

University Senate

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Vice Chancellor and Provost Michele G. Wheatly

- Whitman School of Management
 - Interim dean search—This is the highest priority for the Whitman School. Thank you to Mike Haynie for stepping up and providing stability during this challenging time. I have met twice with the Whitman community—first with faculty, staff and students, and a second time with the faculty. I have solicited and received broad-based input from the Whitman community. This input has been extremely valuable.
 - Permanent dean search—It is too early to announce a plan at this time. I will continue to seek input as that process takes shape.
- Visits to Schools and Colleges—I have learned a lot by meeting and interacting with students, faculty, and staff.
- University Senate
 - Academic Affairs Committee—I met with the committee on Friday and heard about the busy and productive year the committee had last academic year. We worked to establish a list of goals for the year ahead.
 - Agenda Committee—Thank you for your leadership, partnership, and continued attention to effective Senate operations.
 - Faculty Salary Work Group—A group is being constituted. My office is working with the Senate Agenda Committee to identify members. This group will be representative of the various schools and colleges. An announcement will be made very soon. This group will discuss best practices and work with OIRA for the purpose of sharing data about faculty salaries.
 - Budget Committee—I am meeting with the committee.
- Provost’s Advisory Committee on Promotion and Tenure—At the end of my remarks, I will invite Associate Provost LaVonda Reed and Associate Professor Craig Dudczak to the podium to discuss the upcoming election to fill two vacancies on the committee.
- Academic Strategic Plan—Implementation update. In my conversations with various members of the faculty, I have heard that there is a concern that academics remain at the center of this plan. The following initiatives are underway:

- Internationalization Council—The council has been named.
 - Leadership Institute—My office has begun
 - Vice President for Research
 - Orange SUccess
- Disability Training—Scott Lisner, November 2—Asking deans and anyone else with responsibility for responding to student requests for accommodations to attend this training session.

Additional topic for discussion:

- Title IX investigation
 - Office for Civil Rights (“OCR”)
 - U.S. Department of Education’s OCR is responsible for enforcing federal anti-discrimination laws in education, including, for example: (1) the Americans with Disabilities Act; (2) Title VI; and (3) Title IX.
 - OCR is engaged in approximately 275 active Title IX reviews at colleges and universities across the country. The list of schools currently under investigation is available on the website of the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.
 - A typical OCR review proceeds as follows: (1) student files a complaint with OCR; (2) OCR opens a case and alerts the college or university that is the subject of the complaint; (3) OCR requests information and documents to investigate and to understand how the college or university handles Title IX complaints; (4) OCR sometimes interviews key personnel and students; and (5) the case is resolved with no finding, the case is resolved with a voluntary resolution agreement, or the case is resolved with a letter of findings.
 - OCR reviews can last up to four years, but are supposed to last only 180 days according to the OCR Case Processing Manual.
 - Syracuse University OCR Review
 - We are still in the early stages of the OCR Title IX review.
 - Received notice of complaint from OCR at the end of June 2016. The individual complaint was filed by a former student who alleges that the University did not adequately address the student’s report of sexual assault.
 - OCR has requested information and documents related to the individual complaint, as well as information and documents related to our internal Title IX complaint process.
 - We have retained counsel from Harter Secrest & Emery to assist us through the review. Same attorneys handled Hobart’s high-profile OCR review and worked in-house at Hobart for one year to build their Title IX program.
 - We are still in the process of producing information and documents to OCR and have received no decision or feedback from OCR on those materials.
 - Details of the individual complaint are confidential and we respect the privacy of our students. For that reason, we cannot disclose details on the substance of the case.

- In addition, it is University policy that we do not comment on active litigation or investigations. We made an exception for this review and released a statement last week ahead of “It’s On Us” activities due to the overwhelming interest in the process from the campus community.

- This review will likely continue for more than one year.