

## **PROVOST / ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

The WKU Division of Academic Affairs is committed to student and faculty success by providing leadership and support in the design, delivery, and assessment of quality academic programs; promoting excellence in all aspects of the university's academic, research, and creative endeavors; and fostering an environment of scholarship and lifelong learning throughout the University and the wider community. Through Enrollment Management, Academic Affairs recruits a strong and diverse student body and provides a framework of advising and financial support that assists students in achieving a degree.

### **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. The Division develops responsive academic programs in emerging fields while sustaining strong support for existing undergraduate and graduate programs offered throughout the University. The Office of Enrollment Management has primary responsibility for the recruitment, retention, and timely graduation of students. To that end, the Division manages a substantial sum of institutional scholarship funds and graduate assistantship packages, targeted at ensuring the continued affordability of a WKU degree for students from diverse groups. The Division facilitates the research and creative activities of faculty, staff, and students, and the translation of this activity into enhancing economic vitality and quality of life in the region, leading the university toward its vision of being "A Leading American University with International Reach."

Through the establishment of budgetary priorities and an aggressive annual staffing plan driven by strategic needs and with several components, the Division directly addresses and is committed to attracting and retaining excellent faculty and staff, as well as increasing the diversity and international profile of the campus. The Division utilizes faculty and staff expertise to provide engaged learning and professional development opportunities for students, while addressing social and economic problems through applied research and service to the state, the region, the nation and the world. The Division of Academic Affairs strives to be student- and learning-centered in all activities. It is dedicated to providing educational programs and services that prepare students for varied roles as responsible leaders and productive citizens in a global society.

Through close interaction between students and faculty, Academic Affairs encourages the intellectual, social, and ethical growth of students. It prepares a diverse student population for meaningful careers in a multicultural and globally competitive environment while fostering in them a sense of civic responsibility, public service, and human understanding. Encouraging students and faculty to jointly participate in the process of research and creative enquiry enhances and underpins all aspects of the educational mission of WKU. This includes providing grant opportunities to support a comprehensive research agenda, fostering the garnering of extramural funding from pertinent federal, state and local sources, and promoting the innovative work of faculty, staff and students.

### **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION:**

The University offers 104 undergraduate majors and 110 minors leading to one of seven types of baccalaureate degrees. Several professional and pre-professional curricula provide additional options within these degree programs. Eleven associate degree programs and thirty-two undergraduate certificates are also offered. The Graduate School offers 55 majors that lead to thirteen different master's degrees, in addition to offering the Specialist in Education degree in five areas, Rank I and II teacher certification programs, 28 graduate certificate programs, an MFA in Creative Writing, and four professional doctorates in Educational Leadership (Ed.D.), Nursing (DNP), Physical Therapy (DPT), and Psychology (Psy.D.).

Units reporting to the Provost/Academic Affairs Division include the academic colleges (College of Education and Behavioral Sciences, College of Health and Human Services, Gordon Ford College of Business, Ogden College of Science and Engineering, Potter College of Arts and Letters, and University College); the Honors College; University Libraries; and the Graduate School. Other reports to the

Division include Research and Creative Activity; the Regional Campuses in Glasgow, Elizabethtown/Ft. Knox, and Owensboro; the Division of Extended Learning and Outreach; Enrollment Management; Global Learning; the Registrar's Office; and Institutional Research. In addition, the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky, the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, Student Publications, the Kentucky Museum, and the Forensics program report to the Academic Affairs Division.

### **GOALS/ANTICIPATED PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:**

The Academic Affairs Division, working in concert with other units of the University, is responsible for advancing the primary educational and research missions of the institution. Academic Affairs is committed to advancing 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, building student success, promoting research and creative activity, and supporting the work of faculty and staff are the cornerstones of the Academic Affairs strategic agenda. In addition, the Division is responsive to other institutional imperatives, such as CPE mandates or directives, which are reflective of WKU's purpose as a public institution. The following list summarizes Academic Affairs' divisional priorities relative to institutional strategic priorities:

