advancement Officer and Executive Director of Harper's Educational Foundation. Mary brings talent, energy and rich experience in fundraising to us. We look forward to introducing her to the College community at the President's All Campus Meeting on August 14, and to the full Board at the Regular Board meeting on August 15. Mary's husband, Dr. Robert Knight will be here as well—we look forward to welcoming them both. I wish to thank members of the Search Committee who worked diligently to screen the talented pool of candidates we were able to attract through a national search. The Search Committee was chaired by Lisa Dietlin and included Rita Canning, Tom Wischhusen, Lane Moyer, Mary Jo Willis, Martha Bell, Sam Oliver, Phil Burdick, Joan Kindle, Tom Dowd, Jeff Przybylo, and Fredia Martin.

Our fall semester enrollment numbers are disappointing. We will certainly fall short of the enrollment projection used to estimate revenue from tuition, which is a critical component of our annual budget. While enrollment levels do not define success at Harper, they are an important aspect of our budget. Currently we are 9% down overall in full time equivalency (FTE). Our traditional age cohort (directly out of high school) is the only group that appears to be stable. We appear to be losing young adult (ages 20-24) and adult (25 and over) students. The exact reason is uncertain at this point. We believe that some of the loss is due to process issues. Other factors such as scheduling and program development are being reviewed. We also appear to be dropping students for non-payment in large numbers. We are experiencing quite a diminution in our liberal arts courses where enrollment has fallen off significantly. On the other hand, our new manufacturing program is over prescribed and additional capacity was added to meet demand. We continue to analyze the cause of this trend to better understand the current motivation of students as they seek educational pathways and will report on this further as we complete the analysis. With respect to the unmet revenue projections, we have taken steps to slow down our hiring until we see final enrollment numbers. We will size the institution so that there is alignment between our personnel, scope of services, and size of the student body. There is no doubt that our budget will be balanced.

The parking lots are complete! Kudos to Tom Crylen and his team for a job well done. The reconfiguration of the Roselle Road entrance will not be complete at the beginning of the fall term, by design. It is anticipated that it will open in late September. Currently, the new landscaping is being planted and it looks terrific. Tom did an excellent job communicating to the College community over the summer about this complex project and set a high expectation for continuing communications as we roll out other construction projects. Carolyn Muci, our internal communications manager, led these communication efforts and worked closely with Tom and his team. This was truly a team effort!

Below are some notable activities and accomplishments.

Student Success

- The REACH Summer Bridge 2012 cohort of 105 students successfully completed the two-week program. The 2012 cohort increased by 50% from the 2011 cohort (70). Students are re-testing and preparing for fall semester.
- The 3rd Annual Latino and African American Parent Orientations were held on July 31 and August 1; 160 parents and students were in attendance. These specialized orientations provide parents with basic information about Harper, the college experience in general and the support services available to their student. Parents have the benefit of meeting Latino and African American faculty and staff which provides an additional opportunity to build community.
- For the months of April, May and June a total of 25 students self-reported that they have successfully passed the GED test.
- Twenty-five students successfully completed the Choice Scholars program.
- Faculty member Jane Suárez del Real, Adult Educational Department, attended the Summer Institute for Learning Communities at Evergreen State College in Olympia, WA with a group from Harper College. The institute is sponsored by the Washington Center whose goal is to improve the quality of undergraduate education.
- Faculty members Ellen Fisher and Alice Roberts and Dr. Kenya Ayers, Dean, accompanied 42 students of the International Students' Club to Chicago. A photo journal of the trip is available on the Harper College International Students' Club Facebook page.
- Drs. Ken and Cathy Ender hosted the International Students' Club at their home for a traditional American picnic.
- English faculty member Kurt Hemmer's reviews of the films *Words of Advice: William S. Burroughs on the Road* and *The Beat Hotel* have been published in *The Beat Studies Review*, volume 6, issue 2.
- Kevin Long, Director of Theater, recently participated with the Muse of Fire Theater Company in Evanston in a staged reading of the play *Fuente Ovejuna* by Lope de Vega. Kevin played Ferdinand the King.

Physical Plant

- The summer months may be a time to relax for many, but certainly not for Physical Plant. In fact, it is traditionally the time of year when staff is working even harder to make campus a safer, more comfortable and functional environment for the next academic year. The most significant improvements this year were those to the north campus parking lots and roadways, which will significantly improve safety and sustainability while continuing to beautify the campus. New environmentally friendly roofs, windows, and doors were installed at several locations, in addition to implementing a substantial amount of tuck-pointing and concrete sealant work on building exteriors. More noticeable work includes refreshing classrooms and offices, and installing new furnishings and carpet along heavily traveled corridors. This work could not have been completed so quickly without the understanding and cooperation of faculty, staff, students, and visitors. For that, we remain extremely grateful.

