MAY 1996, VOL. 9. NO.3

IN THIS ISSUE:
Intercom .................. 1
From the Editor .......... 2
Announcements .......... 2
News from the States .... 4

INTERCOM —
A Message from the President

Well by now everyone has had time to recover from the very successful, professionally rewarding, and enjoyable Forum and get back to your IR duties. I am sure each of you who attended were able to bring something back that will allow you to do your job better, easier, or in a more informed way. That's what these things are for, aren't they?

We did it again (both Phoenix and Albuquerque)! I want to thank all those who worked the registration desk at the Forum; we received many kudos for the efficient, effective, and helpful way we handled registration. It was so enjoyable for some that they expressed a desire to work registration at the next Forum. Miriam Meyer and Jep Choate, those in charge of the registration process, deserve special thanks for coordinating the packet stuffing, supervising the registration desk, and working on the Forum Local Arrangements Committee. Joe Curtin deserves special recognition for putting in the most time at the registration desk and for supplying those at the desk with the tension relieving squeeze balls. I have been using mine continuously since I got back. Thanks Joe! Other

RMAIRians also deserve thanks for their work on the Local Arrangements Committee: Fred Lillbridge (Chair, and a wonderful chair he was), Larry Beck, Mark Chisolm, Susan Jones, Nelle Moore, and Jacki Stirn. Many thanks to all!

Keith Ickes and Mavis O'Connor, who received RMAIR's best of conference award for their presentation "Caught in the Web: The Electronic Distribution of Information," did a really outstanding job at their Forum session. Their average score on the evaluation sheets was 53.6 out of 60, possible 55.0, that's 97.5%; 60% of the sheets were all fives, indicating a perfect score. I facilitated that session and heard comments afterward like, "best presentation I've ever heard," "very, very informative," "excellent," "very well organized." We can really be proud of their efforts, they represented us really well. Mavis said they would try to put something else together for our conference in a year or two. We'll look forward to that! Cel Johnson was selected as the RMAIR representative to attend a Forum workshop under auspices of AIR's Train the Trainer program. Cel attended J. Fredricks Volkwein's session entitled "Managing a Program of Outcomes Assessment." Cel is going to write a short synopsis of the workshop for the August Panorama, and she will give a pre-conference workshop on the topic at this fall's RMAIR conference in Park City, Utah. Plan to attend the workshop and the conference!
The RMAIR SIG meeting at the Forum was very well attended (See Kari Coburn's entertaining report on that meeting in Special Feature section below). Several items were brought up at that meeting which will be discussed again at the conference in Park City; these are: (a) a joint fall conference with PNAIRP (a short write-up of our meeting with PNAIRP people at the Forum will appear in the next Panorama); (b) the need for and size of a RMAIR treasury reserve; and (c) whether we should start offering RMAIR conference travel grants to individuals not having resources to attend and, if so, under what conditions these should be offered. Give these, and other items you may have in mind, some thought prior to the conference. If you have ideas regarding other items you would like to see on the RMAIR business agenda, please contact Diane or me and we'll see that they get on the agenda.

FROM THE EDITOR

The AIR conference in Albuquerque was a great success with many thanks to Fred Lillibridge, the Local Arrangement Committee, and all those who helped to make this one of the best AIR conferences. The attendance at the national was well over the 1,200 mark. There were many excellent papers and demonstrations presented at the conference, as well as quality keynote speakers.

With the national behind us, it's time to begin thinking Park City, Utah and what papers, demonstrations, or panels you would like to present at the upcoming RMAIR conference from October 9-11, 1996. Please see Jeanie Vinsonhaler's "A Call for Papers" announcement for further details. Jeanie Vinsonhaler of Utah State University is this year's program chair and Bruce Higley of Brigham Young University is this year's local arrangements chair.

