

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Retreat
July 10, 2009

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:30 A.M. at Horn Field Lodge, on the campus of Western Illinois University – Macomb. Trustee Steven L. Nelson, Chair, presided.

The following trustees were present to answer roll call:

Trustee Carolyn J. Ehlert Fuller
Trustee William L. Epperly
Trustee Donald W. “Bill” Griffin
Trustee J. Michael Houston
Trustee Steven L. Nelson
Trustee D’Angelo S. Taylor

The Retreat began with introductions and a review of the agenda by Retreat facilitator Jane Pierson.

Update from President Goldfarb

President Goldfarb reviewed his self-evaluation with the BOT in terms of accomplishments and challenges: budgets, NCA accreditation process, construction projects & progress on capital bills, comprehensive campaign progress, new and current academic programs, Multicultural Center, Spencer Recreation Center and Memorial Hall.

In the coming year, the President is looking at accreditation, the Performing Arts Center and at least first building of Riverfront Campus construction, Vice President for Advancement and Public Services search and administration of that area until the new VP is hired and working on enrollment issues. President Goldfarb plans an intense two years of preparation for the next President.

Trustee Epperly asked about a date for the new Advancement VP to begin. President Goldfarb hopes the he or she can start in the spring.

Trustee Nelson asked about what other searches are ongoing. They include the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Board discussed dual admission agreements with community colleges, expansion of in-state tuition and fees and related items.

President’s biggest goal is to see the PAC and QC Building 1 in the ground.

Vice President Reports

Provost and Academic Vice President Jack Thomas

Accomplishments: obtaining new academic programs, more accountability by way of external reviews of academic programs by experts in the field and action plans for programs, new funding for the BOT/BA program has resulted in successes in terms of adding students (from 1400 to approximately 1800) and new courses, replaced desks in all classrooms on campus, continue to work with Physical Plant and University Technology to update classrooms.

Challenges: summer school needing revamped (including starting a jump start program, bridge program for those needing some extra enrichment, honors cohort, increase non-credit programs such as camps, more online courses and new marketing and advertisement), seeking two new Ph.D. programs in Environmental Science and Law Enforcement and Justice Administration (need to have the resources, be a viable program, etc.), and the Provost asked departments to come up with an action plan for recruitment and marketing.

Strengths of Board: support from Board for programs in academic affairs issues and events.
Concerns: not having a full Board.

Trustee Ehlert asked about the implications are of not having a full Board. Provost Thomas expressed concerns about the Board not being stable due to waiting for reappointments and vacancies. President Goldfarb elaborated on the issue in terms of having such a great working relationship with the Board and keeping our positive momentum going. Provost Thomas concurred.

Trustee Griffin agreed with need for expanded summer school and asked how camps are integrated within that system. Trustee Griffin discussed potential resources for the possible environmental science program. President Goldfarb indicated the new Performing Arts Center would help future summer arts, music and theatre programs. New and expanded roads will also help bring people to our campuses.

Trustee Taylor asked if there is a plan to offer more general education classes in summer school. Provost Thomas said this is a part of the plan. Trustee Taylor also asked about promoting the opportunity to take six hours in the summer and Provost Thomas agreed this would be done in various ways. Trustee Taylor also asked recruitment of students with assistance of current and incoming students.

Trustee Nelson asked where we were in evaluating programs we may need to eliminate. Provost Thomas has asked for recommendations from external reviewers while also looking a low enrolled programs and asking those areas to come up with recruitment programs to increase enrollment before considering elimination. Provost Thomas also indicated that some areas may not have a lot of majors or minors but may have students from other areas needing classes from their areas. Right now there are no plans to eliminate programs. President Goldfarb addressed the mission of department within the vision and mission of Western Illinois University as well as the overall mission of areas of studies in the collegiate education.

Trustee Houston asked if summer enrollments are affected because of the economy. Vice President Johnson indicated that our summer school has never been very strong. President Goldfarb said that summer school is problematic in other parts of the country, but Western Illinois University has some special challenges. Trustee Nelson asked about summer school in the Quad Cities.

Trustee Epperly read an article about real-time test scoring and grades that might be available to both students and parents. He'd like the University to look into this.

