NOTE FROM THE PROVOST/VPAA

This past week I had the opportunity to attend the AAC&U conference, “General Education and Assessment 3.0: Next Level Practices Now.” Dr. Kim Bogle Jubinville, Chair of the Assessment Committee, Dr. Diana Polley, Chair of the General Education Committee, and Dr. Nicholas Hunt-Bull, Associate VPAA, presented our new General Education program at a poster session that included thirty other colleges and universities.

As I reviewed the various programs being offered at other schools, I was struck by the rapidly evolving nature of General Education over this past decade, and I was particularly impressed by the inclusive, illuminating, and holistic approach to liberal learning that is reflected in our new General Education program. This University-wide program (which will begin rolling out in fall 2011) represents the incredible growth and accomplishment I have witnessed since first arriving at SNHU in March 2007. In my four years here, I have had the privilege to watch this faculty create new and exciting academic courses and programs.

Our 3 Year Business Honors program continues to receive accolades. Our DBA in International Business has been approved to become a PhD. We have a new Math major and we have developed comprehensive and challenging Science courses and programs. Our School of Education has become widely recognized as the program of choice for teacher preparation in the State. And I have every confidence that our new College Unbound program will receive national recognition for its innovative approach to student learning.

We have MUCH to be proud of, and I am certain that NEASC will be duly impressed when they arrive in November for our ten-year accreditation visit.

Patricia A. Lynott
Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Senate News — December 15, 2011
Submitted by: Susan Schragle-Law, Faculty Senate President

Faculty Senate – Meeting Highlights:
Dr. Carol Batker, COCE Dean/VPAA identified the following as among her primary responsibilities:
- Work with COCE academic personnel to ensure academic quality.
- Grow COCE program offerings and work through School Deans and departments to move existing programs online.
- Engage students in learning, expose them to the best in education and know how they are learning.
- Hire COCE Associate Deans in Business, Education, and Psychology.
- Clarify COCE’s role in academic governance and improve communication around moving existing and developing new programs for COCE delivery.

J. Stephanie Collins, Carol West and Bill McGarry reviewed the changes in the new Master Agreement:
- How changes to Academic Governance occur is different. Although Academic Governance can still be changed through a Senate vote, the administration can also propose changes to Academic Governance. If the Senate disagrees with a proposed change by the administration, the Senate President can explain the Faculty Senate’s basis for opposition directly to the Board of Trustees and the Trustees will make the final decision.
- The Trustees will be given access to the Senate Blackboard site.
- For more information, refer to the New Agreement or Senate Minutes.

Other Items of Discussion:
1. Task Force to Improve COCE-UC Communications:
There was general consensus that communication lines have not always been clear.

2. Task Force on Faculty Senate Role in “Selection of Key Academic Administrators”:
This Task Force (C. Broaden, C. Stavenger, and K. Caruso) met and made a brief report. After further discussion, P. Lynott indicated that for future searches, any decision by the administration that is presented to the relevant Search Committee will also be shared with the Faculty Senate.

3. Report from Faculty Evaluation Task Force:
The survey results of the possible criteria to be included in a classroom observation rubric (79 faculty responded) was presented and discussed.

Dollars for Change: Refurbishing the Safe House

During the first week of January, students from Southern New Hampshire University joined Bitou Family Care, in South Africa, to refurbish one of their safe houses. With the growing number of children in need of Safe House accommodation, Bitou Family Care needed to find a new home. Luckily, a dairy farm adjacent to the village offered three houses for the new site. The location provides a safe distance from the village where children can be away from daily threats of the village but are still within walking distance of the school.

While two of the houses have been fixed up and the children have been able to move in, the third house needed serious work. Our volunteers spent the week (with a heat wave!) scrubbing mold from the ceilings, plastering cracks, fixing windows, painting the entire place, and adding clouds to the newly painted blue ceilings in the bedrooms, as well as Yogi Bear for the lounge - making the house a home for the young girls getting ready for their move.

We also installed a solar water heater at one of the new safe houses. The old safe houses, located in the village, are in the planning stages of being turned into shelters for battered women, as well as after school care for children.

Thank you to the wonderful group from SNHU for giving up their vacation to help make a difference for children in Kurland!
Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement

As you will read in the message below, there is much to celebrate. Southern New Hampshire University has been selected to receive the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification. We are excited to share with you part of the selection announcement we received from the Carnegie Foundation:

On behalf of the Carnegie Foundation, congratulations! Your institution has been selected for the 2010 Community Engagement Classification. We are pleased to inform you of this classification decision before its public release on January 5, 2011, when we will announce the entire set of newly classified institutions.