It's also that time of year for nominations for RMAIR vice president/president elect. Susan Jones, as past-president, will be coordinating the nominations and election process. An announcement follows later on in this issue with Susan's phone, e-mail, and mailing address. Be sure to contact Susan with this year's nominations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Call for Papers, Panels, and Demonstrations

RMAIR 1996 Conference
October 9 - 11, 1996
Park City, Utah

Conference Theme is: Identification and Use of Key Performance Indicators --
- accreditation
- assessment
- faculty evaluation/workload
- forecasting (e.g., enrollment)
- general education
- policy analysis
- programs and services (students, graduates, employees)

- resource allocation/reallocation
- other

Increasing criticism of higher education and calls for accountability combined with new challenges and declining resources are causing institutional researchers nationwide to reassess the way they are currently doing business. This has led to a new emphasis on performance indicators -- their identification, collection or generation, and use (particularly in shaping policy decisions).

Please consider presenting a paper, technical demonstration, or panel to share information about the indicators your campus is currently using and their value in reporting, policy analysis, and decision making. This theme will also be used nationally for the 1997 Forum, so please consider sharing your ideas with your Rocky Mountain colleagues prior to presenting in Orlando next spring.

Please submit the following proposal information by Friday July 12, 1996:

Name, address (postal, e-mail, and FAX), and telephone numbers for all presenters

Presentation Title
Presentation Format (paper, panel, or demonstration)
Abstract (200 word limit)

Technical support needs (an overhead projector and screen will be provided)

Submit proposals to:
Jeanie C. Vinsonhaler, Director
Office of Planning and Analysis
109 Merrill Library
Utah State University
Logan, Utah 84322-1480
801-797-0001 FAX 801-797-3880
E-Mail jcvin@cc usu.edu
Please contact Jeanie if you have any questions.

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SPECIAL FEATURE

Re-cap of RMAIR SIG Meeting in Albuquerque by Kari Coburn

Nearly 60 people attended the recent meeting of the Rocky Mountain AIR Special Interest Group in Albuquerque. That is not surprising given the last facts presented at this meeting: RMAIR totals 97 paid members out of 107; the remaining 10 consist of 3 invited memberships for reporter and 7 emeritus memberships.

President Brown presided at the meeting, where Mark Meredith was unanimously awarded an Emeritus RMAIR membership after at least 16 years of dedicated, if not tireless, service to this group. Congratulations, Mark!

In fact, several congratulations are in order. Cel Johnson has been selected as RMAIR's nominee to the "Train the Trainer" program. Cel will be trained in her selected area of expertise, and will then share her experience with those RMAIRians who sign up for her workshop at the next RMAIR conference. Thanks for your willingness to share your expertise with us, Cel.

Many conference participants were heard giving rave reviews to Mavis O'Connor and Keith Ikles, presentation "Caught in the Web: the Electronic Distribution of Information", and winner of the RMAIR Best Paper/Presentation. Great job, Mavis and Keith! Last, but certainly, not least, John Porter has been elected as AIR Treasurer this year, giving many of us hope that additional funds will find their way to our coffers.

Our next RMAIR conference is scheduled for October 9-11 in Park City, Utah. The program for this conference is in the very competent hands of Jean Vinsonhaler. Jean announced the conference theme, "Identification and Use of Key Performance Indicators" and encouraged all of us to submit proposals for papers or presentations, especially in the areas of program review, program accreditation, graduate and general education, and peer evaluation. Jean asked for a show of hands to indicate the level of interest in concurrent sessions; most of those in attendance felt that some concurrent sessions would be desirable. Bruce Higley, local arrangements chair, then presented an enticing description of the local area, complete with references to golfing, swimming, and bluegrass music courtesy of a local group called "Fire on the Mountain". Denise Sokol has offered to coordinate a preliminary investigation of the shopping potential of the area. The conference hotel selected is the Olympia Park Hotel in Park City, and lodging is expected to be approximately $60 per night. Bruce mentioned that there are townhouses with kitchenettes available nearby for those interested in bringing their families.

As president and chair of the nominating committee for RMAIR Vice President, Susan Jones will be coordinating the nominations and election process for RMAIR vice president. An announcement is posted in this issue of Panorama.

