

To: Members of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees
Cathy Early, Chair Carolyn Ehlert Fuller
Roger Clawson Phil Hare
Lyneir Cole Michael Quigley
Bill Epperly Yvonne Savala

From: Joe Rives, Vice President, Quad Cities and Planning

Date: March 23, 2015

Re: March 2015 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows how many reports and resolutions presented at the March 27, 2015, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting are directly related to successful advancement of priorities and goals in *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the *Long Term Plan for Western Illinois University*.

- *Report on Contributions* documents continued fundraising accomplishments following successful completion of the \$62 million *Comprehensive Campaign*.
- *Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds* is consistent with the strategic plan priority for institutional bonding plans.
- *Report on Review and Elimination of Current Programs and Reinvestment in New Programs* discusses a collaborative process used by Academic Affairs to create a list of academic programs that will be further reviewed or eliminated, and a list of programs that require reinvestment/restructuring. These actions are consistent with the *Long Term Plan* priority to support high need, viable programs to meet student and regional needs and that the University adapts to changing social and economic climates to meet the needs of our students and host communities.
- *Annual Report on Financial Aid Programs, FY2016 Student Cost Guarantee, Student Health Insurance, Tuition Recommendation, Room and Board/Housing Rates Recommendation, and Fees Recommendation* supports access and affordability. Starting with the Cost Guarantee and continuing through establishing Western Commitment Scholarships for new freshmen and transfer students, Western provides statewide and national leadership in advancing cost predictability and affordability.
- *Honorary Doctorate Recommendations to Kirk Dillard* celebrates professional accomplishments of an alumnus committed to academic excellence, educational opportunity, personal growth, and social responsibility.
- *External Audit Report* illustrates institutional commitments to transparency, accountability, and continuous process improvement.
- *Long Term Planning Update* provides updates on the Quad Cities Campus Evaluation Visit by representatives of the Higher Learning Commission and updating of benchmark institutions for non-salary comparisons with Western Illinois University.
- *Revision to Board Regulations, II.C.7.e.(2), Employee Benefits Parental Leave* reflects the University's commitment to the provision of family-friendly policies and procedures that support faculty and staff recruitment and retention.

Should you have any questions about the materials presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update*, and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of university plans, please contact me.

cc: President Thomas CSEC Pres. Mattson Associate Provost Neumann
Provost Hawkinson COAP President Shoemaker Associate Provost Parsons
Vice President Bainter Faculty Council Chair Pillutla Assistant Vice President Williams
Vice President Biller Faculty Senate Chair Singh Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
Vice President DeWees SGA Chairs Markey and Moreno President's Office Support Staff