Trustee Houston asked about enrollment on an overall basis and believes our efforts need to be focused on the collar county area. We offer a unique experience at a cost that is very competitive.

The Trustees thanked the Provost for distributing the theme book, Nickel and Dime.

Vice President of Administrative Services Jackie Thompson

Accomplishments: there are over 500 people in Administrative Services and they are much appreciated, achieved Pay for Exceptional Performance program, emergency table top exercises and the May 27, 2009

full-scale emergency exercise, the implementation of the 403b plan, the unit is reallocating internally to be more efficient and modern while meeting campus needs.

Even though deferred maintenance is a major challenge, there have been accomplishments. Physical Plant has been able to maintain functionality of University facilities. Also some deferred maintenance monies are allocated each year for areas that need constant maintenance. While this doesn't cover the total needs by far, it is a start.

Challenges: deferred maintenance, centralized chilled water plant and maintenance of the boilers at the current heating plant (these boilers are essential), and Currens Hall issues. Vice President Thompson appreciates the support of the President and Board.

President Goldfarb added that we have a beautiful campus that is kept in immaculate condition. This was a goal of former President Spencer that has continued since. The staff takes great pride in the condition of the campus and this does not go unnoticed, especially with a very limited budget. We have been fortunate to attract and retain highly-skilled craftsman.

Trustee Epperly asked about the infrastructure and environmental studies. Vice President Thompson said they would bring this to the Board at the October meeting. She estimated a cost of a new Physical Plant at \$47 million or more. Trustee Houston asked about financing and Vice President Thompson said we'd have to do a certificate of completion (COPS). Trustee Epperly brought up another project he had read about and asked if this was something we could consider. Vice President Thompson will look into it.

Trustee Nelson asked Vice President Thompson to share information with the Board concerns or issues as she sees appropriate.

Vice President of Student Services Garry Johnson

Accomplishments: continue to work on Residence Halls, electronic classrooms added to Thompson and Grote, master planning and building assessments, Spencer Recreation Center renovation, Multicultural Center is almost completed, renovation of the University Union including the Grand Ballroom, Go West transit garage underway, programming on campus, continued benchmarking in housing and dining (including MAP – Making Achievement Possible) to retain students, pandemic table top exercise.

Challenges: athletics (levels of funding and staffing, increased cost of travel, ticket revenue), admissions, will be doing internal and external reviews of all areas of Student Services.

Trustee Epperly asked how deferred maintenance would be affected by taking buildings off-line. He also asked about the opt-out policies on student health insurance. Vice President Johnson will look into the student health insurance program over the next year. Trustee Epperly expressed concerns regarding programs in athletics. Trustee Houston would like progress reports and Trustee input on related issues in the future.

Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology Joe Rives

Accomplishments: working with Academic Affairs to make programs fully-completable, enrollments are increasing, exploring partnerships, partnership with iWireless to let our student hockey team play on their ice and maybe play in advance of Quad Cities Mallards games, reallocating budget to critical need and/or deferred maintenance (with the help of Administrative Services), fundraising successes, new Macomb webpage and content manager coming soon, electronic classrooms, digital signage program, class scheduling in Quad Cities is built to meet the needs of students.

Challenges: enrollment and retention, continuing work on accreditation, phone system is outdated, network maintenance.

Trustee Houston asked about the decline in enrollment at Black Hawk College. What are the demographics? Vice President Rives said 70% of the decline was full-time enrollment. While they have not experienced new increases in enrollment, other areas and colleges are. Trustee Nelson added that high school numbers are also down, which narrows the pool of students that might attend Black Hawk.

August 19 at 9 a.m. is Caxton Ribbon Cutting. Everyone is invited.

Accreditation Report

Looking at what have we done, what we are doing, what we are going to do.

Special emphasis/self-studies: distance education, values, measuring and demonstrating our values, growth of the Quad Cities Campus and the interrelationships between the campuses.

How should the board be engaged? Vice President Rives will email sections to the Board and let all Trustees read and comment on the materials. Vice President Rives anticipates emailing the materials by the end of the summer. Feedback from the Board is vital. The President, Provost and Vice President for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology will brainstorm with the Cabinet and then share with the Board. Trustee Houston requested receiving the materials a chapter at a time in separate emails.

