

7/10/2013

Directors/Managers/Supervisors,

With the Fourth of July holiday already behind us, I want to share some thoughts with you before the summer slips away and another academic year is upon us.

The 2012-13 academic year was an outstanding year for UW-Madison. The University continues to rank among the premier institutions of higher learning in the nation and world. Through our commitment to the Wisconsin Idea, we remain one of the state's most precious resources and have a positive impact all across the state.

None of this would be possible without your day-to-day efforts. The work we do together in the areas of finance, administration and student-life programming contributes greatly to the University's teaching, research and outreach missions. I want to personally thank you for all you do for UW-Madison and emphasize what a privilege it is to be your colleague.

I am especially pleased that this year – for the first time – we were able to recognize outstanding administrative work through the Administrative Achievement Award. We look forward to building on the success of the award program and establishing it as a campus tradition synonymous with excellence.

I also am pleased with the news that the Governor and Legislature approved a pay increase for state employees. At UW-Madison all employees who are performing satisfactorily will receive the 1 percent increase. A pay increase is well-deserved and, considering that it is the first increase for many UW-Madison employees in nearly five years, is overdue. We have more work to do to make our compensation competitive, but at least we have taken a step in the right direction.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, it's clear that 2013-14 will be exciting and challenging. It will be a year of transition with the arrival of new Chancellor Rebecca Blank later this month. I'm sure you will join me in welcoming Chancellor Blank to the UW-Madison campus community.

In Finance and Administration, we will continue to build on our Strategic Initiatives of Resource Stewardship/Process Improvement; Engagement, Inclusion and Diversity; and Student Leadership Development. Chancellor Blank has indicated clearly that the VCFA Strategic Initiatives align with the types of initiatives she will be interested in pursuing. Any questions you have about our Strategic Initiatives may be directed to your divisional director or to the leaders of each initiative: Alice Gustafson (Process Improvement), Bob Lavigna (Engagement, Inclusion and Diversity), and Sarah Van Orman and Mark Guthier (Student Leadership Development).

We also will build on an additional element that will help VCFA units achieve our strategic and operational priorities: performance measurement. Performance measures and indicators of success will help us demonstrate meaningful progress in priority areas.

This past year we began to emphasize performance measurement and practiced measuring the outcomes of our strategic and operational objectives on a quarterly basis. In other words, we tried to document how well our processes and systems are performing.

In the year ahead we will bring it all together and set our annual plans mindful of the areas which need attention and establish targets for performance which will be reviewed each quarter. This will be an important tool to help us strengthen the high-quality services we provide to students, faculty, staff and the public.

It is my intent over the next year to communicate with and update you more frequently about these important VCFA initiatives and other VCFA and campus developments. I look forward to working with all of you as we seek innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

Thank you again for all you do for UW-Madison. Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Darrell Bazzell

*Darrell Bazzell
Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration
100 Bascom Hall
500 Lincoln Drive
Madison WI 53706
Phone: 263-2467
Fax: 263-7449*