
***Congratulations to WSU-DDP for winning the National University
Telecommunications Network award!***

Conversations with our Dean and DDP Director

I met with Janet Kendall (DDP Director), Dean Muriel Oaks, and Bobbi Thomas (DDP Student Services Administrator) this past week. Due to the budget cuts, the University continues to seek ways of efficiencies for all of the colleges and DDP is part of that. The Provost office is looking at DDP and their programs, advisors, etc. Janet and Muriel embrace that review as this will give the Provost office a better understanding of DDP, the special requirements that DDP students have, and the additional services our advisors give to our student body. I was concerned that there were changes to be forthcoming. However, Muriel states that there are not going to be changes with her staff or the care of DDP students. She actually welcomes the review as it will give campus management insight on what they do and who we are (DDP students).

Bobbi will be speaking with to us at our Leadership Retreat to start "thinking outside of the box" to bring new activities and/or "destination" events to DDP students since the Learning Centers have closed. So, get your thinking caps on and bring some good ideas with you in August.

Student Government Council (SGC)

Larry, Christina, and I will be headed to WSUV to attend the first SGC meeting of the year. Some of the things we will be discussing are branding/marketing, communication, vision and goals for SGC 2009, WSL involvement (student lobby effort), tuition/education, and staff expectations. We will give you an update at the first August meeting.

WSU DDP-Alumni Advisory Group

On June 24th, the Alumni Advisory Group met at WSU-West. This meeting was an opportunity to update key personnel of changes, new programs, and other opportunities that are happening in the world of DDP. A survey will be forthcoming to find out from DDP alums (and possibly DDP seniors) of their interest in their own alumni association and what types of events people will be interested in. While many of you are already aware of the new degrees being offered, there was one thing that I took from this meeting. Thomas and Lynn (recruiters) gave updates on their work in recruitment. Lynn works with the military men and women. What she found is that while they would like to enroll into WSU, they cannot because they can only request reimbursement from the military after they take the class. I see a need that we may be able to address in the terms of a special military scholarship.

I have asked Lynn to attend our meeting, hopefully her schedule will be flexible, to share with you the problem. I would like to ask the Senate to consider establishing a scholarship program specifically for military men and women. They put their lives on hold to protect our country and this seems like a small thing to provide them financial help to bridge the gap on tuition. This would be a special scholarship and not part of the regular scholarship fund we already have. Please take time to consider this and I welcome any thoughts you have.

Scholarships

The scholarship selection committee has completed review of all the application and has chosen twenty scholarship award winners. There were 47 viable candidates this application round, which is the most we have seen since the start of the program. Since tuition has increased, we will continue to see more need for assistance. This is something to consider for the future as we move forward.

S&A Fee Committee

The S&A Fee Committee will need to meet again to discuss reallocation of the Learning Centers' request to Student Services in order for the academic seminars to continue. We will need to open it up to all groups as well. ASWSU-DDP will also have the ability to request more funds for scholarships or other allocations if needed.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Pullman! Until then, good luck with term papers, finals, or simply continue to enjoy your summer!

