June 19, 2017
Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to give you an update on our new online efforts in collaboration with Academic Partnerships (AP). As you may know, we signed a contract with AP in the middle of May, and we have had a busy few weeks identifying the programs that will be among the first to provide new and expanded online degree options for students. This first set of programs will begin offering their online options through the NKU/AP partnership in January of 2018. At the undergraduate level these programs include:

- Criminal Justice
- Organizational Leadership (tentative)
- Integrative Studies
- Health Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Library Informatics
- RN (registered nurse) to BSN (bachelor of science in nursing)

The College of Arts and Sciences will also be working to extend their online offerings of general education courses. At the graduate level, the first set of programs includes:

- Various concentrations under the Masters in Nursing (MSN)
- MS in Health Sciences
- MS in Health Informatics
- MBA program

Faculty in these programs will be working with learning designers and technology experts from Academic Partnerships and CITE to develop courses that can be offered online in an 8-week format. Several of our degree and certificate programs that are currently online will continue to be supported by the office of Adult Learner Programs and Services (ALPS). AP and ALPS will be working together to ensure that there is clarity and transparency between the two service providers, as well as seamless integration. As always, student success is our top priority.

A team from Academic Partnerships will be on campus this week (June 21-23) meeting with a variety of groups, ranging from the faculty involved in course development to the IT staff who will be responsible for the behind the scenes work. I will send another update at the end of June and will share the outcomes of those meetings.

Finally, Vice Provost Samantha Langley will be providing campus-wide leadership of the online initiative as Dean Dale Scalise-Smith departs NKU for her new position as Provost at Widener University. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you.

Best, Sue
July 14, 2017

Academic Partnerships Online Partner Update

Now that the RFP and contract processes are complete, we have launched into the important work of scaling up NKU’s online presence with an aggressive goal of launching 15 online degree programs in January 2018 and another set of programs launching later in 2018. As a reminder, this strategic initiative was approved by the Board of Regents and presented to the campus community in open forums and other venues over the past year and is critical to NKU’s goal of increasing enrollment and generating additional revenue. Our corporate partners, Academic Partnerships (AP) are working hard to help us develop the materials needed to successfully launch these programs. I particularly want to thank the many faculty and staff members who working to make this initiative a success.

Academic Partnerships is not an online university (as I have heard said), but rather a company that helps partner universities expand their online offerings. As their website states, “We serve our partner institutions through a university-centric model in which a dedicated team of functional experts is assigned to grow enrollments and revenue through integrated marketing practices and cutting-edge technology.” If you are interested in learning more about Academic Partnerships, please visit their website at: http://www.academicpartnerships.com.

Academic Partnerships brought 10 staff members to campus in June for three days of meetings. They were three incredibly busy days, filled with meetings with faculty and department/program leads, staff from support offices such as IT, Admissions, Advising, Financial Aid, and Finance, and deans and other academic administrators. With AP’s assistance and guidance we worked through a myriad of details related to on-line program delivery and the support systems we need to have in place for the January launch. The staff from AP were very complementary of the level of excitement and engagement on campus regarding this initiative, and we were very impressed with AP’s expertise and professionalism.

AP returned on July 11 for another day of meetings and were pleased with the progress we had made in finding solutions, making decisions, and working as a cross-divisional, campus-wide team. Again, I appreciate the investment of time, energy and positive thinking everyone brought to those meetings. As a follow-up to these planning sessions, we have now solidified the work groups that will continue to guide and oversee our online partnership efforts with AP. They include an executive steering committee, and three implementation groups focusing on systems and processes, academic programs, and marketing and promotions. I have listed them below.

In order to support the migration of courses to the online format, I have allocated an additional $35,000 to CITE to support course development with priority given to faculty working with the AP courses. This funding is in addition to the $60,000 allocated annually to support the development of online courses.
We are working on a FAQ sheet for this initiative. Please forward any questions to Samantha Langley and me so we can include them in the FAQ. I will have another update in two weeks.