After the treasurers report was made by outgoing financial whiz-kid, Diane Munta, discussion ensued regarding creative ways to spend all of this money that was piling up. Some possibilities included travel grants to members who might otherwise not be able to attend the regional meetings, lowering conference registration fees, and a new set of clubs for Larry Hunter (the latter is part of the unofficial minutes). Jacki Stirm promptly took her new title as official secretary/treasurer, and discussion became more conservative as many of us realized the wisdom of having a cushion to cover losses from low attendance conferences, or alternatively, to support keynote speakers in the future. Good work, Jacki.

The meeting wrapped up with Larry Beck and Linda Hawkins providing a description of a potential 1997 RMAIR conference site in Cloudburst, New Mexico. Methods of transportation to and from the site are still being considered. Cel Johnson then entertained some discussion of Montana as the host site for the 1998 regional conference. With so many places to choose from, we left it to Cel to find the place convenient for her and Jean Horst to coordinate local arrangements.

Our esteemed president, Ken Brown, then attempted to obtain a committed response from the audience regarding the desirability and feasibility of offering a joint RMAIR/PNAIRP Conference. (He was led to such an irrational behavior only because of exhaustion from long hours of coordinating volunteers and working the registration desk.) The deciding factors became who got to have their acronym first in the program and who gets all of the money. Just kidding, only the latter is true. Actually, Diane Munta (vice president and incoming president) pointed out the impending national conference in Seattle in 1999 as a potential barrier to getting this joint conference planned in the near future. However, being the dedicated servants that they are, Diane and Ken will present a thoroughly investigated recommendation at the fall conference in Park City. The last (and first) joint conference of these two groups was in Reno in 1991 and was a success due to the efforts of Jan Brown, Bruce Higley, and Loretta Seppanen (PNAIRP).

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The Board of Regents set tuition for 1996-97 at their April meeting. The Board adopted a 3% increase in resident tuition rates and a 5% increase for non-residents. Resident tuition will be $1,940; non-resident tuition will be $8,308 (at ASU and UA) and $7,456 (at NAU). The Board also increased annual full-time student contributions to the Arizona Financial Aid Trust Fund by $3, to $19. This fund is matched by state appropriations for financial aid for needy students. Approximately $11.5 million, an increase of $362,700 from 1995-96, also was allocated from tuition revenues for financial assistance.

Jonathan Schmitt, a junior at the University of Arizona, has been appointed by Governor Symington to serve as the 1996-97 student regent. He is majoring in agricultural and resource economics. He will replace NAU student Mark Davis, the 1995-96 student regent, when his term expires on June 30, 1996.

A university task force has been established to work with community colleges to initiate a comprehensive study of transfer articulation problems. The committee will meet with representatives of the community colleges and perform a review of all data describing the nature, scope, and depth of transfer articulation performance for the past two years. A status report and action plan for resolving issues is scheduled to be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

As a part of its year-long study of tenure issues, the Board of Regents has reviewed tenure portfolios in order to gain an understanding of the rigor involved in the tenure review process. The Board has also reviewed a report of a tenure audit conducted by the universities. Each of the three universities also had the opportunity to review each other's tenure audit reports. The universities examined the progress through the tenure process of tenure-track faculty hired into the system for a 2-year period, 1988-90; finding that approximately 60% of the faculty members hired in the tenure track are eventually awarded tenure. The Board will continue to review the tenure issue and will get an update on developing a post-tenure review process at its May Board meeting.

Arizona State University by Melinda Gebel

A number of administrative changes have just taken place among the campuses. New provosts have been named for both ASU West and ASU East. At the West campus will be Elaine P. Maimon from Queen's College, City University of New York, who is nationally recognized as a founding contributor to the "Writing Across the Curriculum" movement.

Charles E. Backus, who has been serving as director of academic programs at ASU East, will now head the campus as provost. Meanwhile, Ben Forsyth, current provost of ASU West and interim provost of ASU East, will return to duties in the Office of the President. Also, after a year-long search, ASU announced a new athletic director, Kevin White of Tulane University.

