

President's Message

Ronald M. Zaccari



July 1, 2002

Appointments

In addition to the recently announced appointments of Dr. Levy, Dr. Keppler, and Ms. Gaskins, other forthcoming changes will be in place as VSU opens the 2002 Fall Semester:

Dr. Kurt Keppler, Vice President for Student Affairs, will be temporarily housed in Room 120, West Hall. When renovations to the University Center are complete, Dr. Keppler will move into the office suite currently occupied by Jim Brignati.

Mr. Russ Mast will serve as Dean of Students and retain administrative offices in the University Union.

Ms. Laverne Gaskins' official title will be University Attorney. She will be housed in Room 124 (former Women's Studies Office), West Hall.

College of the Arts

Acting Dean, Dr. John Gaston, effective August 1, 2002

College of Arts and Sciences

Acting Dean, Dr. Sharon Gravett
Acting Department Head of English, Dr. Mark Smith
Effective July 1, 2002

Acting Department Head of Chemistry
Dr. James Baxter
Effective July 1, 2002

Department Head of Physics, Astronomy, and Geosciences
Dr. Edward Chatelain has been selected following a national search.
Effective August 1, 2002

Acting Department Head of Modern and Classical Languages
Dr. Victoria Soady
Effective July 1, 2002

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College of Business Administration

Department Head of Accounting and Finance, Dr. Len Weld has been selected following a national search. He is presently at Troy State.
Effective July 1, 2002

University Relations

Acting Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Mr. Charles Harmon
Effective July 1, 2002

Current National Searches

The former position of Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs has been changed to Chief Planning Officer. Projected starting date: October 1, 2002.

The positions of Dean of the Arts, Dean of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of Education are projected to be appointed January, 2003.

The search for the Vice President for University Advancement will continue until filled.

Strategic Planning

On April 30, 2002 planning team members from Valdosta State University's Strategic Planning Retreat reconvened with Solutions 21 to revisit the goals formulated during VSU's Strategic Planning Process Retreat conducted on March 21-23. The purpose of this meeting was to review/continue the strategic planning process begun during the retreat and accomplish the following objectives:

- Revisit/Review the Goals/Action Steps
- Modify/Revise action steps to a deeper level/improve plan
- Visioning - 2012
 - Determine desired enrollment
- Review mission/move towards approval of revised mission
- Critical Mass Discussion

As promised, the two planning documents are available for campus review. The March 21-23 report and the April 30 revised report are on reserve at the Odum Library. There were eight goals identified during the planning retreat. I emphasize the importance of reading the reports with the understanding of additional opportunity for further discussion and revision. The strategic planning initiative at VSU is a PROCESS; thus, the two reports represent the beginning of creating a more defined planning/assessment model.

President's Message

I am currently discussing next steps with Solutions 21 and planning to appoint committees that will work on identified goals:

- Goal 1: Utilize an integrated, continuous, strategic planning process to inform and support changes, processes and programs.
- Goal 2: Actively identify, cultivate and encourage private support through the enhancement of alumni, community, and corporate outreach.
- Goal 3: Improve student retention and graduation rates.
- Goal 4: Create a comprehensive marketing plan for VSU.
- Goal 5: Increase the pool (number) of high school students from our service area who are eligible to attend VSU.
- Goal 6: In an environment of shared governance across the campus community, the University will recruit, develop, and retain quality faculty and staff.
- Goal 7: Maintain and continue to develop the cultural and economic impact of VSU to enhance the quality of life for the region as well as to attract new students, residents, industry, and visitors.
- Goal 8: Optimize ongoing two-way communication with the Board of Regents.

Interest in serving on any of the committees should be sent to my E-mail address: rzaccari@valdosta.edu. If you have interest in more than one committee, please list in order of preference.

Partners for Campus Excellence

I was very pleased upon my arrival to find that Valdosta State already had in place the Partners for Campus Excellence Program. Such initiatives reflect the value I place on a campus culture that is service oriented and student focused. Creating a campus service culture means that we will be working smarter together to create a learning environment that is convenient, supportive, and free of obstacles to success not only for our students, but each other. It is in keeping with the goals of our student retention programs, and I consider it to be a critical part of our journey toward completion of the strategic plan. In Partners for Campus Excellence training each department will establish its own goals relative to creating and maintaining a service culture and formulate actual action plans that will lead to concrete, measurable improvements. All examples and exercises are oriented specifically and uniquely to the university campus. I expect every effort to be made in each department to see that all staff members and supervisors have the time required to participate in this training.

My thanks to Faye Altman, Rebecca Bennett, Jim Black, Anthony Bryant, Kimberly Godden, Mary Jane Keene, Sue Lampert, Shannon McGee, Rebecca Murphy, Herb Reinhard, Maggie Roberts, and Tim Yorkey who have volunteered to go through hours of special training to become our Partners trainers. Your dedication to this University has not gone unnoticed.

Retirement

Mr. Ray Devery, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, has announced his retirement, effective June 30, 2002. We extend best wishes to Mr. Devery and thank him for nine years of dedicated service to Valdosta State University. Ray plans to remain in Valdosta and teach on a part-time basis at Valdosta Technical College.