

April 2017

# PROVOST'S UPDATE

## **Greetings, Colleagues:**

It is my pleasure to once again bring you a monthly update of news and announcements from Academic Affairs. Since the Provost's Update launched last month, it has become clear that there are many developments impacting and reflecting the academic life of Kennesaw State worthy of sharing. I am pleased to make you aware of critical news from the academic affairs office, and I encourage you to continue to flag me on exciting and important developments that impact teaching and learning at KSU.



## **A 20 Percent e-Tuition Reduction**

Beginning fall 2017, Kennesaw State students registering for an online class will pay less. The undergraduate e-tuition rate of \$100 per credit hour, and the graduate rate of \$125 per credit hour, will be lowered to \$80 and \$100 respectively. This e-tuition reduction will save students about \$3 million next academic year.

The decision to reduce e-tuition was made after careful consideration and in consultation with the University System of Georgia's administration. KSU previously had the highest e-tuition rate among the System's comprehensive universities. This reduction brings KSU's rate in line with the USG's expectation and allows us to continue to offer high quality online courses and programs.

The reduction will not impact Kennesaw State's faculty support and incentive program, nor the number of services made available to online students and faculty. It will be absorbed through a reduction in the funds allotted for the

University's overhead, optimized budgets from support units, and consolidated services.

Over the course of this last academic year, we've been asked to provide responses to a series of inquiries from the Board of Regents and the Georgia Department of Administrative Services on the cost of higher education, online education and associated fees. The information we provided demonstrated that KSU's more than 76 nationally recognized online programs, award-winning faculty development opportunities, and comprehensive online student-support services are the result of an intentional reinvestment of e-tuition resources. Our online courses and programs are setting a high bar, and they continue to be in high demand.

### **New Model for the Annual Country Study Program**

For 34 years, the Annual Country Study Program (ACSP), more commonly known as the "Year of" program, has enriched intercultural understanding at Kennesaw State and been an important means for advancing campus internationalization. In order to improve the disciplinary diversity, intellectual integrity, safety and security, and overall participation and impact of the nationally renowned program for all relevant stakeholders, Dr. Lance Askildson, KSU's vice provost and chief international officer, formed an ACSP faculty advisory board (FAB) in fall 2015. Representatives from six colleges serve on the FAB, which is chaired by Dr. Binbin Jiang from the Bagwell College of Education. The advisory board's purpose was to develop and present binding recommendations to achieve the above-mentioned goals. After an extensive, 18-month review, the FAB developed a vision and mission to guide the development of a new model for the ACSP.

I am delighted to report that initial implementation of the FAB's new program model began this semester. Its key elements include:

- College representation on the ACSP Planning Committee;
- The creation and campuswide use of a promotional video for each new country study;
- College spotlight proposals for ACSP programming;
- An annual faculty-student learning community (FSLC), featuring an undergraduate course that is team-taught by six selected faculty members from diverse colleges and/or disciplines;
- Support and commitment from the colleges represented by the six faculty members participating in the learning community in the form of a one-course release for the faculty members' work over a two-year period, coupled with funding for travel related to the team-taught course;
- Expanding the ACSP planning process to a three-year cycle to include

- pre-planning, structuring and implementation; and
- Modifying the country-selection process to align with the five regions defined by the United Nations (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania).

The new model focuses on systematic and sustained universitywide engagement as well as interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty in course offerings and programing to increase overall participation and impact of the Annual Country Study Program.

### **Opening of the Bentley Rare Book Museum**

Kennesaw State's Department of Museums, Archives, and Rare Books will open the first rare book museum in metro Atlanta on April 22. The Bentley Rare Book Museum, previously the Bentley Rare Book Gallery, will expand its rare book outreach to engage various communities through dynamic programming, free museum admission and rotating exhibitions. Click [here](#) for more on the opening.



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