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Date: Tue, 9 Apr 2002 17:04:41 EDT  
To: Faculty and staff  
From: "President Lee T. Todd Jr." <special@UKCC.uky.edu>  
Subject: Centralization of Institutional Research and Effectiveness

I am pleased to announce today the implementation of a plan to centralize the institutional research and effectiveness functions of the University under the leadership of a Vice President, effective May 1, 2002. The decision to move forward with this action is based on several related considerations. In fall 1998, Dr. James Nichols, a nationally recognized institutional effectiveness consultant, conducted an extensive evaluation of the University's institutional research and effectiveness (IR/IE) program, and as a result, recommended the centralization of the IR/IE offices distributed across the University. His recommendation was validated by the following recommendation in the recently completed SACS Self-Study, which stated:

The Study recommends that these efforts be coordinated in a single institution-wide office rather than divided between the Medical Center and Lexington Campus as is done currently.

Furthermore, as the University considers the recommendations of the Top 20 Task Force and the Futures Task Force, the time is right to establish a central institutional research and effectiveness office that can work efficiently to meet university-wide needs for the evaluation of progress and productivity. The basic components of the centralization plan are as follows:

1. The current position of the Vice Provost for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness, currently held by Dr. Connie Ray, will be changed to the Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness. Dr. Ray will have leadership responsibility for coordinating university-wide institutional research and effectiveness activities.
2. The Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness will have direct reporting lines to both the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost.
3. The units to be coordinated under the leadership of the Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness include the Provost Area Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, the Medical Center Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support, the Office of Research Assessment currently under the Vice President for Research, and the Graduate School Assessment Analyst position, all of which serve the academic mission of the University. Part of this centralization has already taken place, as the Provost Area Office of Assessment and Institutional Research was re-organized under the Vice Provost for Planning and Institutional Effectiveness in July 2001.
4. The Medical Center Office of Institutional Research and Decision Support, the Office of Research Assessment, and the Graduate School Assessment Analyst will maintain direct reporting lines to their current supervisors. Strong coordination of the units by the Vice President will be represented organizationally by a dotted line and will include the ability to prioritize and re-structure IR/IE activities, while

preserving the unique contribution each unit makes to its primary academic area.

5. By centralizing coordination of the current IR/IE offices, duplication of several activities will be reduced, providing additional resources to focus on the assessment of Top 20 indicators. Additionally, productivity measures will be developed to provide analytical information that informs planning, policy development and budgetary decision-making at all levels of the University.

6. Overall coordination and development of the University Strategic Plan will remain focused in the Office of Planning, Budget and Policy Analysis. The Vice President for Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness will coordinate strategic planning activities for academic units across the University.

The centralization of institutional research and effectiveness efforts will benefit the planning, budgeting and evaluation process of the University of Kentucky, and help the institution achieve its goals. I look forward to working with Vice President Ray and her staff as we make this organizational change.