Thank You!
I want to thank all those faculty who wished me good health during my recent recovery from surgery. I am now back in the Provost’s office full time and ready for a new year and new quarter. As interviews for the new Provost get under way this month, I’m looking forward to a smooth and seamless transition.

Provost Interviews Underway
On-campus interviews with the finalists for Eastern Provost have begun and I encourage all of you to attend the open forums to meet the candidates and ask questions. The schedule for visits, along with all candidate application materials and a feedback form, are available at http://www.ewu.edu/x47745.xml. The candidates are: Dr. Linda Rae Markert, Jan. 18-19; Dr. John Mason, Jan. 25-26; Dr. Kris Bulcroft, Jan. 29-30; Dr. James (Dick) Pratt, Feb. 1-2; and Dr. Philip Cohen, Feb. 5-6.

Reserve Feb. 15 and Mar. 9 for Provost’s Innovation Series Speakers
Noted educator George Kuh and diversity expert James Banks will be featured speakers at the 2007 Provost Innovation Series. The series brings national figures to Eastern to enhance campus dialog on topics related to our mission. E-mails, posters and flyers will be distributed soon; full information is available on the Provost’s website. Be sure to register to attend both events.

George Kuh is director of the Indiana University Center for Postsecondary Research and the National Survey of Student Engagement, fondly called the NSSE. He’ll look at what the survey tells us about student engagement and what universities across the country are doing to encourage learning and retention. Thursday, Feb. 15 features a poster session on EWU’s NSSE results in the Rotunda at 11 a.m., followed by Dr. Kuh’s presentation in the Showalter Auditorium from noon to 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Banks is the director of the Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Washington and a noted specialist and writer on multicultural education. He will present a workshop on integrating diversity into the curriculum for Eastern faculty and staff on Friday, March 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon in Tawanka 215. All faculty are encouraged to attend both events.
Electronic Grading Earns a Passing Score
Thanks to Eastern faculty our first quarter of electronic grading went even better than expected. Thanks for your help in getting our system up and running. We’ve identified a few glitches, which we are correcting for Winter quarter. Just a reminder, it is your responsibility to get your student grades entered into our system by the deadline. If you have questions or concerns, you can learn more by downloading the “Final Grades Document” at www.ewu.edu/x42999.xml or viewing Enrollment Services’ online newsletter, “About the Quarter” at www.ewu.edu/x8497.xml.

What’s Up With Faculty Evaluations?
Eastern’s new Collective Bargaining Agreement requires that all probationary faculty, tenured faculty and senior lecturers are evaluated annually in regard to their Faculty Activity Plans. Your dean and department chair are aware of the timeline for evaluating probationary faculty and senior lecturers—contact them if you have questions.

The deadline for evaluation of full professors and tenured associate professors not seeking promotion, has been moved to Fall Quarter 2007. With strategic planning efforts and development of student learning outcomes scheduled for Winter and Spring, the Administration and UFE agreed to provide a longer lead time for involved faculty to prepare their materials. Again, contact your chair for more information.

New International Faculty Fellow Appointed
Lisa Avery, Associate Professor of Social Work, has been named Faculty Fellow for Internationalizing the University, effective this month. Her 25% appointment runs through June 2008. As a Faculty Fellow, Lisa will work with faculty and administrators to integrate international perspectives more broadly into the curriculum and will explore ways in which both students and faculty can benefit from global scholarship opportunities. Lisa joins three other Fellows working on major academic initiatives: James Ochwa-Echel, diversity; Sarah Keller, research and scholarship; and Susan Stearns, academic integrity. The Fellowship for General Education remains open, pending the appointment of the new Provost. Until then, the General Education Coordinating Committee is leading a campus conversation on Eastern’s principles for general education.

Budget Task Force Formed to Refine Budget Model
President Arévalo has formed a University Budget Task Force, chaired by Vice President Mary Voves, to evaluate our current budget model and propose refinements to align it more directly with our strategic planning efforts and goals. The 12-member task force has begun meeting and is currently researching best practices. The task force includes four faculty members, one of whom represents the UFE, as well as two deans. Members are: Grant Forsyth, Jeff Corkill, Sally Winkle, Robert Schwartz, Mary Jo Van Bemmel, Thomas Mearthur, Rex Fuller, Patricia Kelley, MJ Brukardt, Matthew Knott and Tesha Kropidlowski.

Strategic Planning an Opportunity to Come Together
On December 31 a collective sigh was raised as strategic plans from all academic units were posted to the online portal and the first milestone for strategic planning was reached. According to the
Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness and Accountability Committee (AIEA), almost 90% of all departments and non-academic units completed their strategic plans. Congratulations and thank you to all of you who worked hard to create your department’s plan. While creating the five-year plans was not always easy, many departments used the process to come together to discuss ideas they may not usually have time to talk about—like what priorities the department wants to tackle and new ways to do things differently.

This month the Strategic Planning Council will meet with the deans to discuss the plans. On the 19th, all chairs and directors met to review the next phase in planning, namely the creation of one-year action plans that will help the President’s leadership team set priorities for 2007/08. The action plans will be a tool for departments to focus on specific activities for the coming year. Those plans will be due end of Winter Quarter. More information about our planning process is available at www.ewu.edu/strategicplanning.

Congratulations to Our Award-Winning Faculty
Eastern’s exceptional faculty not only make a difference to our students, but in our communities and their disciplines as well. You can read about faculty members recently recognized for their contributions and research on our Faculty Recognition website, www.ewu.edu/x8333.xml. Among the kudos, you’ll learn about Melissa Lavitt’s trip to Japan as the EWU-Mukogawa Fosseen-Kusaka Distinguished Professorship Faculty, Dick Winchell’s professional achievement award from the Washington chapter of the American Planning Association, Wayne Kraft’s election to the board of the Washington Fulbright Association and Lu Brown’s Educator of the Year award from Washington’s National Association of Social Workers. If you would like to submit a teaching, research, performance or service accomplishment, send the information to Dave Meany at dmeany@mail.ewu.edu, 359-2396 after February 1.

Weather is Perfect for Thursday Night Movies at Eastern
Missed Leonardo DiCaprio in Blood Diamond or Kristin Dunst in Marie Antoinette? You can catch them both—along with the dancing penguins in Happy Feet—at Eastern’s Thursday Night Movies during Winter quarter. Pete Porter is the organizer of the series funded by the strategic planning pool. Showings are held Thursdays at 7 pm in Showalter 109 or R-TV 101. Cost is $4 or $3 with an EWU ID; quarter passes are available. Check out the lineup at www.ewu.edu/filmsociety.