Your application documented excellent alignment among mission, culture, leadership, resources, and practices that support dynamic and noteworthy community engagement, and you were able to respond to the classification framework with both descriptions and examples of exemplary institutionalized practices of community engagement. You also documented and coordinated evidence of community engagement in a coherent and compelling response to the framework’s inquiry.

Your campus is one of 115 institutions that will now be added to the Community Engagement Classification completed in 2006 and 2008, bringing the total to 311. It is heartening to see this level of commitment and activity. Clearly, higher education is making real strides in finding ways to engage with and contribute to important community agendas. There is much to celebrate.

Senate News — February 16, 2011
Submitted by: Susan Schragle-Law, Faculty Senate President

Actions Taken:
1. The Senate requested and the Academic Affairs Office agreed to publish critical faculty deadlines in mySNHU which would eliminate the need to scan the contract for these critical dates. Assoc Dean of the faculty, Deb Wilcox will post these dates as soon as the system applications become available.
2. The Faculty Senate endorsed guidelines regarding the Faculty Senate Role in “Key Academic Administrators” search and selection processes.
3. A Senate Sub-Committee was formed to review the process for Academic Honesty. The following individuals volunteered:
   J. Walter
   V. Connell
   K. Bogle Jubinville
   K. Caruso
   COCE representative

New Issues Raised:
1. How can the Faculty Senate successfully solicit agenda issues that are of importance to faculty?
2. What is or what should be the role and relevance of the adjunct faculty senator on the Faculty Senate?
3. How can we effectively use technology in the classroom?
4. What can be done about disruptions from laptops in the classroom?

If you have any issues that the Faculty Senate should undertake, please forward your suggestions to one of your School Senators or to k.caruso@snhu.edu.

Next meeting March 16, 2011, 2-3:15 p.m. in Hospitality 202 (Boardroom).
SNHU Civic Engagement/Service-Learning

Submitted by: Eleanor Dunfey—Freiburger, University Professor, Ethics and Civic Engagement

One year after the devastating earthquake in Haiti and the pledge of President Paul LeBlanc that SNHU would assume a long term commitment to the re-building of that country, we are pleased to present a summary of initiatives taken over the past 12 months.

The kinds of activities undertaken are based on our Haiti ad hoc committee’s (Feb. 3, 2010) directive: SUPPORT THE HAITIAN COMMUNITY LOCALLY IN CURRICULAR INITIATIVES WHERE THE UNIVERSITY CAN BE MOST EFFECTIVE. A LONG TERM COMMITMENT, WHICH IS WHAT THE HAITIAN PEOPLE—HERE AND IN HAITI— NEED, WILL BE MORE SUSTAINABLE.

University Involvement:

- $10,000 contributed through President’s Office to Partners in Health/Haiti.
- SNHU scholarship provided for a Haitian student who is now enrolled. SNHU currently plans with St. A’s to raise money for this student’s additional expenses, such as books and other necessities.

Student/Faculty Involvement:

- The Haitian Community Center (HCC/NH) is an important life-line in providing Haiti residents assistance. As a non-profit, however, it has floundered and was in great need of accounting help. Bryan Bouchard and his accounting classes have accomplished significant work and developed a trusted status with the NH Dep’t of Justice. To date they have helped set up Quickbooks system, studied and entered all bank transactions of the past several years, provided required document filings, and given countless hours to the re-structuring of HCC/NH so that it can continue to send donations and drum drop supplies to those in need.
- Pat Spirou’s Marketing class worked with HCC/NH during fall semester, 2010, to provide it with a selection of impressive logos and additional marketing ideas. Each group’s results were presented to the HCC board in a final presentation and on a DVD with all necessary materials and a continued offer of assistance from Pat Spirou.
- Tracy Dow’s students have started a Graphics Design club and have taken the HCC/NH as their community project.
- Kimberly Monk has met with the HCC/NH to respond to their request to help them plan a fundraising event this spring. To date, Kim has five of her colleagues and their classes all working together to produce this event – as part of Kim’s Event Planning course.

There is so much more to do. We are convinced that those faculty and students who are involved now will encourage others to find additional ways to engage their classes in research and service, not only for the re-building of Haiti, but for many other community needs.