

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Retreat
July 11, 2008

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:00 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 Blake E. Antonides
Trustee Carolyn J. Ehlert
Trustee William L. Epperly
Trustee Donald W. “Bill” Griffin
Trustee J. Michael Houston
Trustee Steven L. Nelson

Comments from Chair Nelson & President Goldfarb

Review of the agenda

Partner Exercise – most proud of/surprises/one concern from last year

Most proud of: coming together at the QC Campus/Joe Rives’ efforts, more identification with WIU and committed to QC/attitude of faculty and staff; agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers; physical structures – Rec Center, multicultural center, football stadium; technology accomplishments; university has grown and flourished in difficult times; academic programs (new programs implemented and being implemented); strategic plan being used to determine priorities, including monthly updates to the strategic plan; positive working environment listed by faculty in annual review (which could be direct product of a strategic plan in action);

Surprises: death of Trustee Cook; engineering program (great need in region and new direction for and perception of WIU); what we are able to do with the funds available (per President’s leadership, Physical Plant skills and stretching the dollar, etc.);

Concerns: proliferation of distance learning programs in US and WIU may not still be on the cutting edge of that technology; nearing the end of President’s term and retaining continuity; our future preventative maintenance; moving from “state supported” to “state located”; people may not realize what all has been accomplished in the last few years (maybe make bullet-point list?); lack of capital budget;

Budget/Planning for the Future – Strengthening Academic Programs

Budget info from President: \$1.6 million increase in budget from state; but costs have gone up in terms of salaries, utilities, etc.; suggests continuing to have a buffer in place to protect the institution in case of a downturn (current practice at WIU);

Goal for Board/Homework: Board will write fiscal principles and bring to next year’s retreat. President will work with his staff and Trustee Houston to bring to next year’s retreat to discuss.
Academic Programs: engineering is a strength and need in QCs; nursing; possible future doctoral program in LEJA; interdisciplinary doctoral program in environmental studies possible; funding needs are calculated on a per-program basis; Pharmacy school?--Expensive program to start and would take lots of

time if decision was made at some point to go in that direction; maybe work with Rock Island Corps of Engineers;

Trustee Antonides asked about comprehensive finals for each major and/or capstone experience

Planning for the Future: Funding our Physical Plant

\$100 Million in Critical Deferred Maintenance; \$300 Million in Deferred Maintenance
Have received \$0 in seven years of Goldfarb's term

\$3 Million to chillers to fix/\$45 Million to consolidate to university-wide system – does a central chiller system become moot if we have to replace individual chillers? Being looked at...a new heating plant is another \$75 Million plus

\$110 Million bonding capacity – but some residence halls need attention and/or renovation – meeting with bonding reps now to determine capacity/ratings/etc.

Other universities are starting to do deferment fees in place for students; President does not like to go down this path – doesn't want students to have to pay for this – should be a state requirement – but is a realist and we may not have a choice

How do we deal with this? What will it cost students?

Discussed a long term strategy for electric and utilities

Explore collaboration with the Foundation for support

Need to explore financing for capital improvements: impact on students; bring package/plan to the Board – Planning to do in the Fall

Expanding the Quad Cities Campus Program

VPs suggested moving Joe Rives to Interim VP for Quad Cities, Planning and Technology at their retreat
President also recommends this action
Board supports this action

Bring back to discussion at retreat next year as to QC direction; part of annual reviews in spring of
President will include one-on-ones with leaders in the QCs

Changes to staff, scheduling, facilities in QCs, etc.

Building being filled better in day (8 a.m.-2 p.m.) with classes?

What else can we do to get support?

144+ attended the recent QC alumni golf tournament – this is great! ☺ Baseball night on July 17, events at the Figge! There are things happening!

Student Illegal Behavior

FERPA Policy; informing parents of student activity – can be done under 21 years of age

Do we want a policy of informing parents? If so should it be on first offense, or on second or third offense?

