

Fall 2017 Adjunct Faculty Town Hall Summary

Beth Stroble, President

- **Eclipse Party Community Viewing** – The University hosted approximately 1,000 faculty, staff, students and community members to view the eclipse and enjoy the “totality” experience.
- **University Accreditation** – This year, the University will undergo reaffirmation for accreditation. This process occurs every 10 years and will culminate in a visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation team. During the comprehensive review process, the University will be evaluated on governance, academics, site, programs, etc. This two-day site visit will take place on March 19-20, 2018. All faculty and staff will be updated on progress as needed.
- **Record Freshman Enrollment** – Standing at approximately 525, freshmen enrollment was at a record level this year, increasing by 20% from last academic year. Work continues to bring undergraduate and graduate enrollment levels in line.
- **Webster Student Success Portal (formerly known as “Starfish”)** – When it is rolled out in October, this new, online, student retention tool will help faculty and staff proactively assist students experiencing academic difficulties or personal challenges. Using this tool, faculty members will be able to chart progress and enlist needed assistance quickly, easily, and confidentially.
- **Community Scholarships Added** – Three new “63119” scholarships are being established for incoming, full-time students from the 63119 (Webster Groves/Rock Hill/Shrewsbury) ZIP code. The new financial aid offerings complement an existing Webster University Loretto Community Scholarship, which is available to graduates of Sisters of Loretto high schools in St. Louis (Nerinx Hall); El Paso, Texas; and Denver, Colo. [Look here for more information.](#)
- **Browning Hall Dedication and Campus Improvements** – On October 18, the University will formally dedicate Browning Hall. The new facility offers state-of-the-art lab and classroom space and will now be home to the university’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) offerings for decades to come. Its completion also marks the implementation of a critical component of the university’s master plan and further concentrates university activities on the interior of campus.

Most importantly, for adjuncts, Browning Hall has multiple dedicated work/meeting spaces set aside for adjuncts. [Please take a look at the complete list of those in Browning and campus wide here.](#)

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University leadership is now working with the University Board of Trustees to prioritize the next phase of master plan implementation. Renovations of Sverdrup are high on the list, and that project is scheduled to begin by the end of the year.

- **50th Anniversary of the Conservatory of Theater Arts** –The Conservatory will celebrate this momentous anniversary April 20-22, 2018. Details of the celebration activities will be shared as they are finalized.

Julian Schuster, Provost

- **Annual Parking Fees Remain \$20** – Parking passes for the 2017-18 academic year are available at the Office of Public Safety (572 Garden; 314-968-7430). In addition, adjunct faculty are also able to acquire a free UPass, which offers unlimited rides on METRO buses and trains. You may pick up a UPass at the Bursar’s Office using your Webster University ID. The Bursar’s Office is located in Room 101 in Webster Hall. [For more information on both items, visit here.](#)
- **Communications Survey Results Highlighted** – At the end of Spring Term all adjuncts were asked to complete a survey to assess adjunct communications. Among the highlights:
 - High overall response rate, with 160 of 700 adjuncts (21%) completing the survey.
 - Communications
 - 21% rated the university excellent and that they felt engaged
 - 7.5% rated it poor and they felt “on their own.”
 - 70% believed university was somewhere in the middle.
 - Conclusion: Responses say that communications are good but could be improved.
 - Town Halls
 - Very few respondents reported that they had attended one or several of the Town Hall meetings, with many indicating the times are inconvenient.
 - Interactions between Department Chairs and Deans:
 - Most faculty direct questions to (114 of 160) and are spending time with their department chair or program coordinator (106)
 - About 50 percent meet with their department chair or program coordinator either once a month or once per week.
 - Conclusion: Relationships and interactions at the departmental level will drive a large part of the adjunct experience because that is where the bulk of these communications occur. These relationships are especially important on matters relating to class assignments and contracts, which continue to be evaluated for efficiencies and enhancements.

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The results of the survey were also broken down by college or school and distributed to each of the deans. Going forward, the University intends to continue this survey at the end of each academic year.

Below are updates from each of the Colleges/Schools:

Brenda Fyfe, School of Education

- **University Grant** – The U.S. Department of Education awarded the school a \$2.7 million grant to fund teacher training for English as a second language programs at three St. Louis area school districts. The grant is the largest yet in University history.
- **Homecoming** – The school honored Patricia McKissick, an alumna and a school advisory board member who authored more than 100 books.

Gary Ford/Eric Rothenbuhler, School of Communications

- **Enrollment** – A record number of freshmen students enrolled in the School of Communications, along with a large group of transfer students. In addition, there are a number of new faculty faces.
- **Adobe Partnership** – Adobe Cloud applications are available to adjunct faculty. To set up an Adobe I.D. to access the cloud applications, please call the Help Desk (On-campus: ext. 5995; Off-campus: 314-968-5995; Toll-free: 1-866-435-7270) or place a work order at: <http://www.webster.edu/technology/service-desk/work-orders/>.
- **Sverdrup Renovations** – The start of the School of Communications facility renovations in Sverdrup will begin soon.
- **Careers Week** – The annual Career Week will take place from November 6 to November 10 and include an internship expo and guest speakers. In the past, the school has placed 130 students per year in four-credit internships.
- **Other key dates:**
 - **Adjunct Meet With the Dean** – Scheduled for September 22 from 8:30 to 10 a.m. at the Sunnen Lounge in the University Center. Breakfast will be served.
 - **Holiday Potluck** – December Fair will be held in the first week of October and include representatives and presentations from a number of the corporations in town.

Simone Cummings, Walker School of Business & Technology

- **Accreditation** – The school is preparing for upcoming accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP).

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- **Adjunct Communications Task Force** – The group will reassemble this semester to present findings and an update on progress, as well as address concerns. Watch the Walker School website for more details.

Peter Sargent, Leigh Gerdine College of Fine Arts

- **A Boisterous First Day** – More than 15 alums are committed to stay in town and help with teaching this term. In addition, the college has approximately 75 adjuncts working part time with students.
- **Title of Show, A Conservatory Production** – Performed by Conservatory students beginning September 27, the play is a one act musical written by Webster Alumnus Hunter Bell. Previously, the show performed on Broadway in 2008 and was nominated for a Tony Award.
- The school is preparing for events and activities to celebrate the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Conservatory of Theater Arts.

Tony Wallner, College of Arts & Sciences

- **Higher Learning Commission (HLC)** – Separate from the University accreditation taking place during Spring Term, the HLC is currently evaluating the College of Arts and Sciences Doctorate of Nursing Anesthesia program and will be at Webster University for a site visit in October.
- **Environmental Justice Events** – Coordinated by the Institute of Human Rights, the events will be held October 11-12, and feature Dr. Robert K. Musil, author of *Rachel Carson and Her Sisters*, which chronicles the history of environmental activism.
- **Browning Hall** – In addition to offering much-improved laboratory and classroom space, the new building includes a professional “teaching kitchen,” which is being used as gathering place to explain and discuss language and cultural issues, along with a spectacular aquarium.

That concludes this term’s report. For those of you who attended the Town Halls, we appreciate your presence and your interest. For everyone, thank you for all you do to enrich our students’ academic lives. Because of your dedication our students will emerge better global citizens.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Term Town Halls!