



PROVOST'S SPRING ADDRESS

Sonoma State University

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Accomplishments of faculty and staff of Academic Affairs

- This year the faculty of Sonoma State University has taught, advised, and mentored over 7,800 students and taught more than 3,000 classes
 - Faculty Affairs successfully completed 15 faculty searches
 - The Excellence in Teaching Award was given to Suzanne Toczyski (ML&L) and Lynn Stauffer (Computer Science)

Collaboration

- Collaboration across the five Schools and the Library, CIHS, and Extended Education has resulted in student internships, interdisciplinary courses, blended Education programs, and several grants for research activities
 - Business and Economics and Education received a grant for special equipment and software for students with disabilities
 - Arts and Humanities and Extended Education created a new Green Building Professional Certificate Program with Environmental Studies and Planning (ENSP)
 - Science and Technology and Extended Education created the Masters of Science in Computer and Engineering Science
 - The University Library collaborated with 13 departments to create a lecture series *Worth a Thousand Words*

Community Outreach

- Community outreach by SSU faculty and administrators resulted in local, State, national and international projects
 - Mary Gendernalik-Cooper and faculty in the School of Education were involved in the SCOE Aiming High P-16 Initiative that supports students of diverse backgrounds to succeed academically and pursue post-secondary education
 - Francisco Vazquez directed the Hutchins Institute for Public Policy Studies that resulted in a Roseland Roundtable and the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
 - The AmeriCorps program in CIHS involved 220 college students as mentors in local schools to over 1,500 students annually
 - CIHS programs conducted national training that served infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families involving 1,150 individuals
 - The Osher Lifelong Learning Program through Extended Education had 1,100 enrollments in the last year bringing seniors to campus

Scholarship

- Academic Affairs hosted nearly 20 conferences here at Sonoma State University
- More than 70 presentations were made by faculty and staff in Academic Affairs during the 2005-06 academic year
- At least 15 books and book chapters and 50 articles were published in 2005-06

Scholarship (cont.)

- More than 50 grants were received in Academic Affairs.
 - ORSP coordinated the submission of 135 proposals for external funding requesting over 62 million dollars, and received over 30 millions dollars in grants and contracts
 - Mutombo M’Panya, Hutchins, received a grant from the San Francisco Foundation for a Science and Humanities Integration Project
 - The School of Education received the \$1 million, 3-year DoE EnACT grant to teach faculty universal access for students with disabilities
 - Extended Education received a three-year grant of nearly \$200,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for the Osher Lifelong Learning Program
 - A gift of over \$1 million in equipment from JDS Uniphase will transform the new laboratories in the Physics and Astronomy department in Darwin Hall

Accreditation

- SSU's WASC Proposal was accepted in spring 2006: Education the Whole Student.
- The School of Education achieved its first national accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education
- The Counseling Department underwent a review for accreditation and received a glowing report from CACREP in Fall 2005
- The Nursing department successfully completed its accreditation.

Global environment

- The World is Flat – outsourcing, off-shoring, Internet, broadband. The economic upsurge in China and India, etc.
- The accelerating competition in global economy means college education is a must
- The explosion of information and rapid commoditization of expert skills means that creativity, flexibility, and the traditional hallmarks of a liberal arts education are an increasingly practical imperative
- Graduates will change not only jobs but careers multiple times; cross-disciplinary teamwork, lifelong learning will be universal

National environment for higher education

- Push for accountability in K-12 spreading to higher education
- HERA reauthorization is considering abolishing regional, peer-based accreditation
- Learning outcomes, graduation rates, time to graduation
- Higher Ed as a sector is facing major consolidation in the next 10 years: **major overcapacity**

California environment

- WASC is attempting to preempt the critics of regional accreditation and the calls for accountability
- Demographics – Tidal Wave II did not materialize
- Prop. 13 remains the third rail of CA politics – structural deficit
- Even though demographic trough is out 8 years, the dip in college-ready population is coming now, and will only get worse

CSU environment

- Many campuses failed to meet target this year
- The system will be taking money back for every FTES short of target
- The Southern California campuses are aggressively recruiting first-time Freshmen

SSU's environment

- Major shift from being a campus impacted for first-time Freshmen to admitting all CSU-eligible applicants without additional requirements in 2006-07
- Not only sister CSU campuses, but UC is mounting a major expansion of undergraduate recruitment
- SSU faces a 7.5 % growth challenge in 07-08 as we transition to year-round operations
- SSU also has a relatively high attrition rate and the highest % of dropouts that graduate in other CA universities

Academic Affairs strategic initiatives in past 3 years

- **Strategic Planning** for identifying priorities, providing a framework for mutually supportive division, school, and department plans
- **Program Review policy** to institutionalize assessment and continuous improvement processes for academic programs
- **RTP policy** revision to articulate expectations and connect them with institutional mission and priorities
- **FYE Pilot** as first step in GE curriculum revision to enhance learning outcomes and differentiate SSU from competitors as a liberal arts and sciences university

The road ahead

- **Priority One: Enrollment Management**
 - Expanded Enrollment Management Council to mobilize campus for outreach, recruitment, enrollment, retention, and graduation
 - Large campus-wide membership with Task Groups to develop and implement specific plans for outreach, recruitment, retention, and timely graduation

The road ahead (cont.)

- Priority Two: Strengthening the Distinctiveness of an SSU education
 - Moving forward with GE curriculum revision, in tandem with standardization on 3- or 4-unit class modules
 - Attraction and retention of high-quality faculty via competitive salaries, adequate support for scholarship, rich academic technology environment, etc.
 - Improving institutional effectiveness in identifying and achieving objectives through mutually supportive organizational structures and processes (increasing the power of *us*)
 - Strengthening a culture of creativity, innovation, openness to change, trust, and a bias for framing win-win solutions to challenges

Our blessings

- A dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators
- A beautiful campus in a beautiful setting
- SSU as the intellectual (and soon, artistic) hub of the North Bay, a region with an affluent, older population open to supporting SSU
- The potential for SSU to transcend its systemic and funding constraints and to create a virtuous circle of improving quality of programs, students, faculty, and external support