The Board discussed possible red flags.

The Self-Study will be sent to NCA on November 2010.

Leadership Transition

Board Tasks: hiring the President – how it works; Trustees Ehlert Fuller and Houston discussed the last search, which was the first in which the Board of Trustees was involved (previous searches had been conducted under the former Board of Governors).

Timelines:

Proposal – work with VP Thompson’s Office/Purchasing & Interview Firms

Select search firm by December 2009 (vote at Board of Trustees Meeting)

Have the search committee hold first meeting in Spring 2010

Advertising by spring 2010 – get applications over summer 2010

Move forward with search in Fall 2010 when all faculty/staff are back on campus - including interviews

Selection in Winter 2010, January 2011 or February 2011

Trustee Nelson will choose the co-chair of the committee and the second Trustee member of the search committee by the end of August. (All Board of Trustees will serve on committee as non-voting ex-officio members.) He will talk to all Trustees before then to get a sense of Trustee interest in serving on the committee and recommendations for service. The Board will look at the list of members of the search committee and will discuss committee membership for the current search at the October Board Meeting.

Getting a Full Slate of Trustees

All action regarding a getting a full slate of Trustees is dependent on the Governor and Boards and Commissions. Trustee Nelson will send a letter to the Governor’s Office reminding him of the need for reappointments of positions not reappointed as scheduled and for vacancies

Review of Board Assessments, Roles and Responsibilities

Committee Responsibilities: committees are filled.

Board Roles and Responsibilities: amendments were made to the list and the list will be edited.

Student Trustee Roles and Responsibilities: amendments were made to the list and the list will be edited.

Board of Trustees Self-Assessment: discussed the report card. Administrative Assistant Lemaster will look at items next year to make sure all items are relevant.

Vision, Mission and Values

This is also articulated the Western Illinois University strategic plan and the accreditation report.

Major Areas of Board Focus for the Next Year

Construction in Macomb and Quad Cities

Proceed with selection of Board Co-Chair and Member for Presidential Search Committee

Selection of Search Firm for Presidential Search Committee

Address Infrastructure Issues – specifically heating and cooling

Work with the President on Board Participation in the Capital Campaign

Closing Comments & Meeting Adjourned

Trustee Ehlert Fuller enjoyed learning about the other Trustees at this retreat. The retreat provided concrete steps for the Board to move forward, particularly with Presidential Search and would like to spend more time on campus this year.

Trustee Taylor gained better understanding of the search committee and process, found it interesting to hear more about the Division of Student Services and Vice President reports, and would like to be visible on campus and help publicize Board Meetings so students are aware of meeting times.

Trustee Houston echoed Trustee Ehlert Fuller's comments on learning about other Trustees. He discussed the benefits and difficulties of a long search process for President. Trustee Houston stressed the need to keep a focus on the functioning and progress of the University.

Trustee Griffin echoed Trustee Ehlert Fuller's comments on learning about other Trustees as well. He also appreciates that we have a strategic plan and that the board gets updates each month. Trustee Griffin plans to continue working with the partners we have and creating new partnerships.

President Goldfarb plans to stay focused and intense for the next two years. The most interesting part of the Retreat was the discussion of the next Presidential Search. He is excited about both the next two and last seven years. He also wants to get the enrollment issues resolved as well as starting construction of the Performing Arts Center and the Quad Cities Riverfront Campus.

Trustee Epperly appreciated the discussion on the timetable for the Presidential Search. He suggests that our facilitator return again next year for the Retreat. He plans to keep challenging himself and others and keep asking questions and pushing for trees, physical plant and other issues.

Administrative Assistant Lemaster noted she enjoys working with the Board and looks forward to continuing work with them in the Presidential Search, working with President Goldfarb for the remainder of his time at WIU and working with the next President and his or her transition to campus.

Facilitator Pierson made closing comments.

Trustee Nelson appreciated learning more about the Board's role in the selection and accreditation process. He is excited about the Quad Cities Campus and Performing Arts Center. He plans to assist the President and others as needed in the Quad Cities with fundraising. The Retreat ended at 3:10 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be **October 16, 2009**, at the Macomb campus.

Steven L. Nelson, Chair

Kerry L. Lemaster, Administrative Assistant to the Board