PROVOST/ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

**PROGRAM INFORMATION:**

Academic Affairs has primary responsibility for providing positive learning environments for all students, built upon a commitment to excellence in teaching, research, and service. We develop responsive programs in emerging fields while sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University. We utilize our faculty and staff expertise to address social and economic problems through applied research and service to the state, region, nation and world.

Academic Affairs is dedicated to providing educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens in a democratic society. We strive to be student and learning centered in all our activities. Through close interaction between students and faculty we encourage intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. We prepare a diverse student population for meaningful careers in a multi-cultural and globally-competitive environment while fostering in them a sense of civic responsibility, public service, and human understanding. We contribute to the general advancement of knowledge, participate in transmitting the heritage of world cultures, provide services for the public good, engage in research and scholarship that contribute to economic development and enhanced quality of life of constituencies and community, and seek to instill the values of lifelong learning.

**ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University offers 93 undergraduate majors and 96 minors leading to one of seven baccalaureate degrees.  Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options.  Sixteen associate degree programs are offered and nineteen undergraduate certificates.  Graduate Studies offers 48 majors that lead to nine different master’s degrees, in addition to offering the Specialist in Education degree in five areas, Rank I and II programs, 19 graduate certificate programs, and a doctorate in Educational Leadership.

Units reporting to the Provost/Academic Affairs division include: Potter College of Arts and Letters; Gordon Ford College of Business; College of Education and Behavioral Sciences; Ogden College of Science and Engineering; College of Health and Human Services; University College; University Libraries; Graduate Studies; and Division of Extended Learning and Outreach. The Offices of International Programs, Institutional Research, Enrollment Management, Academic Policies and Personnel, Academic Budgets and Administration, Planning and Program Development, Academic Enrichment and Effectiveness, and Academic Relations/Special Events report to the Provost/Academic Affairs division. In addition, the Honors College, Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, Student Publications, and Forensics also report to the Provost/Academic Affairs division.

**GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

The Provost/Academic Affairs division, working in concert with other units of the University, is responsible for advancing the primary educational mission of the institution. Academic Affairs is committed to performing its responsibilities optimally to advance the goals of the University's Strategic Plan, as well as other initiatives and strategic objectives consistent with that plan, including those promulgated by the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. The Division is committed to the University vision of becoming “A Leading American University with International Reach.”

**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS PRIORITIES:**

Advancing academic quality and supporting the work of faculty and staff are the cornerstones of the Academic Affairs division’s strategic agenda. In addition, the Division is responsive to other institutional imperatives, such as state CPE mandates or directives, which are reflective of our public purpose as an institution. The following list summarizes Academic Affairs divisional priorities relative to institutional strategic priorities:

* Prepare students to be productive, engaged leaders in a global society through support of QEP priorities as a foundation for the educational mission of the institution;
* Recruit and retain an outstanding faculty through enhanced compensation, additional faculty lines, and a competitive portfolio of professional development opportunities available to faculty;
* Drive controlled enrollment growth while enhancing the academic profile of our student body through application of a business plan model and enrollment management best practices;
* Target new populations of students through development or expansion of academic programs in key growth areas;
* Address the financial burden of higher education through expanded scholarship opportunities for students;
* Advance institutional and statewide priorities related to educational access through partnerships that address college readiness, degree completion, and transferability;
* Maximize opportunities for students to be successful through informed placement, enhanced advising, and proactive intervention;
* Further WKU’s role as a national leader in civic and community engagement through continued development of community-based teaching, research and service opportunities;
* Establish WKU as a university of choice for outstanding students through continued growth and maturation of the Honors College and Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky;
* Promote the continued internationalization of the university community through partnerships and programs that both bring new students to WKU and allow domestic students to expand their global perspective;
* Expand research and scholarly contributions of faculty, staff and students through expanded opportunities for and recognition of scholarly engagement and productivity;
* Grow and expand graduate education through increased support for existing programs and development of new programs in key areas;
* Support continued enhancement of library services through judicious allocation of existing resources and establishment of an inflationary index for library budgeting;
* Ensure a strong, contemporary, liberal foundation in student learning through comprehensive assessment of, and support for, general education and the core curriculum;
* Strengthen and define the mission of the University College as an interdisciplinary-based academic unit through development of appropriate structures, relationships and processes;
* Address integration of regional campus and community college students within the university community through reorganization of regional campuses and the new Commonwealth School as units within University College; and
* Reinforce education for sustainability as a rapidly-growing ethos at WKU through support for the Talloires Declaration and WKU’s Resolution on Education for Sustainability.

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

**2009-10 Revised Budget\* 2010-11 Proposed Budget**

**Pos. Unrestricted Budget Pos. Unrestricted Budget**

Educational and General

Personnel/Fringe Benefits 1,252.1 104,644,731 1,294.1 109,852,613

Operating Expenses 31,932,498 36,209,059

Capital Outlay 1,745,456 1,740,337

Less: Interdepartmental Charges 115,571 115,571

Student Aid 15,177,130 16,443,130

 Total Expenditures 153,384,244 164,129,568

Educational and General **Pos.**  **Restricted Budget** **Pos. Restricted Budget**

Personnel/Fringe Benefits 118,400 118,400

Student Aid 40,631,000 55,963,000

 Total Expenditures 40,749,400 56,081,400

\*For comparison purposes, the 2009-10 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization occurring during FY10.