ASU's graduate programs in journalism, education, and business got a boost this spring when they ranked among the top 50 in US News and World Report's 1996 listing of "America's Best Graduate Schools." The Academic Senate ended another season this month with an approval of a set of principles regarding post-tenure review in response to the Board of Regents' recent focus on tenure reform. The principles include statements about the value of tenure, the need for review, and issues of cost. In other news, ASU received a significant gift when the principal of the Barry Goldwater Chair of American Institutions was transferred to the ASU Foundation. The trust fund, which has received more than $2.5 million in contributions since its establishment in 1969, will be paced in an endowment to support appointments of prominent scholars in history, political science, economics, law, and public policy.

On the technological front, ASU is offering a new "better than ever" home page called ASU Web that will officially be up and running by June 1. The redesigned site will have a number of new features to improve use and will incorporate all three campuses. In addition, a new feature called "The Atrium" will provide visitors information on the latest technology, programming, and networking at ASU. Visit the current home page at <http://www.asu.edu> and look for the new changes soon to come.

University of Arizona by John Wilson

The University of Arizona Strategic Planning and Budgeting Advisory committee completed an environmental scan titled "New Realities Facing The University of Arizona," which appeared in the May 9 Lo Que Pasada, and can be found on our web at: http://pubrec.oir.arizona.edu/uaplan/index.html. This is part of a major effort to get the whole campus involved in rethinking the way we do business, including rethinking
the university structure.

The Journalism department is not going away after all—lesson: if you decide to eliminate a department, don’t pick one in a profession where they buy ink by the barrel. Exercise and Sport Science was split with the science part going to Physiology in the College of Medicine and the exercise part going to the College of Education. Statistics is still on course to disappear as a department June 30.

Budget reallocation is smaller this year but still cause of considerable heartburn. Our office will lose a line (vacant fortunately) and that will cost us a year or so from now.

We have given a lot of presentations to deans and vice provost offices on our integrated information warehouse (Ernie Payne in DAPS and Chris Janton in CCIT). Since customer support on user tools can be high, we are trying to stratify our customer groups and answer the most frequently asked questions with easier tools (like direct web sites and spreadsheet downloads) and then scaling up to more complex analysis with standard queries that are modifiable by the user. Ideally, direct original queries against the database will be needed by a relatively few users with special needs. As new issues arise, we hope to migrate them down this chain. Turn a special request or user query into a standard query then into an entry in a standard report. So far the users seem to think it is great.

We took a few more people than usual to the AIR Forum this year and am glad we did. IMHO (in my humble opinion), the best of the three Forums I’ve attended. Congratulations and thanks to all those RMAIRians that helped make it possible.

Coming attractions: We expect to have a lot of announcements about our public web sites that are coming up this month in the next issue.

Pima Community College by Lou Attinasi

Arizona AIR Seventh Conference - A Success:

The Maricopa Community College District's Estrella Mountain College hosted the annual AzAIR Conference on April 4, 1996. Participants shared (a) research results, (b) discussed issues facing institutional researchers, (c) learned about new and improved tools, and (d) received updates on the "AZ Statewide Student Tracking System" and changes in IPEDS reporting. P. J. Boone and Anne DeBiak of Arizona State University-West demonstrated "Automating Data Entry for Survey Research." Another demonstration, this one on using LONESTAR + for student tracking, was presented by Laurie McCown from Coconino Community College. Texas is ready to export LONESTAR +. The changes in IPEDS, especially for community college reporting of cohort graduation rates, make cohort tracking a requirement for any postsecondary institution.

Rick Kroc of the University of Arizona presented on "National Graduation Rates" using Research 1 university data and following the Astin Model of taking into account the selectivity of entering students. Sue Starrfield reported on the results of tracking students at South Mountain Community College. Marion Gibney gave an update on Phoenix College's "PULSE" study.

Three presentations gave a "how to approach" to address current concerns while also providing an application of the process: (a) Winnie Black presented Arizona Western College's model of program review; (b) Beth Price, of Central Arizona College, discussed the integrated planning, budgeting and evaluation system used at her college; and (c) Pima Community College's Phil Silvers and Lou Attinasi discussed the process and some of the results of developing a value statement.

