**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UPDATES**

**SPRING 2017**

**ONGOING PROJECTS AND TASKFORCES**

* **Gateways to Completion (G2C)** is designed to create and implement an evidence-based plan for improving teaching, learning, and success in historically high-failure rate courses. Success in foundation level courses, such as accounting, math, chemistry, biology and writing and rhetoric is a direct predictor of retention. Gateways to Completion (G2C) provides institutions with assistance on the processes, guidance, and tools to support redesign of lower division and/or developmental level courses. Valdosta State University chose in its first phase of G2C to work with faculty in the following courses for the implementation of these innovations: HIST 2112, MATH 1111, ENGL 2113, CHEM 1211, and BIOL 1107.
* **Enhancing VSU’s Digital Environment:** VSU’s campus network infrastructure has been upgraded to better support mobile devices. The Dewar College of Education and Human Services, the College of the Arts, and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences have committed to piloting a digital environment and are in the process of examining models and planning for a staged implementation
* **SmartPath Core and Online B.S. in Psychology: Smart Path Core** makes available to all students a set of selected core courses.  Once fully implemented in Fall 2017, the program will guarantee the availability of the courses every semester in both face-to-face and online formats. A total of eleven SmartPath Core classes were developed in 2016 and are now available to students. The final six SmartPath Core courses are currently in development and will launch Fall 2017 (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/smartpath/>). Ten new online courses were developed for the online baccalaureate degree in Psychology in 2016. Five additional courses are currently in development and are slated for Fall 3017 launch.
* **STEAM Center for Applied Creativity and Innovation:** This new center will serve as a point of outreach to our local community, encouraging the promulgation of Science, Technology Engineering, Art, and Mathematics knowledge and practice in our local schools. As part of the STEAM Center Official Grand Opening, Ira Flatow will be speaking on campus on the evening of Tuesday, February 21, 2017. More information will be forthcoming.
* **Dual Credit Academy:** Georgia’s Move On When Ready (MOWR) program allows Georgia high school students to complete university courses will enrolled in high school. These courses are free-of-charge to qualified students. To take advantage of this opportunity, VSU has started its Dual Credit Academy (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/dual-enrollment/>).
* **Faculty Evaluation Model Taskforce**: This taskforce, under the leadership of Dr. Byron Brown and with representation from all the colleges and the library, the Faculty Senate, the IDEA Center, the Deans’ Council, and the Council of Department Heads, began work in Spring 2016. The taskforce was charged with updating the current Faculty Evaluation Model (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/documents/FEMfinal.pdf>). The taskforce has submitted a draft document to the Faculty Senate for review in Spring 2017.
* **Faculty Load Committee:** This committee, under the leadership of Dr. Peggy Moch, and faculty from across campus, is examining faculty load across all departments in all colleges.
* **The Florida 2+2 program**: Under this program, VSU will treat the AA degree from approved Florida schools as if the degree had been awarded within the USG system. As a result, Core Areas A-E will be complete regardless of what courses were taken by the student (Although Core Areas A-E will show satisfied in Degree Works, no pre-requisite requirements for major courses or upper division courses are waived in the process). Area F will continue to be evaluated on a course-by-course equivalent basis. Since there are significant differences between the core requirements in the Florida system and VSU’s, there will be courses placed in core areas that would not be there for USG students. Students will still need to complete the legislative requirements for Georgia history and constitution. Please direct any questions to Ms. Lisa Long or Ms. Christy Croft in Admissions, or to Joe Weaver, Off-Campus Programs.

**SYLLABUS REMINDERS**

* **Two statements that must appear on every syllabus** (Complete course syllabi template available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/syllabi.php>) **:**
* **Title IX Statement:** Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including pregnancy status, sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Maggie Viverette, Director of the Office of Social Equity, titleix@valdosta.edu, 1208 N. Patterson St., Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5463.
* **Access Statement**: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V) and 229-375-5871 (VP). For more information, please visit VSU’s Access Office or email: access@valdosta.edu
* **SOI Timeline for Spring 2017** is available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/welcome.php>
* **Testing Office Proctoring**: If you need to utilize the VSU Office of Testing to proctor examinations in the spring, please send dates to the Office of Testing so they can plan their staffing appropriately <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/services/testing/forms/contact-us.php>

**Important Dates Spring 2017**

January 9, 2017 **First Class Day**

Final Day to complete all required **compliance trainings**

**Academic Committee** meets (other spring meetings are scheduled on February 13, March 6, and April 10. To be included on the agenda, items must be sent to the Registrar’s Office one week prior to the meeting.( <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/academic-committee.php> )

January 9-31, 2017 **Upload course syllabi** into Digital Measures (<http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/sacs/faculty-credentials.php>)

January 16, 2017 **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday** (No classes and university closed)

January 17, 2017 **Annual Faculty Activity Report and Action Plan (AFARAP)** submitted by faculty members to department head

January 26, 2017 **Faculty Senate** meets (other spring meetings are scheduled on February 16, March 23, and April 20).

February 4, 2017 **VSU Open House** for Prospective Students and Families

February 21, 2017 **Presidential Lecture Series**: Ira Flatow

February 22-24, 2017 **The Third Annual TIES Conference** (the conference on Instructional Technologies, Innovations, and Educational Strategies (TIES). This year’s topic is “Re-Envisioning the Academy: Explorations in Technology, Curriculum, and Pedagogy.” Conference registration information available at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/ties/Reg_info.php>

February 24, 2017 **Annual Evaluations** submitted by department heads to deans

March 2, 2017 **Midterm**

March 9, 2017 **Last Withdrawal Date** for Students (11:59 pm)

March 13, 2017 **VSU Day** at the Georgia Capitol

March 13-17, 2017 **Spring Break**  (no classes; university open)

March 15, 2017: **Summer and Fall Book Orders** due

March 24, 2017 **Annual Evaluations** submitted by deans to Provost

April 1, 2017 **VSU Open House** for Prospective Students and Families

April 3, 2017 **Registration Opens** for summer and fall 2017

April 10-13, 2017 **Undergraduate Research Symposium** [**https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/urc/**](https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/urc/)

April 21, 2017 **Graduate Research Symposium**

April 22, 2017 **41st International Dinner Program**, Student Union Ballrooms

May 1, 2017 **Last Class Day**

May 2-5, 2017 **Final Exams (**[**https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/spring-2017-final-exam-schedule1.pdf**](https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/documents/spring-2017-final-exam-schedule1.pdf)**)**

May 5, 2017 **Graduate School Commencement**

May 6, 2017 **Undergraduate Commencement**