

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Retreat
July 13-14, 2017

July 13, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 9:00 A.M. at Renew Moline Offices, Moline IL, on July 13, 2017. Chair Cathy Early presided.

The following trustees were present:

Trustee Roger Clawson
Trustee Lyneir Cole – VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Cathy Early
Trustee Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Trustee Todd Lester
Trustee Steven Nelson
Trustee Yvonne Savala

Trustee William Gradle was absent.

Also present:

President Jack Thomas
Retreat Facilitator Jane Pierson
Legal Counsel Rica Calhoun
Board Treasurer and Vice President for Administrative Services Matt Bierman
Interim Provost and Academic Vice President Kathy Neumann
Vice President for Student Services Ron Williams
Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Brad Bainter
Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joe Rives
Chief of Staff Paul Schlag
Business Administrative Associate Kerry McBride
Assistant Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Darcie Shinberger
Director of Admissions Seth Miner

The Board approved a motion to permit remote attendance (Trustee Savala moved, Trustee Lester seconded).

Chair Early opened the meeting with brief comments. She read a text from Trustee Gradle, who is bicycling across the country for charity. She mentioned this is the first Retreat in three years in which there is a budget. Now we look forward to receiving the money.

VP Rives welcomed the Board to the Renew Moline offices and discussed what it is that Renew Moline does and how it has worked with WIU.

President Thomas gave his opening remarks. He thanked everyone for working with us during these unprecedented times. He commended the Board for the job they have done. We have just received some money this morning, and MAP funding is on the way. We will continue to move the University forward. We are looking at strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats. We have a great tradition and legacy. We know that people support this University. We are the leaders in West Central Illinois and have something to be proud of. He thanked Joe Rives and Renew Moline for what they do, as well as former

Renew Moline Director Mathis. We have a full schedule today and are addressing the issues. We have funding but have another set of challenges. The budget is the first step. We are not out of the woods and have to be as conservative and fiscally responsible as we have been in the past. We still need to be mindful. President Thomas also thanked Facilitator Jane Pierson for her service and knowledge of Western, as well as his Leadership Team and members of the Office of the President.

Facilitator Jane Pierson welcomed the Board and gave an overview of the agenda for the day.

The Year in Review:

Accomplishments:

- Level Freshman Enrollment
- Engineering program grew at the QC Campus
- Started Mechanical Engineering
- Increase in online classes that have been offered this year and apparent enthusiasm to offer more as there are market opportunities
- Acknowledge the role that Western played in lobbying in Springfield
- Remaining affordable while still providing a high level of education for our students
- Following our mission
- President's Executive Institute – reaching out to new students and new funding outside of the state level and outside of the traditional way of doing things
- Focus on our strengths (i.e. Signature Programs and Centennial Honors College)
- Strategic Plan Supplement

Challenges:

- Lack of budget
- Convincing donors to make donations to Western
- Convincing parents and students to attend Western
- To increase focus on enrollment and to do that, in part, by increasing the number of involved individuals throughout the University community in recruiting
- Adjusting to changes taking place in higher education in the next 5-20 years.
- Issues cannot be resolved in a year
- Defunding of higher education on a national level (exacerbated in Illinois) and it is happening everywhere
- Continuing to think outside the box
- Cannot assume that things will go back to “normal” (new normal)

The President gave a PowerPoint presentation. His presentation focused on the FY17 accomplishments and FY18 goals. The presentation included a preview of a video by the President that will be released to the public in the next week. We continue national advancement in spite of the budget impasse: The Strategic Plan Supplement and the President's Executive Institute. He gave an overview of rankings that Western has achieved. The University will continue planning for increased excellence.

The President outlined his vision and goals as articulated in the Presidential Initiatives for last year. He highlighted specific accomplishments in each area. He also played a few short videos under some of the areas. The President also covered the goals for the coming year.

Vice President Ron Williams and Director of Admissions Seth Miner gave a PowerPoint presentation about enrollment, recruitment, and retention. The presentation included information on the following: new freshman enrollment at Illinois public universities from fall 2012-2016; total Illinois public university freshmen enrollment 2012-2016; Illinois public universities market share change 2012-2016; WIU

freshmen enrollment 2004-2016; Illinois public universities freshmen applications as of April 2017; Illinois public universities freshmen admits as of April 2017; WIU transfers 2004-2016; Illinois public universities transfer applications as of April 2017; Illinois public universities transfer admits as of April 2017. Miner discussed the challenges and barriers, which include state funding, increased competition, and cost of attendance, and what initiatives WIU is undertaking to meet those challenges. The Board discussed the different challenges and what WIU is doing. The Board also discussed ideas for what WIU might be able to look at doing moving forward.

Vice President Bierman gave a PowerPoint presentation. The information presented included a history of appropriations, cash flow, costs, and other information pertinent to finances, budget, and cash flow. There was also a review of legislative changes.

Vice President Bainter gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding marketing, discussing different marketing initiatives and things that are happening in WIU marketing. He provided examples of video and print, and took ideas and answered questions from the Board. He also gave the Board information the Director of Marketing search. The Board had further discussion with VP Bainter and Assistant Vice President Darcie Shinberger about marketing and outreach.

There was a break for lunch.

The meeting continued with conversations with the Vice Presidents.