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CAPRI

The Colorado Association of Planners and Institutional Researchers met at the Colorado Community Colleges and Occupational Education System Office in Denver on April 17 for a 1/2 day of presentations. The next meeting is set for the fall and will be announced later. Hans L'Orange, Assistant Director of Planning and Institutional Research at CU Boulder is the new president, and James Podaolak, Director of Colorado State Information Coordinating Committee is the treasurer. Please contact Melodie Christal (303-299-3688 or mchristal@ecs.org) or Hans L'Orange (303-492-6201) for information.

Colorado News

Herman Lujan, President of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, announced that he would step down from the presidency. It was announced that the interim president would be Howard Skinner who has been at UNC since 1968 and is the dean of the College of Performing and Visual Arts. In addition, Stephen Hulbert, Senior Vice President has announced that he will take a position as commissioner of higher education for the state of Rhode Island.

Legislative Update:

In January, Senator Ben Alexander and Representative Steve Acquafresca introduced Senate Bill 96-172, concerning the creation of
Time to Begin Thinking
Park City, Utah

Do you have a paper or topic for presentation for the Fall 1996 RMAIR Conference, October 9 - 11, in Park City, Utah?

Give it some thought!

For further details see Panorama's "Announcements" section.
The immediate past president of RMAIR has the honor of serving as Chair of the Nominations Committee and coordinating the nominations and election process. This year we will have only one position to fill, that of vice president. The VP's duties are basically to assist the president in any way requested and to "get ready" to assume the duties of the top office in the following year. If you are interested in running or would like to nominate a worthy candidate, please contact Susan Jones by e-mail, phone or fax:

E-mail: sbjones@uwyo.edu
Phone: (307) 766-2897
Fax: (307) 766-2606

or for the electronically disadvantaged, by snail-mail:

Susan B. Jones
Office of Institutional Analysis
University of Wyoming
P.O. Box 3314, Old Main 321
Laramie, WY 82071-3314
the Colorado Postsecondary Education Expense Program. The complete bill, as passed by the legislature on April 1, is currently awaiting action by the governor. Highlights of the bill are: That the Colorado Student Obligation Bond Authority (CSOBA) is to conduct a feasibility study to develop criteria for a prepaid expense program and/or savings program. Based on the feasibility and consultation with interested parties, findings will be presented at a joint meeting of the education committees of the House and Senate no later than December 1, 1996. If approved, policies and procedures for implementing the program shall be effective and implemented no later than July 1, 1997. Some additional highlights of the bill include the following:

- A prepaid expense program shall provide for the payment of tuition on behalf of a qualified beneficiary in accordance with an advance payment contract. Such contract would establish the number of credit hours for which tuition at a state institution has been contracted by the purchaser and shall specify any minimum rate of return guaranteed by the contract.

- No purchaser, depositor, or qualified beneficiary will be classified as a resident for tuition purposes as a result of participation in the program.

- Selection of a particular state institution of higher education does not constitute a promise or guarantee of admission, continued enrollment, or graduation from such institution.

IDAHO by Jerry Engstrom

The annual legislative session ended as expected. The public college and universities received a modest increase in general account funds this year -- 5.65%. While any increase is good news in today's climate, higher education continues to decline in its percentage share of the state's total general account -- largely due to continued proportionately larger increases in human services and corrections budgets.

The State Board of Education is continuing in its effort to rethink and change the delivery of postsecondary education in the state. It is currently trying to focus on the educational needs of those who are not planning to or who will not earn a 4 year degree. The first step of this process is an attempt to precisely define the range of services that need to be expanded or instituted to better serve this group. The next step will be to shift funding priorities to emphasize these services.

An additional funding incentive is also being developed. The Board is setting aside a bit less than $2 million of this year's appropriation for use to fund faculty incentive grants for faculty who are interested in developing instructional materials that utilize new technologies.

