02/20/2020

Update to Assembly

Good afternoon. Thank you for welcoming me to the Michael J. Grant Campus. It is my honor to assist the College with the CEO leadership transition here, and it is my goal and mission to offer support to our campus’s faculty, students, staff and administrators until such time when the search for a new, permanent Campus CEO/Executive Dean concludes. I thank you all for your help and patience since my arrival in December.

For this month, here are highlights reflecting the State of the Grant Campus:

* Two FT faculty searches are now underway. One for the Chemical Dependency Counseling program faculty and the other for a Natural Sciences/Physics Professor. I am working on fulfillment of a Communications FT faculty member and a FT Nursing faculty member.
* In January, Dr. Rogers was notified by one of our students that he was returning to school after a trip to China. We followed the SCHD and the CDC guidelines in asking that he self-quarantine for a period of time after his arrival to the United States. He did so, and I thank our faculty members who worked with our student to ensure he did not miss course content and stayed current with his classwork.
* I thank the faculty and staff members who volunteered for the College’s Mentoring Pilot. These volunteers will have ten students assigned to them; will meet regularly with their students and guide them, answer their questions and help them prepare for fall registration. Baseline data has been established and an assessment of this pilot will occur next year. I invite anyone else interested in becoming a student mentor to contact me.
* The FY 21 budget for the Grant campus was submitted to Dr. Mark Harris, VPFA by me and Dan Feld. Our “Other-than-Personnel” budget lines have decreased by approximately 10%, and we are certain that support for academic programs and services will not be negatively affected. FY21 will be a challenging year for us as a College. We will not have extra year-end funds available for special projects. We have been asked to control spending and to do more with less. I ask for your help in this effort. If you do encounter a need not fulfilled, please contact me.
* At this point in time, our staffing levels will not be affected; yet, we will need to submit a strong rationale for filling all vacancies. I will seek the assistance of our Chairs, Deans, and Directors to do so as vacancies arise.
* As you have noticed, weekly publication of The Grant Times will continue for the weeks during which classes are in session. We now send The Grant Times to students attending our campus. This is something new.
* Also new in The Grant Times is a Faculty and Staff Highlights section sharing accomplishments and accolades. I invite you to share any and all good news with me so that I can add to that section of the Times!
* I thank Fiona Grady for working with me to secure a display case in the LRC lobby to highlight faculty and staff authored work. Again, I invite you to share your works with me and Fiona for placement in our display case.
* On March 11 at 11:00am, Dr. Courtney Brewer and I will conduct a Promotion Workshop for the Grant Campus faculty. This workshop will take place in **Captree Commons, Rm. 113.** Any faculty member interested in knowing more about the promotion process, as well as Academic Chairs and Administrators are **strongly** encouraged to attend. Please RSVP by Monday, March 9, 2020, by contacting Denise Richardson.
* I am happy to learn and to report that the National Science Foundation Noyce spring 2020 internship program is underway here at the College led by Professors Jerome, Reissig, and Koukounas. In partnership with Long Island University, we are participating in this five-year program designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning of mathematics, and to increase the pool of underrepresented mathematics teachers. The program mission guides students from their initial years in community college through their junior and senior years at LIU. Many events have been scheduled for our NSF Noyce interns which will continue through the semester.
* Our program admission numbers for fall 2020 continue to be very healthy. Much has been done in admissions and enrolment planning to bring students to our campus. I thank you all for your ongoing recruitment efforts and working with our Admissions staff.
* In Plant Operations, the installation of LED lights in classrooms and interior hallways continues and is nearing completion; Joe Frac and I are working with building administrators to identify areas of our spaces that need beautifying, cleaning, upgrading, and enhancing…all on a small budget (I invite you to send me your ideas and concerns); and the Sagtikos renovations are on schedule with an opening date in January 2021.
* Highlights of my spring projects include:
  + Working with the Associate Deans of Academic Affairs and the Academic Chairs to finalize the summer and fall course schedules, and identify courses which will qualify for the 5-week summer online pilot program Dr. Beaudin has initiated.
  + Continue collaborations with campus leaders and college leaders to build retention tools for us such as: finding best-practices to apply toward improving our current student descheduling process; amending the payment plan, allowing students more dates and more payment options; analyzing and addressing the academic probation criteria, making it fully based on GPA and not Financial Aid progress; exploring the opportunity to change the College’s refund policy to a credit-on-account based approach; and having the ability from our campus to text students.
  + During the week of Earth Day, I will host a garden planting party to plant pachysandra and ivy in the blank space at the side entrance of the Caumsett Building; and working with Joe Frac, we will initiate fresh paint and barrels at this entrance where new students and their families enter for Admissions.
* And finally, I would appreciate receiving invitations to events and governance committee meetings so that I can continue to work with all of you to make our campus even more splendid.

Any questions for me?

Thank you!