



## Memorandum to Faculty and Staff

*Academic Affairs  
MC 1004, Ext. 6006  
January 31, 2007*

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The theme for this letter to the campus is transition. This seems to be a year for an unusual number of changes in administrative positions within Academic Affairs.

At the end of this academic year, June Phillips will retire as dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Since joining WSU in 1993, June has led many significant initiatives. Architectural additions to the campus may provide the most openly visible testaments to the progress made during June's deanship. These include the renovated Browning Center for the Performing Arts and the construction of the Ethel Wattis Kimball Visual Arts Center. Less visible transformations to the college include the significant growth in the number of Arts and Humanities graduates, the creation of a Master of Arts in English degree, the continued evolution of WSU as a cultural center for the community, and bringing increased national and international exposure for the college by taking WSU students to New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., China and other venues around the globe.

After leaving WSU, June plans to split her time between Pittsburgh and Paris. We are optimistic that before June leaves, we will gain approval and funding for a new classroom building to replace Buildings 1 and 2. I wish to publicly thank June for her service to her college and WSU.

A search for a dean of Arts and Humanities is now underway. Kathy Herndon, Sheree Josephson, Mark Biddle, Yu-Jane Yang, and Tom Mathews were selected by their departments to serve on the search committee; I have asked Kathy Edwards and Joan Hubbard to serve as administrative representatives, and Chris Bentley will serve as the student representative. We plan to select a dean by the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year.

Earlier this year, WSU was selected to be the host for a new technology innovation center that will support the Utah Science, Technology and Research (USTAR) economic development initiative. Curt Roberts, a senior vice president for Nike, will join WSU as Vice Provost for Innovation & Economic Development. In this role he will direct WSU's innovation center. Curt is an alumnus of Weber State and a Harvard graduate. At Nike, he led the development of a number of exciting innovations, including an interesting partnership with Apple resulting in a device that allows runners to receive feedback over an Ipod. Over the next four years, our innovation center will bring more than \$1 million in USTAR funding to WSU. More importantly, we are hopeful that our innovation center will be successful in leveraging the USTAR funding to bring even more research funding to WSU for the benefit of students and faculty.

This term, Jim Hutchins joined the faculty in the Department of Health Sciences where his academic preparation and experience are especially valuable. The addition of Jim to the program will help the Health Sciences Department efforts to serve the needs of the Dumke College during a time of increasing demand for health professions graduates. As the search for the dean of Arts and Humanities progresses, a search for an Associate Provost will be initiated.

As you may know, at the end of the year, Bob Mondi will step down as director of the Honors Program and move to Michigan. Among Bob's many contributions are: the creation of the Eccles Fellows program, the revision of the Honors curriculum, the addition of student portfolios to the Honors Program, and his early support for undergraduate research. We appreciate the service Bob has given as director of the Honors Program.

Judy Elsley has served capably as coordinator of the Bachelor of Integrated Studies (BIS) program for almost a decade. Prior to that she directed the First Year Experience program and coordinated WSU's Writing Across the Curriculum initiative. As BIS coordinator, Judy strengthened the program's capstone experience, implemented comprehensive outcomes-based assessments, expanded the program's links with academic departments, and advised almost 300 students who have earned BIS degrees. I have asked Judy to increase her responsibilities by serving as director of WSU's Honors program when Bob Mondi steps down at the end of the academic year. Judy has agreed to assume these responsibilities, and I am confident that the Honors program will thrive under her leadership.

I also want to take this opportunity to make you aware of some upcoming developments. Dean Warren Hill and a group of College of Applied Science and Technology faculty are seeking to bring an engineering program to WSU. Working independently and in partnership with other institutions, faculty are exploring strategies to provide a number of different engineering options for our students. If successful, this could be the most important program addition since WSU first received permission to offer graduate programs.

Finally, our focused visit from the Northwest Accreditation Commission will take place on April 30, 2007. During this visit the evaluator will review the progress we have made on the recommendations provided in the Commission's 2006 report. You may recall that these recommendations concerned the assessment of our general education program and the support we provide for adjunct faculty. In the coming weeks, we will be working with faculty, staff, administrators and trustees to prepare for the visit. I will share more information about the visit when we receive additional details from the Northwest Commission.

Best Wishes,

Michael Vaughan