A final news item from the state is the hiring of a new president for the University of Idaho. In March, the Board hired Robert Hoover. Most recently, he has served as academic vice president at the University of Nevada in Reno. He plans to assume his new position the 1st of July.

MONTANA by Cel Johnson

The campuses of the Montana University System are now experiencing "springtime in the Rockies." For the uninitiated, a forecast of "scattered showers" these days usually means wet, slushy snow or hard, pellet snow; it can even mean rain! The prudent travel with snow boots and umbrellas.

Despite the presence of the Freemen and the Unabomber in Montana, rest assured that none of your institutional research colleagues in the state has been shot, bombed, or gassed. A wag in Helena printed T-shirts with the message, "At least our cows are sane."

The big news from the Montana University System is that Dr. Jeffrey Baker resigned as commissioner of higher education to become president of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The Board of Regents is expected to appoint an acting commissioner at their May meeting. Governor Racicot is interviewing candidates for a vacancy on the Board of Regents, and an announcement is expected soon.

Not surprisingly, the Board voted unanimously at their March meeting to adopt a resolution in opposition to the passage of Constitutional Amendment 30, which is scheduled for a vote in this fall's general election. This amendment would abolish the Board of Regents by 2001 and replace it with a seven member Commission on Education. The commission would have no constitutional powers, so its powers would have to be defined by law. The Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education would also be abolished by this amendment.

Also at the March meeting, the
Board approved changing the state-subsidized credit limit to 150 credits, beginning fall 1996. Under this policy, Montana residents would pay subsidized tuition rates ("resident tuition") for the first 150 credits and unsubsidized rates ("nonresident tuition") for all subsequent credits. The limit will be reduced to 144 credits starting fall semester 2000. The Board is also considering a policy for "Proficiency Admission requirements and Developmental Education in the Montana University System," with an implementation date to be decided at the May meeting.

Jean Horst reports from MSU-Billings that they recently filled the provost’s position. Dr. Janie Park, formerly dean of Arts and Sciences, assumes her new position in July. They are currently searching for a dean of academic and student support services, a position that replaces the vice chancellor for student affairs. They are also searching for a director of continuing education. The campus is in the midst of a major restructuring of student services. They plan to house all student support services in a centralized Student Support Center, which will include academic advisors, multicultural student services, career services, financial aid, cooperative education, testing, and several others. The new center, located on the first floor of the administration building, should be in place this summer.

At MSU-Bozeman, Dr. Joseph Chapman has been hired as provost and vice president for academic affairs. He is currently dean of the College of Natural Resources at Utah State University and will start in Bozeman this July. Dr. David Todd, formerly director of information technology at Wesleyan University, has accepted the new position of executive director of information services. He too will start in July, but meanwhile will be actively involved in the search for a new director of the Information Technology Center. Now that spring has arrived, more or less, landscaping has resumed on the central mall.

Jim Olomon reports that the University of Montana-Missoula is interviewing for a new vice president for research and a director of international programs. They hope to have both positions filled and on campus by end of July. Construction of the new Davidson Honors College is finally complete, and faculty have moved into the new building. Business School faculty will be moving into the new Gallagher Building sometime late this summer. Don Read retired as head football coach after winning the NCAA Division II A championship this year.

Montana is planning to host the 1998 meeting of RMAIR as a joint venture between Jean Horst of MSU-Billings and Cel Johnson of MSU-Bozeman. Possible alternative sites will be discussed at the RMAIR SIG in Albuquerque.

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NEVADA
by Jan Brown

University Of Nevada, Las Vegas

A proposal to increase student fees has been presented to the Board of Regents of the University and Community College System of Nevada. If the proposal is approved by the Board at their June meeting, undergraduate fees will increase to $66.50 per credit in 1997 and $69 per credit in 1998. Graduate fees will increase to $90 per credit in 1997 and $93 per credit in 1998. Non-resident tuition will increase from $5,100 to $5,435 in 1997 and $5,770 in 1998. UNLV has received a gift of $6.7 million from Las Vegas businessman Stanley Fulton, president and founder of Anchor Gaming. Of the $6.7 million, $5 million will be used to fund the construction of a new building to house the UNLV International Gaming Institute and $1.7 million will be used to create an endowed scholarship in UNLV's Honors Program.

