The Provost’s Message

Staying Connected with the Division of Academic Affairs

February 3, 2016

Provost Lynn Mahoney

This message arrives just as I celebrate my first year at Cal State LA. From the very beginning, when the enthusiasm and engagement displayed by the faculty and administrators on the search committee caught my attention, I have been deeply impressed by the commitment of faculty, staff, and administrators to our students and our mission.

One year later, I am impressed once again by the depth of this commitment. On Friday, January 22nd, over 150 faculty, staff, students, and administrators gathered in the Golden Eagle Ballroom to kick off our university strategic planning process. During the course of the day, we collectively began to imagine the future and identify what matters most to Cal State LA. Our conversations focused on how we’d like Cal State LA to be distinguished in the following areas:

• Student Experience and Success
• Academic Experience and Programs
• Cal State LA as a Great Place to Work
• Fiscal Stability
• Leadership in the Community

The discussions revealed incredible insights, potential goals and priority areas, and some common themes, such as the need for collaboration, the importance of a strong culture, and a dedication to student success. Many wonderful ideas were generated – and this was just the beginning of the strategic planning process.

Over the coming months, each of you will be invited to participate in the strategic planning process, offer your input, and share your vision for the future of Cal State LA. From workshops and town halls to surveys and focus groups, there will be many opportunities for your involvement. It’s important that we hear all voices, so I strongly encourage you to be an active
participant in the process. Please be sure to check the Strategic Planning website for upcoming opportunities to get involved.

Leadership Update - College of NSS

Scott Bowman, dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences, recently underwent surgery. Fortunately, the surgery went well and he is on the road to recovery. I am happy to announce that two seasoned and highly qualified members of the College of Natural and Social Sciences faculty have agreed to assume leadership roles in his absence. Associate Dean Nancy McQueen has agreed to serve as Acting Dean and Michael Soldatenko, chair of Chicano Studies, has agreed to serve as Acting Associate Dean, effective February 1st. Please join me in thanking and congratulating Nancy and Michael.

Did you know...?

According to the 2014 National Survey of Student Engagement, how many pages did Cal State Los Angeles seniors report they were assigned to write per year in their course, on average?
a. 34.5 pages  
b. 54.5 pages  
c. 74.5 pages  
d. 94.5 pages

Find the answer at the end of this message.

You can find more interesting facts in the 2014 Survey of Student Engagement Snapshot

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.

From the Office of Undergraduate Studies

Michelle Hawley, Dean of Undergraduate Studies

Articulation: College Source Transfer Evaluation System (TES)
The Cal State L.A. Course Catalog has been uploaded onto the College Source Transfer Evaluation System (TES®). Division Chairs, College Associate Deans, and staff will have TES® access as Evaluation Trackers allowing them to approve or deny course articulation requests from California community colleges as well as colleges and universities throughout the country. Cheryl Pugh, Articulation Officer, will send account information and instructions. This improved workflow will help us to significantly increase the number of articulation agreements, reduce the need for individual petitions, and improve the transfer experience for many of our students. Margaret Garcia and Cheryl Pugh will be meeting with department Chairs to provide further information and training.

General Education: The next call for G.E. course proposals will be during the Fall 2018 Semester. The G.E. Subcommittee may send out a targeted call for proposals sooner if a need arises for specific designations (such as wi or cl).

Advising:
Brenda Solorio (Special Assistant to the President for Advising) and Marcia Murota (Director, University Academic Advisement Center) are offering advisor training sessions, including GET workshops for new and experienced advisors.
Other topics include IAP and Semester Conversion, the updated Schedule Planner, G.E. Overview, G.E. Petition Policies and Procedures, Veteran’s Resources Center, and Mental Health Training. This quarter’s Advisors’ Institute will be held on March 10th and details will be released soon. Save the date! Advisors interested in RSVP’ing for any of these sessions can sign up here using Survey Gizmo and updated information on each session will be emailed. Contact Brenda Solorio for more information.

Panetta Internship: Please encourage your students to consider applying to the Panetta Internship Program by 5 pm on Wednesday, February 10. Each fall, the Panetta Institute hosts students for its Congressional Internship Program beginning in mid-August with an intensive two-week course at the Institute in Monterey, CA and continuing through mid-November in Washington, D.C. Each of the twenty-three CSU campuses nominates one student to participate in this program. During an intensive summer training session, these students attend lectures led by an array of experts from diverse disciplines. Class discussion at the Panetta Institute ranges from United States foreign and defense policy to cybersecurity issues to fiscal and monetary policy to practicalities of what interns can expect once they arrive for work on Capitol Hill. Sessions also focus on policy issues as well as on how congressional office-holders coordinate their work with state and local governments and constituents. Each intern is then assigned to work for two and one-half months in the Capitol Hill office of a member of the California congressional delegation. Studies continue when the students move off to Washington. In addition to their work in congressional offices, participants attend weekly seminars on policy issues and different aspects of government. The Institute covers program costs including CSUMB course registration fees, campus services during orientation, air travel and housing in Washington, D.C. Interns also receive up to twenty semester credits.

Visit The Panetta Institute for Public Policy website to learn more.

Eligibility:
· Current sophomore or junior standing (not graduating before Spring of 2017)
· Has not accumulated more than 180 credit quarter units
· 18 years or older
· Is a U.S. citizen
· Is a California resident
· Has exhibited superior academic achievement
· Has demonstrated commitment to the community and public service

Cal State LA will nominate one student for this prestigious experience. If interested in applying, students should:

1. Indicate an intent to apply by emailing Cassidy Zimmerman, coordinator of National and International Scholarships and Fellowships Program (NISFeP).
2. Submit the following to Cassidy Zimmerman by 5pm on Wednesday, February 10:
   · Copy of unofficial transcripts
   · Resume
   · Two-page written essay stating the reasons for your interest in the Panetta Institute’s Congressional Internship Program. A copy of a recently graded paper (at least three pages long) with the professor’s comments and grade accompanying or written on the paper.

A campus committee will review all applications; top applicants will be invited to interview with the campus committee. The Panetta Program selection committee will interview the Cal State LA campus nominee in Monterey Bay.

Should you have any questions, please contact Cassidy Zimmerman at 323-343-5964.

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.

Answer: 94.5 The CSU System-wide average is 80.9