College Update

After the challenges of registering students in early January, Spring Semester has proceeded smoothly thanks to the hard work of all of you, especially those directly involved in information technology, registration and financial aid, and, of course, the many advisors and other staff who assisted students. In the past, college faculty and staff have often viewed their work as talented experts in a specific discipline, working alone or as a member of a small team or department. Those days are gone as our enrollment numbers escalated, systems such as on-line instruction and financial aid required much more coordination, and requirements of the federal government and accrediting agencies expanded. Even with these challenges, we continue to deliver high quality learning opportunities with less state funding per student than the K-12 educational system, let alone the much higher levels of support received by institutions of the University of North Carolina System. We know that community colleges like Pitt play a leadership role in responding to the current economic situation and the need for training and retraining for jobs now and in the future. And I thank all of our employees for working together to not only provide greater access by students to our offerings but, most importantly, to facilitate their progress toward meeting their educational goals, whether a degree, certificate, diploma, or personal/professional advancement.

There were several new programs which required extensive planning and coordination this spring term. Perhaps the greatest challenge was the Developmental Mathematics Initiative, which transformed our remedial mathematics courses into smaller modules tailored to the individual needs of our students. This was a mammoth undertaking, as almost 70% of our incoming students take coursework in this area. The curriculum changes at the state level were led by our own Hilda Barrow and Glynis Mullins, among others, and Joanne Ceres and Lisa Reichstein worked hard to integrate the instructional approaches with the important financial aid adjustments to enable our students to progress more rapidly in their academic programs. Things are going smoothly so far with the help of faculty advisors and the flexibility of our Developmental Studies faculty. I am proud that Pitt was the major pilot institution in the state this term, and we will be asked to share our results and lessons learned with many other campuses. Of course, the major winners will be the students themselves, and we will monitor their progress carefully.

Another major change this term was the implementation of the College and Career Promise program for high school students interested in taking college-level courses. This was a joint effort led by Governor Beverly Perdue, the Department of Public Instruction, and the NC Community Colleges to streamline and make more academically sound the array of options for young people to get a head start on higher education. Alton Wadford, Dr. Pamela Hilbert, and all curriculum deans showed excellent leadership in implementing these changes and working with the high schools and students and parents. With the changes occurring mid-year, we see the potential for growth next academic year, but even now we are maintaining close to our previous levels of enrollment, both with classes offered at the high schools and on campus. Best
of all, the clear tracks provided in both the career/technical education and university transfer programs will be a much better guide for students and parents and offer more options for everyone, especially in the social sciences, business, and humanities.

Finally, today and tomorrow are an important milestone in our extensive self-study and work in preparation for the reaccreditation of PCC by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). **SACS Vice President Barry Goldstein** will visit PCC to meet with many groups who are working on various parts of the process, including the development of the Quality Enhancement Plan on Career Counseling and Student Advising. There will be a general meeting for all faculty and staff in the Goess Student Center, Room 137, on **Wednesday, February 1, from 2-3 PM**, at which Dr. Goldstein will deliver an address and answer questions. Please try to attend. This will follow a discussion with student leaders in the Goess Center, Room 132-133. I am confident that Dr. Goldstein’s visit will be helpful as we complete our Compliance Certification and prepare for the SACS review.

**Recognitions and Accomplishments**

- **Ricky Brown** (Business Manager) states that the extraordinary efforts of **Beth Lane** (Accountant) and **Judy Harris** (Bookstore) assisted in meeting student demands during the difficult period at the beginning of the term. Their staff members should also be thanked for their long hours and persistence under pressure.
- **Elizabeth Toderick** (Nursing) was accepted as a presenter on S.T.A.R., the supplementary instruction program, at the 2012 AACC Convention in April.
- The following faculty/staff played leadership roles in the NC Community Colleges Curriculum Improvement Project in Career and Technical Education: **Samantha Chauncey**, **Joe Brittain**, **Norm Lilley**, **Bill Hill**, **Amy Stephenson**, and **Derek Hunter**.
- **Hilda Barrow** (Developmental Studies) was named to the Developmental English & Reading Redesign Task Force by President Scott Ralls. It is great to see Pitt represented again on a statewide basis!
- **Jamelle Moore** (TRIO) has been accepted into the National Society of Leadership and Success at East Carolina University, where she is majoring in Business Administration.
- **Sandra Hickman** (Counseling) is retiring after several years of good service in assessment and counseling.

The coming semester will have many challenges, including preparing for the opening of two large new buildings for classes and the early registration of students for both summer and fall terms. I ask you to keep the goals of the PCC Strategic Plan 2011-14, **Student and Community Access, Student Success, and Program Excellence** in mind as we pursue our mission and objectives now and plan for the year ahead.

G. Dennis Massey, President