

President's Report

October 2011

It's mid-term! We are definitely in the middle of the fall term as mid-term examinations are just being completed and many students and their faculty are looking for the adjustments they must make to assure a successful semester. Chief among our strategies this year to assist students is the roll-out of an "early alert" system. This involves linking faculty, students who are at risk and counselors. This week at our Board meeting, we will be introduced to this new system by the staff in Student Development and members of our strategic goal team who are working on this intervention.

October also signals the end of the first quarter of FY 12. Below is a brief update on the president's goals that I would like to share with you.

The process for developing goal metrics for our Institutional Effectiveness Measures (IEM's) is well underway. We have completed the process of goal identification for our strategic plan and operating plan and have put a process in place to identify metrics for the IEM's. This work will be informed by the annual Association for Community College Trustees (ACCT) conference held this past week. There, many of the members of our delegation were introduced to similar projects being developed by other community colleges. We will continue to consult with these institutions as we refine our own goals.

We are on schedule with the timeline we developed to complete the compensation study and contract negotiations. We should have the results of the compensation study by the end of November, and will begin our training on "interest-based bargaining" in January. We have identified negotiating teams to represent the Board for the Professional/Technical, Maintenance/Custodial, ICOPS, and Adjunct groups. We are well positioned for a timely completion of negotiations.

Our governance system review is underway. The review will be conducted by a steering committee that the President will convene. Membership on the committee will consist of the current governance system's Oversight Committee and will be augmented by campus employee and student groups not currently assigned to this Committee. We are also examining other colleges' campus governance organizing models, reviewing current professional literature on the subject, and seeking the assistance of consultants known in this area. We intend to have a good understanding of contemporary college governance models by June 30, 2012.

The review of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Foundation Board is now complete with the Board of Trustees poised to renew the MOU in January. We are also scheduled to bring the two Boards together on February 9, 2012 in a joint workshop setting. The respective chairs of both groups have met twice thus far with quarterly meetings continuing to be scheduled.

The Board has authorized the business plan for the Workforce Development and Strategic Alliances Division and the implementation plan is underway.

So, a great deal of progress has been made on the yearly goals and we will continue to update the Board as the year unfolds.

We are extremely proud to share the news that Harper College has been asked to provide Congressional testimony on the value of “undergraduate” research. Dr. Marwick will be accompanied by one of Harper’s Chemistry students, Jim Tufts, this month in support of continued research funding at community colleges across the country. This is a result of the good work that has come from our successful National Science Foundation grant that was awarded to Harper a few years ago. Congratulations to all who are involved!

Professor Jeff Przybylo, in his role as Vice President of Phi Rho Pi, National Community College Forensics Association, has been instrumental in bringing the Speech & Debate National Tournament to Schaumburg in April 2012. This event will bring community colleges from across the nation to our local area. In conjunction with the tournament, 25 years of Harper College Speech and Debate Team alumni will be invited to a reunion hosted by Harper College.

Our sports teams are completing their fall schedules and there has been plenty of joy and agony associated with these competitions. This weekend the Harper Football team will travel to Grand Rapids for the third annual “Twin Bowl.” Grand Rapids is tough again this year so think good thoughts on Saturday afternoon. Below are the Harper team records for fall semester sports:

Team	Record (Conference Record)
Football	2-5 (0-5)
Men’s Soccer	5-7 (4-5)
Women’s Soccer	8-5 (4-2)
Volleyball	30-11 (9-4)
Men’s Cross Country	Currently, ranked 2 nd in the nation

Other items of note:

Information Technology

- The Starfish Early Alert software system has been implemented. The system provides the capability for faculty to notify counselors and other success-related services of the College that a student is in need of support.
- Technical Services staff completed the implementation of Ultralink, which is a cloud-based solution for the Diagnostic Imaging Department. This application gives students the ability to send and view their ultrasound images from a website which can be accessed from

anywhere. Faculty can also grade the images and give feedback on this website. Prior to this, students could only view their ultrasounds in the X-134 lab.

- Daily Business Intelligence was re-launched with changes to align with the College's implementation of the E-Business Suite. Daily Business Intelligence is an integrated reporting and analysis application that enables users to view relevant financial information using self-service dashboards.
- A Student Information System workflow was created that allows students to systematically request an override into a class. The process includes electronic transmission of the request to an appropriate College approver, and notification to Enrollment Services that the student can be admitted to a particular class/section, as well as a communication back to the student of approval or denial of the request.
- The employee and student portal login screens have been redeveloped in an effort to resemble the "look and feel" of the new College website.

Finance

- After the February 2, 2011 snowstorm, when the campus was hit by almost 20 inches of snow, the College completed and filed the necessary paperwork for a public assistance grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA). In September, notification was received that FEMA had approved our grant request and will be issuing a check for \$43,804.26 to cover some of the labor and equipment costs associated with the snow and ice removal.
- Ron Ally presented with Tom Huberty of Sightlines on "Navigating the Facilities Woods – Peer Insights on Creating a Knowledge Base 'Map' of Strategic Facilities Information" at the Central Association of College and University Business Officers Annual Conference.

Physical Plant

- It is with regret that we learned of the sudden passing of Lucy Wilder, a member of our custodial services. Lucy passed away on September 29, 2011.

Human Resources

- Collective Bargaining Units Merger - On Tuesday, October 4, the Illinois Education Labor Board (IELRB) conducted an election to determine whether the Harper College Counselors and Librarians collective bargaining unit should merge with the College's Adjunct-Faculty unit (HCAFA), both of which are represented by the IEA-NEA. As the result of a unanimous majority vote (18-0), the two collective bargaining units will merge to form one collective unit, under the HCAFA, IEA-NEA. Both Harper College and the respective collective bargaining units petitioned the IELRB for the merger and view its success as a mutual interest.

