

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

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

Date: March 21, 2014

Re: March 2014 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows how many reports and resolutions presented at the March 28, 2014, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting are directly related to successful advancement of the 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 Comprehensive Campaign that raised \$62 million and increased the University's endowment from \$16 million to approximately \$55 million. Earnings from the endowment support student scholarships, academic programs, critical University needs, and many initiatives on both campuses.
- *Annual Report on Financial Aid Programs, as well as FY2015 Tuition Recommendation, Room and Board/Housing Rates Recommendation, Fees Recommendation, Student Health Insurance Fee Recommendation, and Graduate Student Tuition* supports access and affordability. Starting with the Cost Guarantee and continuing through recent actions, including 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 Sandra K. Edwards and Michelle L. Obama* celebrates the accomplishments of these two distinguished individuals, and brings messages of personal growth and opportunity to future commencement ceremonies when these honorary doctorates are conferred.
- *External Audit Report* illustrates institutional commitments to transparency, accountability, and continuous process improvement.
- *Long Term Planning Update* describes institutional participation in two new national initiatives designed to increase student persistence and completion rates. The Pell Institute and the Southern Regional Education Board provided data showing retention and graduation rates at Western are higher than predicted based on entering student characteristics. By enhancing the educational environment through two new initiatives, Western will once again serve as a leader and role model for others to follow.
- *UPI (Civil Service Unit B) Memorandum of Agreement* includes a wage addendum and reinforces the institutional priority to provide employee salaries that meet and exceed the mean of peer institutions.

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 *Higher Values in Higher Education*, please contact me.

cc: President Thomas CSEC Pres. Mattson Associate Provost Neumann
Provost Hawkinson COAP President Moon Associate Provost Parsons
Vice President Bainter Faculty Council Chair Pillutla Assistant Vice President Williams
Vice President Biller Faculty Senate Chair Rock Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
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