Human Resources

- It is with sincere appreciation that the Human Resources area thanks and recognizes the following individuals who served as members of Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) teams that recently negotiated new collective-bargaining agreements.
 - *Pro-Tech/ Administration Negotiations Team*
The Unit was represented by Marie Eibl, Terry Engle, Martha Karavitis-Hemmati, Margie Sedano, and Mike Vanlandingham. Administration was represented by Patrick Bauer, Maria Coons, Lisa Helwink, Joan Kindle, and Roger Spayer. Dave Richmond was the Local 1600 Representative, and Evelyn Seiler was the Recorder.
 - *IEA-NEA, Local 512/ Administration Negotiations Team*
The Unit was represented by Darin Buckman, Al Cannestra, Dave Cross, Denise “Dee Dee” Farwell, and Chris Zastrow. Administration was represented by Ron Ally, Angela Bowling, Tom Crylen, Michelé Robinson, and Roger Spayer. Amy Kunz was the IEA-NEA Uniserve Director and Julie Riley was the Recorder.

Information Technology

- The Student Information System Upgrade was successfully completed. This represents a major upgrade of the student information system (Banner) to the most current release (8.5.3). The upgrade was a large project for Information Technology and the user departments, and included infrastructure enhancements to ensure the performance and stability of this critical system.
- Completed the development and implementation of the supporting infrastructure of a web-based application to support maintenance of the Offices and Buildings directories in the mobile application. Maintenance was previously a manual process by the Office of Student Development, which now becomes fully automated with each area able to update information in the directory.

- Completed the upgrade of Dental Hygiene’s Exan system to the latest release. Exan is the system used to maintain patient information (charts, appointments, digital images, and more).
- Information Technology launched phase 3 enhancements of the College’s mobile application for the iOS and Android platforms. The enhancements include: an academic calendar, an IT services module, a transit module, and a survey module for users of the application to provide feedback.
- The Technical Services servers and network team deployed a number of new servers as part of an ongoing replacement and server virtualization project. New servers deployed in July support the new Exchange 2010 Email system, Cognos Business Intelligence system, and Flex-Reg.
- During July, Technical Services staff completed the move of 1,216 administrator and full-time faculty email accounts to a new email system. This is part of a larger email infrastructure upgrade which provides greater capacity and improved availability.

Planning and Institutional Effectiveness

- The College Plan which includes the annual operating and capital budgets, operational plan, annual strategic plan initiatives, and College priorities was completed. This was collaborative effort that involved input from Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, the Budget Office, and the major divisions of the College.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- A welcome dinner which included professional development sessions was held for faculty teaching in Continuing Education. A major focus was placed on the “flipped classroom” which requires students to complete reading assignments and other preparatory work on their own. Classroom time is then dedicated to application of the content.
- The Workforce and Economic Development area participated in an open house at the Arlington Heights workNet Center that welcomed Amy Santacaterina, the workforce executive who will be overseeing our area within the newly formed Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership.
- The College’s Illinois Small Business Development Center welcomes a new manager, Tom Cassell. Tom brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position. A special thanks to the Search Committee which included Nancy Wajler, Ursula Digman, Joan Dubnicka, and Julie Hennig.

Across the entire campus, we anticipate students returning in a few short weeks. As I walk around, I have experienced the hustle and bustle of the College preparing for the arrival of thousands of new students. The campus looks wonderful as many summer projects have been completed. A very special thanks to our Roads and Grounds, Maintenance, and other Physical

Plant personnel, IT and many, many classified staff employees who have worked very hard to assure a smooth opening. Thank you.

In closing, I wish to extend a personal invitation to the Board to join us on September 22 for the 45th Anniversary Gala. This is a signature event for the Foundation. It also represents Mary's first major event, and is a very special occasion for the College. Board support is very much appreciated. I also want to extend a very heartfelt thanks to Lisa Dietlin for a job well done serving as our Interim Chief Advancement Officer. Lisa assured a smooth operation and brought mature leadership and stability to the team and the Foundation Board. We will build off of her good work.

Thank you and I look forward to launching a successful fall 2012 semester!

Ken