January 19, 2016

Provost Lynn Mahoney

Winter quarter is off to an excellent start. Nationally, average unit load is considered a key indicator of student success. Thanks to our faculty, department chairs, associate deans and academic advisors, our students are registered for the highest average unit load in the university's history (details below in the Enrollment Update). Early indications are that we will also have a record number of students graduating and attending commencement in June. These signs all point to a strong future for Cal State LA—but that future depends on a shared vision and commitment to working together towards continued improvement.

To that end, Cal State LA has recently launched a strategic planning process to help us achieve our goals. The Strategic Planning Coordination Committee, in partnership with Blue Beyond Consulting, is coordinating the strategic planning process.

The goal is to ensure that this process is highly collaborative and inclusive to allow everyone an opportunity for their voices to be heard. Over the course of the next few months, we will be hosting a series of strategic planning workshops, meetings, and engagement opportunities for faculty, staff, students, and administrators to engage in interactive dialogue and offer input and feedback to inform the development of the strategic plan.

Additionally, we will be communicating with you regularly to share updates about the strategic planning process. One way you can stay informed is by visiting our Strategic Planning website where we will post regular updates. The website
includes an overview of the strategic planning process and timeline, opportunities for participation, and a way to offer direct feedback.

This strategic planning process is vital. It will enable us as a community to identify our core values, establish our priorities, and align around a shared vision of our future. Our success as a university depends upon us working together to draft and implement a strategic plan that charts our course for a sustainable future. I encourage all members of our Cal State LA community to actively participate and contribute to this process.

Did you know...?

Over 87% of Cal State Los Angeles incoming freshmen agree with the statement "Through hard work, everybody can succeed in American Society."

You can find more interesting facts in the 2014 Freshmen Survey.

Enrollment Update

Vice Provost Amy Bippus

As we approach the January 25 census data for Winter 2016, all signs point to this being a particularly positive term for our campus. As the Provost mentioned, our average unit load for undergraduates has hit an all-time high of 13.2 units, with 86.2% of our undergraduates enrolled in full-time (12 units or more). This shows that our departments and faculty have done a commendable job in offering adequate courses for students to make timely progress toward graduation. We also have a record number of students who have applied for graduation at this point, up by more than one-third over last year at this time. This tells us that students have benefitted from the information campaigns and individual Advising Plans that have clarified their paths to graduation ahead of the conversion to semesters this coming fall.
We also have received a record number of undergraduate applications for next Fall term, representing an increase of over 14% as compared to last year. Cal State LA had the largest increase in the number of transfer applications across all CSU campuses, representing a nearly 20% increase to over 19,600. We also received just under 35,000 first time freshman applications, an 11.5% increase over last year and the second largest increase across the CSU system. While the campus is aiming to hold to the same enrollment as this past Fall term, this increase in application is a welcome indicator that Cal State LA is raising its profile and evolving as a destination campus.

Cal State LA’s Downtown Campus Opens

Eric Bullard, Dean for the College of Professional and Global Education

On Monday, January 25th, 2016 Cal State LA welcomed students to its new Downtown LA Campus. Strategically located at the intersection of 8th Street and Grand Avenue in the heart of a revitalizing neighborhood, the modern facility includes state of the art classrooms, computer labs featuring the latest in technology, comfortable student lounge areas, and collaborative workspaces. The new, urban campus provides working professionals, individuals in career transition and downtown’s growing residential population with access to relevant professional training, personal enrichment and degree programs in a convenient location. In opening the new Downtown Campus, Cal State LA affirms its commitment to educating the next generation of Angelenos who represent the dynamism and diversity of the metropolis they call home.

Thank you to all who continue to share your good news with our office. The Faculty Activity page remains under construction.

Contact the Office of the Provost with your comments and submissions here.