Homework: Need input from Student Services and move forward from there
Then talk to SGA about it after doing research, if choose to move in that manner

Afternoon Session

Accreditation Overview – The Board’s Role: NCA Visit 2010-2011; Joe Rives will work with Board like did with *Higher Values in Higher Education* – draft and look for input from Board, constituencies, etc. Visit will revolve around *Higher Values in Higher Education*. Distance, Relationship between the QC and Macomb, how do we make our values part of the institution – these are three areas we’ve asked NCA to look at for special areas. Rives met with Deans, Provost and Provost’s Staff. Looking at assessment – do we pull enough assessment areas together? Joe Rives and Provost are working on this issue with Academic Affairs. Good head start. Joe Rives has put teams together. President Goldfarb requests that Board stays engaged in materials and with feedback – like another focus group. President feels that WIU is in good shape moving into this process. Trustee Antonides will talk to Joe Rives regarding being involved in one of the teams. Trustee Ehlert mentioned that during last assessment, was asked about Board’s goals. Maybe Joe Rives can join next Retreat to discuss accreditation;

Fundraising and Comprehensive Campaign Process – The Board’s Role: Broke \$8 million; 40% of campaign goal; record year in many areas; endowments over \$30 million (puts us in new category); What can the Board do? Corporate Entities are a weakness that needs to be addressed, let President or Brad Bainter know if there are contacts that can be made; Trustee Antonides would like to attend the Major Donor Banquet and start a precedent of student Trustees being invited and participating; the Board is interested in being more directly involved in fundraising – had not felt that they have been directly asked and therefore had not really been overly involved to the present; Foundation/Alumni electronic contact with events, etc.; Is there a value in having the BOT more involved with Foundation? Hard to tell – they are two separate entities – and BOT invited to Major Donor Banquet; Trustee Nelson will ask the Foundation Board (as BOT Rep to Foundation) what the Board can do to assist;

Annual Board Assessments/Roles/Responsibilities:

Board Roles and Responsibilities:

Trustees made amendments to the Board Roles and Responsibilities

Trustee Antonides will provide student roles to Kerry Yadgar for addition to BOT Roles and Responsibilities

Try to build a Washington agenda for lobbying this year: Develop a “list” – what are we doing? Build a project list? Do reception in D.C. with alums, legs, etc.? Consider possibilities of Internships?

The assessment scores were higher than in 2007. Overall score for 2008 was 4.27. The 2007 score was 4.18.

Trustees want to do the assessment again next year with the same general process, including comparative year-over-year overall scores

President will ask Vice Presidents and direct reports for list of strengths and weaknesses of Board for Trustees

Committees for the 2008/9 year:

State SUCSS Board: Trustee Griffin; President's Office will talk to Tom Morelock and work out CODEC
Academic & Student Services: Trustee Griffin (chair), Trustee Antonides
Finance: Trustee Ehlert (chair), Trustee Epperly
Audit: Trustee Houston (chair), Trustee Antonides
Presidential Assessment: Trustee Nelson (chair), Trustee Ehlert
Foundation Board Rep: Trustee Nelson

Kerry Yadgar will inform appropriate parties of committee membership

Trustees made amendment to Committee Roles and Responsibilities

Board Goals:

1. Expand our partnerships with the public and private sectors
2. Continuing relationships with community colleges
3. Identify individual and/or corporate and foundation donors
4. Develop fiscal principles
5. Engage in the accreditation process
6. Monitor and assess progress of revised HVHE
7. Participate in search processes if necessary
8. Represent the University at community events

Individual Board Member Responsibilities:

1. Continue working with our representatives with Quincy area in area of partnerships and Quincy project on hydropower on the Mississippi – Trustee Griffin
2. Remaining active with the Corp – Trustee Griffin
3. Work with potential student trustees for a smooth transition – Trustee Antonides
4. Work hard as Board Chair – Trustee Nelson
5. Meetings with Community Members – Trustee Nelson/ Trustee Ehlert
6. Amend campaign procedures for SGA (in terms of BOT Student Rep election) – Trustee Antonides
7. Ongoing attendance of events – Trustee Ehlert
8. Continue to work legislators in Springfield – Trustee Houston
9. Count trees on campus – Trustee Epperly

Discussion on Freedom of Information Act

The Retreat adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Steven L. Nelson, Chair
Donald W. "Bill" Griffin, Secretary
Kerry L. Yadgar, Administrative Assistant to the Board