



A LEADING AMERICAN UNIVERSITY WITH INTERNATIONAL REACH
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 30, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Margaret Crowder
FROM: Dr. Gary A. Ransdell *Gary*
RE: Senate Resolution for South Campus

Thank you for resolution dated April 17 pertaining to the South Campus. As you know, the South Campus contains a number of diverse faculty and staff engaged in multiple dimensions of university life. I have checked with those who are responsible for the various functions on our South Campus and have learned that there are no specific plans for any near-term structural or organizational changes. It is, of course, impossible to predict the long-term, but as of now there are no changes planned for any of the units at the South Campus.

There was a period of time when we contemplated changes with the Center of Research and Development, but have since ruled out any changes in how the Center of Research and Development is owned or managed. Likewise, we do not anticipate any changes with our intramural facilities located at the Hattie Preston Intramural Complex. The only addition we are planning is the building of tennis courts between the Knicely Center and the intramural fields. I have also checked with DELO, and while DELO intends to sustain a presence on the South Campus, DELO is looking to expand its duties into the Garrett Conference Center as soon as current occupants move into the new Downing Student Union. These changes, however, have not resulted in any concerns on the part of the DELO staff located on the South Campus. All Conferencing and Catering operations in the Knicely Center will continue to perform at a high level on the South Campus. I have also checked with Dennis George, Dean of the University College, about the academic programs on the South Campus and ask that he submit in writing a summary of recent moves and any anticipated changes going forward. His report is self-explanatory and is attached for the Senate's review. I trust this responds to the resolution and any concerns which any members of the faculty or staff operating on the South Campus may have expressed. Thank you for your leadership and interests in all of our South Campus faculty and staff. Please let me know if you need further clarification or insight.

GAR:lo

Attachments

xc: Dr. Gordon Emslie, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Beth Laves, Associate Vice President of Extended Learning and Outreach
Dr. Dennis George, Dean, University College
Dr. Gordon Baylis, Vice President for Research
Mr. Doug Rohrer, Director, Center for Research and Development
Mr. Howard Bailey, Vice President for Student Affairs
Mr. Stephen Rey, Director, Preston Center

The Spirit Makes the Master

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Senate Resolution:

Resolution pertaining to South Campus:

- Whereas, the faculty of South Campus are valuable members of the full WKU faculty;
- Whereas, the recent dissolution of the Liberal Arts and Sciences department at South Campus and the name change of the Department of Academic Support to School of University Studies were carried out without any discussion with the faculty;
- Whereas, faculty, staff, and students of South Campus are unsettled by these events and are concerned about the university's long-term commitment to and vision for South Campus;
- Therefore be it resolved that President Ransdell and other stakeholders lay out to the university a plan or vision for South Campus to maintain the standard of transparency in university operations.

Response:

On Friday, April 18, 2014, the WKU Board of Regents approved the following motion:

Reorganize the University College to eliminate the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences, reassigning faculty, at their current rank and tenure status, to their respective Main Campus departments, and rename and consolidate the Department of Academic Support into the School of University Studies.

This reorganization is the final step of an initiative that began in the fall of 2010 to fully integrate the Bowling Green Community College of Western Kentucky University (BGCC) into the broader university context in a way that:

- maintained the high quality of academic programming delivered at South Campus,
- did not negatively impact students served at South Campus, and
- did not result in a loss of jobs or the tenure/rank status of faculty.

Prior to Fall, 2010, The BGCC consisted of four academic divisions administered by Division Chairs and reporting to a Dean:

- Health Sciences Division
- Business Division
- Liberal Arts and Sciences Division
- Academic Support Division

The steps/timelines followed in the assimilation of the BGCC into the overall WKU structure were as follows:

Fall 2010:

- The BGCC was renamed the Commonwealth School and moved into University College under the administrative/academic oversight of the University College Dean.
- The BGCC Dean retired and was replaced by an Interim Director of the Commonwealth School.

Fall 2011:

- The Commonwealth School Director position was eliminated because it created an inconsistency in the Faculty Handbook procedures for faculty evaluation, promotion, and tenure.
- The Health Sciences Division programs and faculty were moved into the appropriate departments in the College of Health and Human Services.
- The remaining academic units (Business (renamed Professional Studies), Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Academic Support), were changed from divisions to departments and the Division Chairs were renamed Department Heads. These Department Heads reported directly to the Dean of University College and functioned as all other departments in the college.

Fall 2012:

- The Department of Professional Studies (academic programs and faculty) was administratively combined with two other academic units within University College to create the School of Professional Studies and relocated to Tate Page Hall.

Fall 2014:

- The Departments of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Academic Support were reorganized as approved in the April 18th Board Action (details in Action Item 1.6).

As a result of these transformations over the past several years:

- The University College organizational structure is now in its final form and looks and functions like a college, not an amalgam of units.
- The assimilation of the former BGCC into the greater WKU organizational context is now complete.
- The academic units and faculty in what were the divisions of Health Sciences, Business, and Liberal Arts and Sciences of the former BGCC are now incorporated into the appropriate colleges and departments of WKU.
- The School of University Studies (formerly the Department of Academic Support) in University College continues to contribute to the mission of WKU by, serving students with developmental/college readiness needs (the character of which may well change as we add more international students) and to provide for those students a positive, supportive environment for student retention, persistence, and success. Since Fall 2013, a Task Force of South Campus faculty has been working on a new mission statement to more specifically characterize the School of University Studies. Their work will include a description of the strategies and pedagogies that will be employed to facilitate the development of those students who arrive at WKU needing some additional help on the front end in order to become successful college graduates. This document is on track for dissemination before the end of the Spring semester.

As a final note, since Fall 2010, as this process has moved forward:

- no former BGCC faculty member has lost their job,
- no former BGCC faculty member has been forced to give up their rank or tenure (even those absorbed into departments in other colleges), and
- no former BGCC faculty member hired before Fall 2011 is bound by a different tenure and promotion process other than the one under which they were hired.