

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 AM in 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. Ehler
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 working on enrollment issues. President

Challenges:

full-scale emergency exercise the implementation of the 403b plan 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), 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 Spentza 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.

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 demographics? Vice President Rives said 70% of the decline was in full 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 send materials to the Board and let all Trustees read and comment on the materials. Vice President Rives anticipates email materials by the end of the summer. Feedback from the Board is vital. 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 Ehler, 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 to 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 faculty/staff are back on campus including interviews

Selection in Winter 2010, January 2011 or February 2011

Trustee Nelson will choose the 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.

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

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