University Of Nevada, Reno

UNR’s vice president of academic affairs, Robert Hoover, was named president of the University of Idaho, effective July 1, 1996. An interim VP, Dr. David Westfall, has been named. A national search process for a new VP is under way.

Ann Ronald, dean of the College of Arts & Science, is stepping down from that position and returning to the classroom effective June 30. An interim dean has been named, and a nationwide search for a replacement will begin right away.

UNR has inaugurated a new degree audit reporting system (DARS) that will improve student advisement and keep students on track to graduation. It is expected the system will help prevent students from wasting time and money on unnecessary classes, as they will be hooked up immediately with an adviser upon entering the university. It will be a valuable advising tool, and will provide students at any time in their academic career at the university with a summary of what they have completed and what they need to complete for their degree.

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New Mexico by Chester Haugawaut & Amy Holt

Post-tenure Review

Senate Bill 1131 was passed during the 1995 New Mexico legislative session requiring all state baccalaureate degree-seeking educational institutions develop and process post-tenure reviews on faculty. This legislation impacts data collection by requiring the implementation of post-tenure review every 3 to 5 years. Areas of review include (a) teaching, (b) research and scholarly output, and (c) contributions in the area of public service to the institution and community. This senate bill provides a process for legislators to address the accountability issue of tenured faculty. The notion that when faculty members become tenured they don’t have to continue to update their skills and keep abreast of current issues will be a thing of the past. A survey of states done by the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education found that of the 18 states that responded (a) none had legislatively mandated requirements for post-tenure reviews, (b) 6 states had state board policy requiring periodic reviews of all faculty, and (c) 12 states had no statewide policy (faculty review is left up to individual institutions).

Articulation

The state of New Mexico universities and colleges are now under mandate to establish and maintain a statewide plan to facilitate student transfer. According to Frank Renz,

Executive Director of the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, "Articulation efforts to improve transfer between New Mexico's community colleges and universities got a boost in 1995 with the passage of the legislature of the Post-Secondary Education Articulation Act." Dr. Renz indicates that "The major features of this statewide plan are the establishment of a common general education core of 35 semester hours and transfer modules." These lower-level general education requirements will transfer among any of New Mexico's postsecondary schools. An important portion of the act is the 64-hour transfer module. Students who plan to transfer into a specific program at a fourth-year institution will have a course transfer guide available to them. The courses have been recommended by faculty members from colleges and universities across the state and have been approved by the New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE). This articulation process will allow students to transfer courses from two-year colleges to four-year universities without wasting time taking additional courses. Dr. Renz also indicates that the CHE is responsible for (a) monitoring the progress of transfer students, (b) establishing a complaint student system, and (c) a reporting mechanism summarizing student transfer efforts to include a summary of complaints. The CHE has completed the first draft of regulations and procedures and it has been sent to the state's chief academic officers for review.

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Utah by Joseph Curtin

Utah System of Higher Education

The College of

Eastern Utah (CEU) has new co-directors of Institutional Research. Lisa Skriner & Steven Belnap replace Dr. Richard McCormick in the I.R. Office at CEU. E-mail addresses for Lisa and Steven are: Lskriner@ac.ceu.edu and Sbelnap@as.ceu.edu. They look forward to participating in RMAIR and meeting people at the fall conference in Park City, Utah.

Data recently compiled by Ray Sudweeks at the USHE commissioner's office, looked at trends for degrees conferred to women by field of study at Utah public and private institutions of higher learning.