**August 25, 2017**

Dear Colleagues,

I have spoken recently in the college convocations about the progress of NKU’s accelerated online initiative and what an exciting opportunity this is, and I would like to send a brief update on our progress. If you did not catch the Provost Update in July, let me review some of the basic details:

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<th><strong>Executive Steering Committee</strong></th>
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• We have selected Academic Partnerships (AP) as our corporate partner. AP will provide marketing, recruiting and retention resources to assist us in expanding our online offerings. [http://www.academicpartnerships.com](http://www.academicpartnerships.com)
• The fully online degree programs being developed with the assistance of AP will all be offered in an accelerated online format. “Accelerated” means that the student can complete the program more quickly than a face-to-face or traditional online program.
• In addition to the support services provided by AP, my office has provided $60,000 in additional funding to CITE to help faculty in the development and delivery of online courses and to be trained on the use of our new learning management system, Canvas.
• The accelerated online program initiative will augment our traditional online offerings and our face-to-face programs by enabling us to reach more students “where they learn” and to attract a new population of students that we are not currently serving.
• We have targeted our initial offerings to workforce sectors where there is a demand for additional graduates (such as healthcare, business and IT) and also to students seeking to complete an undergraduate degree online.
• Throughout the process of arriving at this point, we have benefitted from the hard work of many faculty members. I’d like to thank those faculty who have served on the three task forces that have worked on enhancing our online presence over the last 5-6 years. As we continue the hard work of implementation, we continue to involve faculty and staff through three implementation groups: Systems and Process, Academic Programs, and Marketing and Promotion. See the attached list of committee members.
• Planning meetings with AP staff have been held here on campus in June and July. Once again, **NKU will host a team from AP on September 20-21 for a series of professional development workshops for faculty who are designing and teaching accelerated online courses.** You will hear more about this visit soon, but we advise those faculty who will be teaching in an accelerated online program to attend a Canvas training prior to these workshops.
• Earlier this month, several faculty and staff met with Academic Partnerships at their headquarters in Dallas. We were very impressed as we toured their facilities and met with their staff in enrollment management, student success, instructional support, marketing, and strategy and innovation.

Today I sent the following update to members of the accelerated online programs planning groups:

*I am writing you with an important update on the accelerated online programs initiative. First, I want to thank all of you for the incredible work you’ve been doing over the past several months as we move toward the launch of these accelerated programs. While an exciting and important initiative for NKU, I recognize the ‘heavy lift’ that you’ve been doing individually and as a cross-campus group.*

*Planning is coming along very well and I’m hearing encouraging updates, lots of important questions, and also some concerns. The concerns mostly center on making sure that the*
programs we launch will be of the quality we want and expect from ourselves, and also the ability for faculty to serve these new online students well and assure their success in the programs. Some of the challenges we face include migrating courses to the 7-week format; developing faculty skills and comfort in Canvas, our new learning management system; and assuring that our financial, IT, and enrollment management systems are reconfigured and tested to allow us to manage the requirements of this initiative. While I’m hearing many positive things about our progress, I’m also hearing some anxiety around hitting the January launch date.

To that end, and following consultation with the Executive Steering Committee, the Deans Council, and President St. Amand, I have decided to **reset the launch date from January to March 2018.** This reset will allow most of the accelerated online programs in phase 1 of the initiative to use the first 7-week session of 2018 to test out Canvas, to refine the course content, or to focus on moving curricular changes through the governance process. It will also give Academic Partnerships the opportunity to have our marketing materials on the street for a longer period of time in order to build enrollments for the March launch. **Please note that October 1 remains our deadline to have marketing go live.**

The only exceptions to the March 2018 launch will be the RN-BSN program in the College of Health Professions and the MBA in the College of Business. Both of these programs are well-positioned to start in January and are likely to have strong enrollments at the outset. Both deans agree that the January start will work well for these two programs. Some general education courses may be needed in January as well; those details need to be worked out since the RN to BSN program is the only undergraduate program launching in January.

