

March 22, 2009

Dear Student Affairs Staff:

As we welcome the students back from spring break and gear up for the end of the semester, I want to share with you additional changes in the Division of Student Affairs. In response to the recent budget reduction position elimination and in an effort to align Student Affairs more strongly with the strategic goals of the university I would like to share some organizational changes in the Division.

- The Women's Center is moving from Academic Affairs to Student Affairs. It will report to the Vice President and have a strong collaborative relationship with the Office of Diversity Affairs.
- Gerald Yearwood will move from Career Services to become the Director of the Office of Diversity Affairs. His position in Career Services will not be filled.
- The Office of Career Exploration and Testing will merge with the Office of Career Services.
- Coordinators in the Office of Residence Life will take on collateral assignments in other areas of the Division.
- Student Affairs will contract with Information Technology for a .50 consultant for IT issues and projects.

The plans for these changes will be finalized by the end of June with the changes taking place July 1. The transitions will take the cooperation and support of all of those involved as we look at the best ways to serve the students.

We will also be searching to fill the Director of Student Engagement (formerly Student Activities), and the Assistant Director of Diversity Affairs/Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, Transgender Coordinator positions that have been vacant this year. The position of Assistant to the Vice President for Business and Personnel Relations will be revised to incorporate some IT responsibilities before it is filled. We will continue to carefully review all positions that become vacant before determining whether to fill and/or change the responsibilities of those positions. All positions must still be approved by the Vice President from Finance and Business before they can be advertised.

As we look to the future, it is important that we all work to help retain our existing students and help the Admissions Office succeed in bringing in the Class of 2013. These are the most important elements for the strength and success of Miami University and our students.

I have met with several departments to discuss the changes we are experiencing and would be most happy to meet with others who are interested in helping us plan for the future. Thank you for your continuing support. Should you have other ideas to make the Division of Student Affairs stronger please feel free to share those ideas.

I appreciate your continued commitment to the students, Student Affairs and Miami University.

Sincerely,

Barb Jones,
Vice President for Student Affairs