The study compares the percentage of baccalaureate degrees conferred from the 1970-71 academic year to the 1993-94 academic year. Some of the interesting trends are (a) the growth of women receiving degrees in the math and science areas, and (b) the decline in more traditional majors such as home economics and education. For example, of the degrees awarded in each area, the following percentages of the degrees were awarded to women:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Home Econ</th>
<th>Computer Sci</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Public Mgmt</th>
<th>Business Mgmt</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>90.8%</td>
<td>92.2%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993-94</td>
<td>80.3%</td>
<td>82.2%</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>78.8%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A complete list of majors, as well as detail of this study, are available from Ray Sudweeks and the Utah System of Higher Education Commissioner's Office (801) 321-7129.

Brigham Young University

Brigham Young University (BYU) recently finished an institution wide self-study as part of their 10 year accreditation process. This spring, BYU was visited by a 19 member accreditation team that included people from Stanford University, New Orleans University, Michigan
State University, San Jose State University, University of Wisconsin, University of Notre Dame, and other schools from within the Northwest Association. A highlight of the report comes from Gonzaga University, Vice President of Academic Affairs when in the report letter he made the following statement: "Only a very strong institution can engage in the sort of self-criticism which our committee found in your self-study. Personally, I found BYU a much changed institution for the better since my visit there 10 years ago."

Brigham Young University will inaugurate its 11th president at the April 25, 1996, commencement exercises. Merrill J. Batemen was announced as the new president of BYU on November 2, 1995, by LDS Church President Gordon B. Hinckley, and began serving as president of BYU on January 1, 1996. President Batemen replaces President Rex E. Lee who had served since July 1, 1989, and resigned due to health reasons. We are sad to report that in mid March, President Lee passed away. President Lee leaves behind a great legacy both as an attorney and as president of Brigham Young University. President Lee served as a U.S. assistant attorney general and solicitor general under President Reagan. At the time of his death, he was preparing to argue his 50th case before the U.S. Supreme Court, and he was one of the founders of the BYU J. Ruben Clark School of Law. With these and many other accomplishments, President Lee will be missed by all those who knew and worked with him.

**RMAIR Fall 1996 Conference**

H. Bruce Higley, Director of Institutional Studies at BYU is making the local arrangements for the fall 1996 RMAIR conference. Preliminary plans have been made with the Olympia Park Hotel in Park City, Utah for October 9-11.

The room rate will be about $60 a night for a king or two queen beds. Condominiums are available for families; but the price is unknown at this time. The room rate will be extended for those who wish to spend Saturday and Sunday at the hotel. Planned activities in addition to the conference presentations are shopping along Park City's historic main street and dinner with entertainment on Thursday evening. If you have any suggestions or questions you should contact Bruce Higley at BYU (801) 378-4242.

**Wyoming**

University of Wyoming by Sue Koller

The big news at the University of Wyoming is that President Terry Roark has announced his resignation effective July 1, 1997, exactly 10 years after taking the job. The president plans to live in Laramie and perhaps return to UW to teach astronomy. The strain on his energies was his primary reason for his decision, claiming he had the physical energy but was finding less emotional and intellectual energy. Roark sees his biggest accomplishments as the establishment of the Wyoming Center for Teaching Excellence and the creation and expansion of the compressed video network, which allows people to attend UW throughout the state without leaving their homes. Nationally, Roark has served as a WICHE chair, as a member of the American Council on Education's Commission on Leadership Development, and has chaired the Board of Directors for the Association of Western Universities. He is the director of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and is chair-elect of its Commission on International Programming.

During the month of April, candidates for the vice-president for Information Technology and athletic director positions have been visiting campus. An informal tally of our administrators and deans shows about a 50% turnover rate within the last year. Many were due to early retirement.

The legislature has assigned all state agencies the task of developing a strategic plan. The University of Wyoming first sent its 45-page strategic plan to the legislature last year. Since that time, the strategic plans are going through a "second draft" period where specific numeric goals are being developed to tie to state funding.

The University is carefully studying the Joint Commission on Accountability Reporting (JCAR) Standards. A committee comprised of Institutional Research, Financial Aid, Registration and Records, and Finance has been set up to address the definitions and formats set in the JCAR Executive Summary. Uniform reporting standards would allow more easily understood and comparable information; and so the University has a vested interest in JCAR's success.