So the programs that are now scheduled to launch in March 2018 are:
- DNP Post Masters
- MS Health Science
- MS Health Informatics
- BSBA – General Business
- BSBA – Marketing
- BSBA – Management
- BSBA – Global Supply Chain Management
- BA Criminal Justice
- BA Integrative Studies
- BA Psychology
- BS Sociology
- BS Library Informatics
- BS Health Science
- MSN – Nurse Executive Leadership (NEL)
- MSN – Nurse Educator (NED)
- MSN – Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP)
Prior to AP’s visit in September, we will host two open forums for faculty and staff to answer questions about the implementation of the accelerated online program initiative. **The open forums will be held on September 13 at 12:00 noon and at 3:00 pm in Budig Theatre.** Please join me and members of the accelerated online implementation committees for one or both of those forums.

Please note the following, in particular. **Beginning with the 2018-2019 academic year, all courses at NKU will be offered in either the semester-long format or a 7-week (rather than 8-week) format.** The accelerated online programs will all be offered in 7-week sessions (2 sessions in the fall semester, 2 sessions in the spring semester, and 2 sessions in the summer). This schedule will take effect for the accelerated online programs beginning in January 2018 and will include some online general education courses, many of which are preparing for the 7-week format now. Faculty teaching in non-accelerated online programs or in a face-to-face 8-week format may choose to migrate their courses to the 7-week format beginning in January, but it’s not required that they do so. As well, please remember that we currently have a working group, chaired by registrar Allen Cole, looking into the university moving to a 15 week semester, which is one week shorter than our current semester. That group will make recommendations by the end of this semester.

Attached you will find an FAQ Sheet on Accelerated Online Programs. The answers to some of the questions are still be worked out by the subgroups, and we will update this document on an ongoing basis. Please continue to send any questions you have to Samantha Langley at langleys1@nku.edu. Thank you for your efforts as we work together to reach students where and how they learn.

Best,
Sue

**September 8, 2017**

**Open Forums for Accelerated Online Programs**

We will host two open forums for faculty and staff to answer questions about the implementation of the accelerated online program initiative. **The open forums will be held on September 13 at 12:00 noon and at 3:00 pm in Budig Theatre.** This is an opportunity to learn more about the accelerated online programs. Please join me and members of the accelerated online implementation committees for one or both of those forums.

NKU will host a team from Academic Partnerships on September 20-21 for a series of professional development workshops for faculty who are designing and teaching accelerated online courses. You will hear more about this visit soon, but we advise those faculty who will be teaching in an accelerated online program to attend a Canvas training prior to these workshops.

**September 11, 2017**

Dear NKU Faculty and Staff:
I am writing to invite you to join us on September 20-21 for a series of workshops and working sessions around online program design and development. These workshops are open to everyone who is interested in the developing and delivering accelerated online courses.

The overall schedule Wednesday, 9/20, and Thursday, 9/21, includes:

- Program-specific meetings in the mornings, 9 AM – Noon (scheduled with individual programs)
- General Sessions, 1 – 2 PM
- Topical Conference Sessions, 2:30 – 5 PM

The link below will provide information on the contents of the various session. We need your help to make sure we schedule sessions in the right room depending on level of interest. In the spirit of collaboration, we also invite faculty to be contributors or co-presenters to the conference sessions to share their experiences. If interested, please contact Norma Hansen (norma.hansen@academicpartnerships.com).

Please visit the below URL to indicate your interest in and sign-up for specific General and Conference sessions. Please sign up by Sept. 13 at [http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054ea9ab2aa7f49-schedule](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f054ea9ab2aa7f49-schedule)

If possible, please bring a mobile phone or laptop to the sessions. And please feel free to share the invitation widely, and encourage faculty to participate!

Warm regards,

Jennifer Scott
Academic Partnerships