

From: Sage, James

Sent: Thursday, October 04, 2012 11:33 AM

To: Hastings, David; Kellogg, Angela; Giblin, Maureen; Ozsvath, David [Geo Geol]; Terrell, Pam; Wright, Steve; Demchik, Michael; Hastings, David

Cc: Summers, Greg

Subject: CAESE Advisory Group: Updated "Charge"

Dear Colleagues,

As you will no doubt recall, last spring we discussed the impacts and "next steps" of not replacing Patricia Ploetz after she retired, and not funding the Center for Academic Excellence and Student Engagement (CAESE). While the grieving process was at times frustrating (I know it was for me!), I believe we identified a constructive way to move forward.

In consultation with Interim Provost Greg Summers, I'm writing (at long last) to formally "charge" the CAESE Advisory Group with a new set of goals and priorities. In short, we are asking you to lead a campus-wide effort to craft a comprehensive strategic plan for teaching and learning.

Within this strategic plan, we hope that you will identify shared values, address the central (and varied) role that teaching and learning plays on campus, and make recommendations for how our campus can be served in the best possible ways. These recommendations might include what a teaching and learning center would look like, but it might also include revisions to our hiring, retention, tenure, and promotion process. In other words: we invite you to be *inclusive, transparent, and bold* in formulating this vision for campus.

Last summer, Greg and I asked David Hastings, Karyn Biasca, and Steve Wright to use the month of August to develop a general framework to assist you with this important work. On August 7, Greg sent the attached message to this small working group, and they were able to assemble an extremely useful set of guidelines. Their guiding document will be shared with you very soon (perhaps when we all meet together).

Also attached is Greg's annual fall memorandum to the Academic Affairs Committee. On page 3 of this memo, Greg addresses the new, exciting role that you will be asked to take on. I share this document simply as a matter of information so that you can better understand how Greg and I are imagining your work might take shape. Of course, the details of this comprehensive strategic plan for teaching and learning should reflect your considered judgment as professionals, input from our faculty, staff, and students, as well as emerging trends within higher education.

Finally, Greg and I have worked with Patty Holland (Chair, Department of Music) and Jeff Morin (Dean, College of Fine Arts and Communication) to arrange a year-long course "re-assignment" for David Hastings. The purpose of this re-assignment is to allow David to provide the support and guidance that is needed (in a variety of areas) to continue supporting professional development as well as modest teaching and learning opportunities on campus.

So, please look to David to provide leadership throughout the year to assist with this process of developing a strategic plan for teaching and learning. We have the utmost confidence in David, and in each of you, and we feel very confident that your work this year will help our entire campus to better understand the crucial role that teaching and learning plays at UW-Stevens Point.

Thanks, in advance, for your willingness to be involved with this important effort. Soon, David will be in touch with everyone to begin planning our first few meetings this fall semester.

Yours,

--james

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