



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

May 5, 2015

Finals & Grades: To all those taking finals this week, good luck! To all those assigning grades, please do so in a timely fashion, as requested in section D125 of our faculty handbook.

Deadlines. Faculty grades are expected to be entered and submitted using Web Grades within 48 hours after the final exam. Several factors indicate the importance of prompt submission of faculty grades online. These reports are electronically read by the University's Computer Center to record student grades. Submission of grades which are delayed beyond the deadline for processing and updating result in incomplete student academic record reports and an inaccurate semester scholarship index, both of which are important to the faculty advisor and to the college advisement offices which must determine the student's academic status. Reports for financial aid, scholarship and suspension and probation are a few of crucial reports that are processed using the student's scholarship index.

Commencement & Graduation Celebrations: This weekend we will be conferring degrees to around 3,400 students. There will be celebrations at the many colleges and schools, our four branches, as well as the graduate and undergraduate commencement celebrations at the Pit. For those of you who have made the decision to attend, I thank you, and encourage others (who can) and have not yet committed, to help us celebrate the best day of the year with our students and their parents. Celebrating our students' success with them and their families is both fun and part of the responsibility of being a faculty member.

The Long Term: David Brooks recently wrote a book titled "The Road to Character," and [an accompanying article](#) titled "The Moral Bucket List." Both article and book make the point that there are "two sets of virtues, the résumé virtues and the eulogy virtues." The résumé virtues are those that we are encouraged to learn in college and are the "skills we bring to the market place." The eulogy virtues are longer-term and "are the ones that are talked about at your funeral — whether you were kind, brave, honest or faithful." It strikes me that our modern society has reinforced the desire to acquire résumé virtues while displacing the eulogy virtues. Résumé virtues are short-term, practical, and in demand. They can be measured and weighed, and they are in vogue with parents, politicians, and funding agencies. Eulogy virtues are valued but not priced in the market place. They are the long-term virtues; the ones that help you become a better human being. They are the virtues you acquire from the study of the humanities, from engaging in an honest debate with someone who holds an opposing view on the issues you care most about, by acknowledging your mistakes, and by both offering apologies when appropriate and accepting the apologies of others. They are the virtues of soldiers and police officers sacrificing for others, the teacher working overtime to help a needy child, and of a staff member quietly fixing the boss' mistakes. They are the virtues of the faculty members who host international students in their home, and of the students raising money to help support the education of their colleagues. They are the reason adjuncts and teaching assistants dedicate so much of their time in and outside the classroom to guide students through difficult times, when their responsibility is often limited to a few contact hours. I am hopeful that while we continue to help our students build résumé virtues we never lose focus of pursuing the eulogy virtues!

Lobo Louie Awards: Congratulations to this year's Louie winners: Cristyn Elder, English Department; Connie Terry, Extended University; Rob Burford, Dean of Students Office; Sara Collins, Residence Life and Student Housing; Andrew Gonzalez, College Enrichment and Outreach Program; and Kyle Stepp, Dean of Students Office. For more information on the Louie awards, the Student Affairs Fellows program, or the Division of Student Affairs, please visit the [Student Affairs website](#).

The Summer Ahead: I celebrate with everyone the conclusion of this academic year, and wish you well as you wrap up the semester, celebrate our students' graduations, and recover from the rigors of the year. May the summer allow some time for relaxation and renewal, as well as more time and mental "free space" for creative work, research, and writing.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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