



President's Message: Status update on campus Wellness Center and YMCA

Posted: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Posted: 4:32:31 PM CT



I wanted you to know that a Wellness Center and campus YMCA are still under active consideration. I'm looking forward to additional input from faculty, staff and students to help us find a positive way forward.

These facilities are important enough to the future of the university that I've asked members of our team to keep exploring the idea, despite a vote last week by Student Government Association to oppose it.

Thanks to the hard work of a number of people on campus, a year ago the Wellness Services portfolio was created within Student Affairs and placed under the leadership of Dr. Maureen Dasey-Morales, better known as "Dr. Mo."

Wellness includes Campus Recreation, Counseling and Testing, Student Health Services and Child Development.

When she was promoted last year to associate vice president, Mo spoke powerfully about the importance of these services at the university. She said:

"If you're a resilient person, if you're energetic in your work and interact positively with others, and if you care for your mind and your body, you're going to be a more successful person in your career and your degree. You'll be more successful in creating things and innovating things. That's part of your education."

The new 60,000-square-foot Wellness Center and Y contemplated for Innovation Campus would bring together and allow the expansion of:

- Student Health Services, now inadequately housed on the second floor of Ahlberg.
- Counseling and Testing, now in Grace Wilkie.
- Drop-in childcare services, that don't currently exist on campus. The Child Development Center, which serves a different role, would continue in its current facility on 21st Street.
- A full-service modern fitness center.

Under the plan being discussed, Campus Recreation would continue and likely grow. Dr. Mo has been talking with the Campus Recreation staff this week and they've got cool ideas for expanding their services in new directions. Overall student employment in fitness and recreation jobs would grow. International students could be employed at the new facility, just as they are now at Heskett and Rhatigan.

A campuswide committee including students, faculty and staff, as well as Y staff, would make sure we're making complementary use of all campus recreation and fitness facilities.

The part of the plan that has drawn the most fire is the estimate of a \$7.75 student credit hour fee. We're now exploring funding alternatives that will still provide the needed funds to operate the facilities.

Student fees in some form will be needed to finance these operations. That's exactly the way it's done at other Kansas Regents universities because these are services that primarily serve students.

KU, K-State and Pitt State all have much more modern facilities to show prospective students and parents, and the other universities would still be charging higher student fees for the same types of services.

A big advantage here is that under the agreement being discussed with the Y, our students would have access not just to the campus Y, but also to each of the nine Y branches in Sedgwick, Butler and Harvey counties. That would begin as soon as the fee went into effect, meaning that those paying the fee would get immediate benefit.

Thanks to all of you who have shared your thoughts and questions on a campus Y and Wellness Center at the recent town hall or information tables at the Rhatigan and Heskett.

There are questions we don't know enough yet to answer, such as what will faculty and staff pay to use a new Y. That depends on factors yet to be determined, but we will get you answers when we know them. For a list of frequently asked questions, go to www.wichita.edu/ymca.

Please email your thoughts and questions to me, president@wichita.edu. And for those of you who may be taking time off next week, have a wonderful spring break.

A Shocker You Should Know: Scott Jensen

Posted: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Posted: 4:33:02 PM CT

Change is a concept Scott Jensen has grown quite accustomed to. Since coming to Wichita State as director of Housing and Residence Life in July 2015, Scott has dealt with the daily challenges of a new residence hall – Shocker Hall – and is now taking on a partnership with the developers of the first apartment complex on campus, The Flats at WSU.

Scott says at WSU, he has two main goals: continue to make positive connections between Housing and the rest of the university; and constantly look for ways he can be more efficient with the use of department funds to ensure as many resources as possible are used to better the student experience.



“We believe Housing and Residence Life should provide students access to the great resources WSU offers its students,” he says. “Students who live on campus are more likely to join a student organization, work out at the Heskett Center, attend a late night event at the RSC put on by ODI or Student Involvement, utilize the resources at the Student Health Center or Counseling and Testing, or take advantage of all the academic support services available around campus. Our job in HRL is to make sure our students are aware of those resources and to know our students.”

Scott says he and his staff continue to fine tune the Living Learning Community program in Shocker Hall, are looking to grow the summer intern and conference program, and are implementing a new housing software program that will streamline HRL’s work.



Scott says he’s excited for the opportunity to work with The Flats at WSU. Housing is taking on property management of the complex, and Scott hopes the additional housing will help further create a community in that area and build on the energy Shocker Hall has added to campus.

“We know our current on-campus housing does not meet the needs of many of our students who desire to have a more traditional apartment experience where they can cook their own food and enjoy a little more space,” he says. “We hope this partnership with The Flats at WSU will allow us to create a place on campus where students

continue to enjoy the convenience and community aspects they enjoy in their current on-campus college experience.”

