

Summary of Fall Term “Coffees & Conversations” September 2018

Two “Coffee and Conversation” meetings for adjunct faculty were hosted by the president and provost on September 5 and 12, 2018. Both meetings included college/school deans and members of the administration. A summary of the topics discussed follows:

Beth Stroble President

Webster University Accreditation Obtained: After a comprehensive review of Webster University’s governance, academics, programs, and culminating in a site visit by an accreditation team, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) awarded Webster University a 10-year accreditation. Thanks to all those who assisted with the preparation and coordination of the University’s presentation. In conjunction with its reaffirmation action, HLC requested two interim reports regarding academic program review and enrollment and finances to be submitted on July 1, 2020.

High Marks in Two Magazine Surveys: *Diversity Issues Magazine* named Webster University the top private nonprofit college in the country and in Missouri for graduating African-Americans with Master’s degrees. This marks the 27th year in a row that Webster has earned this distinction.

U.S. News & World Report once again ranked Webster University No. 23 among colleges in the Midwest in this national survey. Also, of note, Webster University was recognized for:

- Study Abroad Programs
- Best for Vets
- Best Value
- Economic Diversity
- Faculty Resources
- Campus Ethnic Diversity

President Stroble pledged to work on alumni giving and boosting peer rankings in an effort to improve the University’s standing in future surveys.

Julian Schuster
Provost

Deans and the administration are working with faculty at all levels to ensure that the voices of adjunct faculty are heard and are included in academic and program reviews. In addition, the university is looking to provide additional help and support to adjunct faculty teaching online as changes in technology and online platforms emerge.

Eric Rothenbuhler
Dean, School of Communications

Sverdrup Remodel Winding Down: Finishing work continues, but major construction has concluded. What has emerged from the dust is a state-of-the-art collaborative learning environment sporting new technology, as well as a new look.

Tony Wallner
Dean, College of Arts & Sciences

College Priorities for the Coming Term: In the coming term, the College of Arts & Sciences will concentrate on increasing grant capacity and experiential learning opportunities for students. In the grant arena, the College of Arts and Sciences and the School of Education have joined together to submit a proposal to the National Academy of Sciences to increase the quality and number of teachers in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) disciplines.

Peter Sargent
Dean, Leigh Gerding School of Fine Arts

Women's Chorus Honored: Missouri Music Educators Association selected Webster University's Women's Chorus to perform for their January 2019 show. The Women's Chorus was selected from a blind audition.

"68" Art Exhibit Commemorates 50th Anniversary: In the 1960s, many universities – including Webster – moved away from preparing yearbooks and instead accumulated "year boxes," which contained artifacts from a given year. In a creative commemoration of the 50th anniversary of 1968, the Art Department is displaying an assortment of these artifacts collected globally throughout the Webster University system during that year.

Thomas Cornell, EdD
Interim Dean, School of Education

Classroom Renovations in Webster Hall Coming Up: During Fall Break, some classrooms will be updated, with additional construction taking place over the Winter Break. Among the enhancements – a makers space, which will serve as a collaborative area for faculty, staff and students.

Mission and Vision Statement Revisions Underway: Working groups have been established to review the School of Education’s mission and vision statements, while also reviewing the school’s “constitution,” which serves as the school’s bylaws for organization and operation.

Technology Initiative: With a goal of making the School of Education a role model in the effective use and implementation of technology in the classroom, school personnel are meeting with representatives from Apple, Microsoft and Google to explore potential collaborative opportunities to better leverage technology in the School of Ed’s classrooms and curriculum.

Dr. Simone Cummings
Dean, Walker School of Business

Accreditation Time – October: The Walker School will be evaluated for accreditation during the October 7-11 period. During that time, representatives from the [Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs](#) (ACBSP) will visit the Webster, Westport, and Vienna campuses, along with metro campuses in Orlando and Little Rock.

Sports & Entertainment Management Degree Added: This year, the Walker school added a degree in Sports & Entertainment management and has enlisted a former employee of the St. Louis Cardinals to help solicit prospective students.

High School Outreach: Walker School faculty are actively reaching out to high schools to encourage faculty and student visits to Webster University campuses.

Rick Rockwell
Chief Communications Officer

Faculty Media Mentions Have Doubled: When the media have questions, they are calling Webster University faculty experts more often – both at the national and local levels. If adjunct faculty would like to be listed as a media resource in the University’s online guide, reach out to Rick at rickrockwell@webster.edu to receive a media contact information enrollment and further instructions.

Adjunct Comments

Starfish: It would be helpful to have additional training and resources to help faculty adjust to this new, but important technology. It was also recommended that the mandatory deadlines for early faculty commentary be examined and better reflect the classroom course work and timetable. While the early timeframe was established to identify attendance and other problems early, consideration will be given to revising the scheduling timeframes – or better explain the commentary that is being sought.

In addition, in the near future, Starfish training resources will be posted to the Websteradjunctinfo.org website, and feedback requirements and schedules will also be evaluated.

Timing of “Coffee and Conversations” – Finding convenient times to pull together a broad assortment of adjunct faculty for these conversational opportunities continues to be a challenge. As a result, a question will be added to the Fall 2018 adjunct faculty survey in an effort to isolate one or two times of convenience for future meetings. If there are other ideas, please share them using the [“Ask A Question” link](#) on the websteradjunctinfo.org website.