Vice President Bainter discussed issues and expectations in his area with the Board. He said they have had a very good year. VP Bainter talked about why he believes that was the case. He talked about the transition of the development officers to reporting under his area. He also talked about needs in his areas with the Board, including staffing needs. There will be new and higher goals in the development area for next year. There are a few planned gifts that are also being developed. VP Bainter explained how the issues at the state level with the budget impasse and crisis of confidence have impacted giving to Western, including providing a historical look at donor support. VP Bainter talked about the Foundation Board and commended its efforts. He answered questions from the Board. There was also discussion of looking ahead to the next capital campaign.

Vice President Ron Williams discussed issues and expectations in his area. Two issues are enrollment, which was discussed this morning, and student cost. He explained these issues further and gave the Board an outline of next steps in working on the cost issue. VP Williams highlighted the goals within his division. He answered questions from the Board about Student Services. There was also discussion about the implosion of Higgins Hall on July 1.

Interim Provost Kathy Neumann discussed issues and expectations in her area. It was a busy year in Academic Affairs, including a general ed review, teacher ed review, review of terms (what it means to be a major, etc...), and program reviews. Faculty and staff outreach has increased. She mentioned that freshmen retention numbers are up, which is good news. There is a Deans/Directors Retreat coming up soon, and Interim Provost Neumann informed the Board as to topics she will discuss at that upcoming Retreat. She gave an overview of things that will be taking place this coming year in her area. She also answered questions about various topics in Academic Affairs from the Trustees. The Board also discussed initiatives the University is undertaking for military students and veterans.

Vice President Bierman discussed issues and expectations in his area. He talked about a few additional programs in which cash flow will have to be addressed. Deferred maintenance is a significant and ongoing concern. The Enterprise Resource Planning system is also an issue needing attention.

Vice President Rives discussed issues and expectations in his area. He discussed the goals in his division and initiatives that are taking place. VP Rives gave kudos to members of his staff for the work they do for the summits and other initiatives. Personally, VP Rives wants to remain active in organizations, as those can help WIU as it moves forward. He looks to continue to develop the University's very positive relationship with the Higher Learning Commission. VP Rives plans to keep strategic planning at the forefront of the University. The Board had further comments about things going on at the Quad Cities campus and in planning.

The Board discussed strategic planning. VP Rives said that our basic mission has not changed. What has changed in our strategic planning, are the one-year supplements. There are questions regarding whether the main plan and the supplements are too many goals. VP Rives said that he does not believe this is the case. We will soon be working on creating the next 10-year strategic plan. He talked about the importance of Board participation in the process. VP Rives talked about how the President's Executive Institute works towards the goals of the Strategic Plan and Strategic Plan Supplements, and also supports community engagement. The Board discussed other opportunities for outreach. There were further discussions about strategic planning, outreach, and moving forward.

The Board discussed its committees. Facilitator Pierson opened the session, and Chair Early explained the need to discuss how the committees operate, and how committee chairs and members might function on committees. She suggested keeping the committee membership the same this coming year as it was last year so that Trustees may dig in to the work of their committee.

Committees and membership:

- Academic and Student Services – Trustee Nelson, Chair; Trustee Gradle, member
- Audit – Trustee Cole, Chair; Trustee Clawson, member
- Finance – Trustee Lester, Chair; Trustee Savala, member
- Presidential Assessment – Trustee Savala, Chair; Trustee Ehlert Fuller, member

Trustee Nelson would like more information overall. There was a discussion about how information may be provided to the Board.

The Board discussed the process of the President's review. They reviewed the timeline and discussed the time spent on the process. The Board discussed how it will conduct reviews in the future.

The Board reviewed its annual report card. The Trustees discussed participation in filling out the Trustee report card. They discussed each section of the report card, responses received, and possible actions.

July 14, 2017

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:00 A.M. at Renew Moline Offices, Moline IL, on July 14, 2017. Chair Cathy Early presided.

The following trustees were present:

Trustee Roger Clawson
Trustee Lyneir Cole – VIA TELECONFERENCE
Trustee Cathy Early
Trustee Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Trustee Todd Lester
Trustee Steven Nelson
Trustee Yvonne Savala

Trustee William Gradle was absent.

Also present:

President Jack Thomas

Retreat Facilitator Jane Pierson

Legal Counsel Rica Calhoun

Board Treasurer and Vice President for Administrative Services Matt Bierman

Interim Provost and Academic Vice President Kathy Neumann

Vice President for Quad Cities and Planning Joe Rives

Assistant Vice President for Advancement and Public Services Darcie Shinberger

Business Administrative Associate Kerry McBride

The President discussed his goals and plans with the Board of Trustees.

Trustee Cole joined the meeting at 8:37 a.m. via teleconference.

The Board convened to Closed Session (Trustee Lester moved, Trustee Ehlert Fuller seconded) at 8:42 a.m.

The Board reconvened to Open Session at 12:07 p.m.

The Board discussed its goals for the coming year. The goals include:

1. Giving to Western Illinois University
2. Serve as a Trustee-In-Residence
3. Advocacy and Outreach to the Governor and Legislators
4. Ambassador to the Community
5. Utilizing individual meetings with the President productively

The Board discussed the scheduling of its 2018 Retreat.

NEXT MEETING

Chair Early called for a motion to convene to Closed Session at 12:37 p.m. All were in favor and none opposed.

The next Board meeting will be held September 28-29, 2017 on the WIU-Macomb Campus.

Cathy Early, Chair

Kerry McBride, Business Administrative Associate to the Board

klm