Provost’s Report

During my first month as Provost, I am focusing on particular challenges and initiatives, but I am also focusing on the manner in which we move ahead. Collaboration has always been valued at CSUF, but in these times we will not accomplish our goals unless we are working together in an exceptionally seamless manner. Part of increasing collaboration is considering how our actions could influence or affect other divisions, departments, students, members of our academic community and the external community. This is what the senior leadership team has been called to do. Attempting, honestly, to see things from another person’s point of view will make our collaboration work.

Some of the areas on which we are focused on include General Education, student success efforts, and WSCUC reaccreditation.

General Education
Our first goal of the Strategic Plan is to provide a transformative educational experience and environment for all students. We believe that this unique educational experience includes a meaningful general education program. The Academic Senate GE Committee, the GE Task Force and the Senate Exec are all emphasizing the importance of an examination of what we want for our students’ educational experience. Nationally, the value of higher education, more specifically, of a liberal education is being questioned. It is very important for us at this time to step back and consider what it is we want for our students in terms of GE. As one step in this process, we have a team going to the AAC&U conference entitled “Creating a 21st-Century General Education: Responding to Seismic Shifts”. Representatives from multiple stakeholders, including the Academic Senate GE Committee, the GE Task Force, and the Senate Exec, will be attending. I look forward to many conversations with faculty on campus about this topic.

Student Success Efforts
Our second goal is to strengthen opportunities for student completion and graduation. We are working on this goal with the strategy of cross-divisional collaboration for holistic student advisement and support. In order to strengthen academic advising at CSUF, utilizing GI 2025 funds, each college has hired an additional advisor. Retention specialists will be hired for the Academic Advising Center and Irvine Center. These additional personnel will strengthen the student success teams’ ability to accomplish all they do. A few examples of this outstanding work are that:

- During October, 1,082 students participated in the Mandatory Academic Advising Workshops.
- Attendance was required for students at 85-89 units who still had yet to apply for graduation. The results indicated that 100% of participants declared an intended graduation date, and 445 of them applied to graduate during or immediately after their workshop.
- The Student Success Team Retreat, which will focus on equity gaps, will be held on Friday, February 8th.
WSCUC Reaccreditation
The Institutional Report is complete and will be submitted on February 14, 2019. This semester an outside reviewer from our WSCUC team will examine online or distance learning and conduct a review of Irvine Center as our off-campus location. For distance education, the reviewer has chosen to review the Master’s in Nursing Leadership and the Bachelor’s in Business Administration. This review will take place this spring before the offsite review.

Important dates to remember for WSCUC are:
* February 19: Institutional Report is due to WSCUC. We are in the final editing stage, wrapping up with appendix preparation, website updates, and formatting. Spring will focus on WSCUC communication to the campus, as soon as we submit the report.
* April 30: Offsite review will take place. This is a conference call, and we will receive feedback/lines of inquiry from WSCUC during the call.
* October 1-3: Onsite visit occurs. Budget and logistics for the onsite visit have been developed, and much work has been done (e.g., room reservation, staffing).

The work we are doing takes collaboration and consultation, and I appreciate the conversations I am having with you. I have the privilege of reviewing RTP portfolios, and I am continually in awe of what our faculty members do in terms of research, creative activities, teaching and service. Additionally, as I read the CVs of the faculty you are hiring, I am so impressed with the quality of these new faculty members. I am very excited about the prospect of working with them and grateful to be able to work with you all.