- Employee Appreciation/Harvest Fest 2011 – On October 20, from 3:00 – 4:30 pm, the College will hold a mid-semester appreciation event for all faculty and staff. The event, Harvest Fest 2011, will include light food, music, fellowship, and a scarecrow building contest. Additionally, staff is encouraged to bring a canned good (or two) to donate to the Palatine Food Pantry. The Food Pantry serves more than 250 local families and individuals each month. Collection boxes will be available at Harvest Fest. We hope to build a fall tradition of formally celebrating our staff in an informal manner that is short on speeches and long on thank you's; and as an individual community, give back to those in our District who are in need.

Student Success and Engagement

- Jeff Przybylo was recognized at the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association's 81st Annual Convention with the 2011 Edith Marjorie Harrod Award.
- Kevin Long attended the Illinois Speech and Theatre Association's 81st Annual Convention and Workshops and presented a highly successful workshop entitled, "Directing the Student Actor." In addition, Kevin is on the Executive Board of ISTA as the Theatre Representative and was responsible for creating, developing, and staffing all of the theatre workshops at the convention.
- Department of Music Chair, Greg Clemons, was an adjudicator on Saturday, September 24th, for the **24th Annual Falcon Marching Band Festival** at Wheaton North High School. Greg judged the musical performance of 16 of the top high school marching bands from the Chicago area. This was Greg's seventh consecutive year as head of the festival panel of judges.
- Members of the Department of Music faculty recently hosted the **7th Annual Illinois All-State Band Audition Clinic** in Harper's Performing Arts Center.
- Law Enforcement and Justice Administration Adjunct Faculty member Donald P. Koz was recently admitted to Universal Martial Arts Hall of Fame.
- Harper College's Fire Science Technology Department staged a live, public demonstration for Harper's fire science students and the community. The two chambers, erected side by side and furnished like living rooms, were set ablaze and extinguished by Palatine firefighters in full gear to demonstrate the effectiveness of home fire sprinkler systems. It was a great contextual learning experience for all involved.
- Recently, District 15 honored Harper math mentor, Krish Revuluri. Krish has volunteered for 25 years to prepare District 15 teams for the national middle school MathCounts program, which promotes mathematics achievement through a series of "spelling bee" style contests.
- Dave Braunschweig achieved CompTIA Project+ certification. CompTIA Project+ is a globally recognized project management certification that identifies qualified and quality project managers.

- All openings for the Spring 2012 Nursing Program were filled as of the September 15, 2011 initial priority deadline. Applications received represent a 100% increase over the same time last year, and the number of qualified applicants also doubled. An alternate list has also been identified.
- Carrie Gorr, Academic Advisor, became a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC).
- Lois Hudak, AED adjunct faculty, earned a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction through Concordia University Chicago. She has also been appointed to the board of the Women's Leadership Institute of Concordia University Wisconsin.
- Paul Peterson, Instructor in Academic Enrichment and Engagement, published his fourth pictorial history with Arcadia. *Chicago Stadium* was released on October 3, 2011. Paul also served as co-author with Department of Academic Success colleague Judy Kulchawik on the book, *Crossing Borders in Reading and Writing* through Kendall-Hunt Publishers. The book is being used as a pilot text in Reading 099 and English 098.
- Alina Pajtek, Assistant Professor in Academic Enrichment and Engagement, has defended her dissertation at University Park, Pennsylvania. Congratulations Dr. Pajtek!
- "Keenan," a documentary produced by Harper faculty Kurt Hemmer and Tom Knoff received the "Grand Festival Award – Arts" at the Berkeley Video Film Festival.
- Students receive a monthly E-blast in their Harper email from Success Services for Students. This year, each E-blast contains a study tip of the month. Time Management was the topic for the September study tip.
- Student Activities held the Club Leadership Retreat on Friday, September 16, which allows student leaders to develop and practice their skills. Seventy-seven student leaders participated, representing 16 of our clubs and organizations.
- In support of Hispanic Heritage Month, Student Activities sponsored Alina Fernandez, Fidel Castro's daughter, in the Performing Arts Center on September 21; 390 patrons attended (94% capacity).
- Student Activities hosted internationally acclaimed author and religious scholar, Dr. Reza Aslan, who spoke on the topic, "The Changing Middle East." Aslan appears regularly on the Emmy –award-winning *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, *The Colbert Report*, and *Real Time with Bill Maher*. Dr. Aslan visited with 30 PTK/Honors Society students during a regularly scheduled meeting, and then joined 10 PTK and MSA students for dinner, prior to his speaking engagement. Attendance for his evening lecture was 213.

Workforce and Strategic Alliances

- A manufacturing summit was held in early October to gather information on workforce needs from area manufacturers that cannot fill vacancies. Over 50 attended the event. As a result, Harper is reviewing current curricula that will help train workers for these positions.

In closing, I wish to thank all of the Trustees who were able to take time from their busy lives to attend the recent ACCT annual meeting this past week. The meeting was very good this year and I thought our own work was enhanced by the learning we experienced in Dallas. Clearly, there are a number of institutions working on the same tough goals we are: completion, accountability, closing achievement gaps, and maintaining accessibility. Higher education, and in particular community colleges, are in a different era. We have enormous threats, as well as wonderful opportunities. These national conferences always provide an important perspective on the work that we do. The awareness Trustees take away from these gatherings is enormously helpful in providing context and motivation. Thanks again to those of you who attended.

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