- Ensure a strong, contemporary, liberal arts foundation in student learning through support for, and comprehensive assessment of, general education and academic programs (Objective 1.1);
- Support learning and teaching redesign to facilitate broad access to education and develop students' critical analysis and argumentation skills (Objective 1.1);
- Support continued enhancement of library services through judicious allocation of resources and maintaining an inflationary index for library budgeting (Objective 1.1);
- Recruit and retain outstanding faculty through enhanced compensation and a competitive portfolio of professional development opportunities available to faculty (Objective 1.2);
- Support programs and partnerships that allow domestic students to study abroad and otherwise expand their global perspective (Objective 1.3);
- Expand research and scholarly contributions of faculty, staff and students through increased opportunities for and recognition of scholarly engagement and productivity (Objective 1.4);
- 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 (Objective 1.4);
- Increase the number of research faculty, scientists, and other scholars working at WKU (Objective 1.4);
- Ensure continued relevancy of available degrees and credentials through development or expansion of academic programs in key growth areas (Objective 1.5);
- Grow and expand graduate education through increased support for existing programs and development of new programs in key areas (Objective 1.5);
- Promote the continued internationalization of the University community (Objective 2.1);
- Drive controlled enrollment growth while enhancing the academic profile of our student body through application of enrollment management best practices (Objective 2.2);
- Maximize opportunities for students to be successful through informed placement, enhanced advising, and proactive intervention (Objective 2.2);
- Increase the recruitment, hiring and retention of minority faculty and staff (Objective 2.1);
- Advance institutional and statewide priorities related to educational access through partnerships that address college readiness, degree completion, and transferability (Objective 2.3);
- Through the Office of Enrollment Management, address the financial burden of higher education through expanded scholarship opportunities for students (Objective 2.3);
- Address integration of regional campus and community college students within the University community (Objective 2.1);
- Expand access to enhanced modes of learning, including asynchronous and blended methods (Objective 2.2);

- Further WKU's role as a national leader in civic and community engagement through continued development of community-based teaching, research and service opportunities (Objective 3.2);
- Increase the number, quality, and success rate of external funding proposals submitted by WKU faculty and staff (Objective 4.2);
- Grow the number and amount of externally-funded research grants awarded to WKU (Objective 4.2);
- Expand and support involvement of faculty and students in translational research, including business startups by faculty, staff, and students (Objective 4.2); and
- Advance the local, national, and international impact of WKU's research and scholarly endeavors (Objective 4.2).

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

|                                 | <b>2015-16 Revised Budget*</b> |                                   | <b>2016-17 Proposed Budget</b> |                                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 | <b><u>Pos.</u></b>             | <b><u>Unrestricted Budget</u></b> | <b><u>Pos.</u></b>             | <b><u>Unrestricted Budget</u></b> |
| <u>Educational and General</u>  |                                |                                   |                                |                                   |
| Personnel/Fringe Benefits       | 1,358.2                        | 124,125,565                       | 1,294.0                        | 124,006,529                       |
| Operating Expenses              |                                | 35,785,640                        |                                | 45,247,606                        |
| Less: Interdepartmental Charges |                                | 136,271                           |                                | 136,728                           |
| Student Aid                     |                                | 30,820,769                        |                                | 32,278,101                        |
| Capital Outlay                  |                                | 2,156,324                         |                                | 1,150,784                         |
| Total Expenditures              |                                | 192,752,027                       |                                | 202,546,292                       |
| <br>                            |                                |                                   |                                |                                   |
|                                 | <b><u>Pos.</u></b>             | <b><u>Restricted Budget</u></b>   | <b><u>Pos.</u></b>             | <b><u>Restricted Budget</u></b>   |
| <u>Educational and General</u>  |                                |                                   |                                |                                   |
| Personnel                       |                                | 118,400                           |                                | 118,400                           |
| Operating Expenses              |                                | 18,325,000                        |                                | 14,670,000                        |
| Student Aid                     |                                | 42,464,000                        |                                | 40,540,000                        |
| Total Expenditures              |                                | 60,907,400                        |                                | 55,328,400                        |

\*For comparison purposes, the 2015-16 Revised Budget figures have been adjusted to reflect University reorganization.