This is Scott’s first time taking on a director role. Prior to arriving in Wichita, the Washington state native spent 13 years in housing-related positions, most recently at the University of Utah.

In just 1.5 years in Wichita, Scott and his family – wife, Theresa and 8-year-old Lucas – have genuinely enjoyed their new home. Scott’s mom was born in Wichita, so he says living here was always on his radar, and he jumped at the change to work at WSU when the job became available.

“During my interview, I was struck by the strong feeling of community at WSU and the pride the community had in the university,” he says. “When I was offered the job, it was an easy decision for me to join the Shocker family.”

Diversity Update: Women's History Month

Posted: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 Posted: 11:07:45 AM CT

In March, we celebrate Women’s History Month to recognize and celebrate the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society.

Our history is filled with hidden figures who persevered to promote equity for women in our nation and community.

One of the ways we celebrate the progress and contributions of women in history is through on-campus events.

On March 8, the Center for Women’s Studies and the Office of Diversity and Inclusion presented keynote speaker Sen. Oletha Faust-Goudeau to discuss women’s political leadership in Kansas and the United States.

I encourage you to attend “Ain’t I a Woman” at 7:30 p.m. Monday, March 27, in Wiedemann Hall, presented by the President’s Diversity Council and the School of Music.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the 2017 President’s Distinguished Service Awardees:

- Krysti Carlson-Goering, Information Technology Services
- Deanna Carrithers, President's Diversity Council
- Janet Ives, School of Music
- Kayla Jasso, College of Education
- Krishna Krishnan, Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering
- Rhonda Lewis, Psychology
- Gayle Martin, Public Policy and Management Center
- Jordan Oleson, Graduate School
- Jean Patterson, Counseling, Leadership, Educational and School
- Psychology Stacy Salters, Alumni Association



"As we celebrate Women's History Month this March, it's important to remember the key role women have played in promoting a better understanding and relationships between our country and the rest of the world." — Elaine Chao

— **Marché Fleming-Randle, Ph.D.**
Assistant to the president for diversity
Wichita State University

Grant of the Month: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

Posted: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Posted: 4:33:27 PM CT

The National Science Foundation awarded a grant of \$323,899 to Vinod Namboodiri, associate professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department (EECS).

The grant will fund a three-year program for research in computer networks, mobile computing, wireless communications and information security and privacy.

As part of the program, Namboodiri and the College of Engineering will host 10 undergraduate students for a summer computer science research program. The students will spend nine weeks working with faculty researchers from EECS, living and working at WSU and earning stipends of \$4,500.



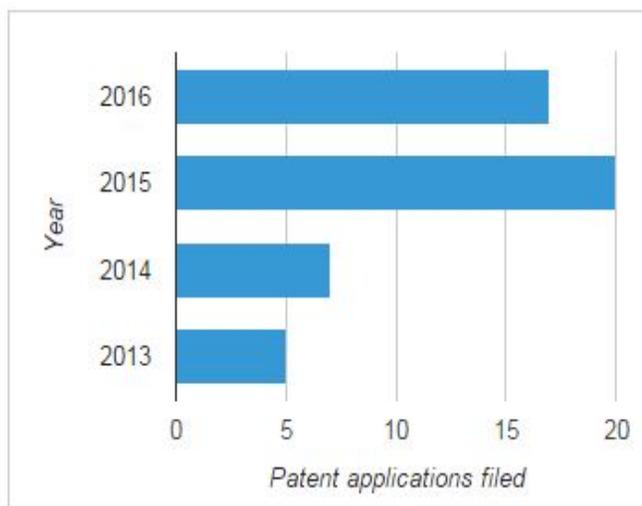
Metric of the Month: Patents filed

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The Strategic Planning Steering Committee, in consultation with University Academic Affairs and the college deans, has developed a university dashboard that intentionally gauges collective performance of WSU on representative meaningful metrics.

The highlighted metric for this month is patents filed.

The number of patents filed relates to numerous WSU strategic goals, including the discovery, creation and transfer of new knowledge and applied learning experiences for students. Patents filed also pertains to WSU's mission of being an educational, cultural and economic driver for Kansas and the greater public good and are one of the many outcomes associated with WSU's emphasis on creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.



What I'm Reading: 'The accelerating pace of change in higher education'

Posted: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 Posted: 4:35:38 PM CT

In my years in North Carolina, I got to know Gov. James G. Martin as a big thinker in the world of higher education. In this article, the institution named after him – the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal – takes on the accelerating pace of change in higher education.

There is a considerable body of opinion that systemic problems such as diminishing tax-funded support and rapidly escalating costs are so wired into the collective that only extreme measures can break through institutional logjams.

This list provides a framework for the conversations to come.

