

- **Amy Clark.** Has joined us as of Dec 1 as our new Registrar. She's jumped right into the deep end of the pool and will bring a valuable perspective to many of the policy and practice issues we wish to address.
- **Faculty Handbook update.** Have been working with Senate President Burton on updating the Faculty Handbook. We are only making essential edits in preparation for moving the handbook to a Web-based document.
- **Open Education Resources (HB2871).** The 2015 legislative session passed HB 2871 to support textbook affordability via developing Open Educational Resources (OERs) includes four key components: 1) establishes a grant program administered by the HECC for development of open source textbooks; 2) HECC to add an OER resource specialist to their staff; 3) have HECC and colleges/universities to identify 15 high-enrollment transferrable courses for developing OERs; **4) requires colleges/universities to prominently designate courses whose course materials exclusively consist of open or free textbooks or other low-cost or no-cost course materials. (implemented for the 2016-2017 academic year)**
- **Academic Excellence Showcase is May 26<sup>th</sup>** – encourage the faculty to consider possible winter term class projects as potential material for student participation.
- **Best wishes on finals and final grade reports.** Much happens after grades are submitted on Tuesday, December 15 by 10:00 AM. Grade transcribing, academic warning/probation/suspension; financial aid probation/suspension; NCAA clearance; student appeals and hearings -- all in time for classes to start on January 4<sup>th</sup>.