

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

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

Date: December 11, 2015

Re: December 2015 Strategic Plan Update

This month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows how many reports and resolutions presented at your December 18, 2015, Western Illinois University Board of Trustees meeting contribute to the continued successful advancement of the priorities and goals in *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the *Long Term Plan for Western Illinois University*. In order of occurrence:

- *Report on Contributions* documents continued fundraising accomplishments following successful completion of the \$62 million Comprehensive Campaign.
- *Purchases of \$100,000-\$499,999* support the *Master Plan* priority for parking lot upgrades in Q-Lot.
- *Purchases of Purchases of \$500,000 or more* requiring Board approval support *Master Plan* priorities for Western Hall seating replacement, and demolition of Higgins Hall, Lamoine Village, and East Village. All three of the university housing projects will be a removal of the entire structure and rehabilitation of the building site back to green space.
- *Fiscal Year 2017 Appropriated Capital Budget Recommendations* to the Illinois Board of Higher Education seeks new state resources to advance the University's priorities and goals.
- *Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation Rate Information* provides benchmarking information and recruitment plans as the University works to increase student enrollment, persistence, and completion rates.
- *Fiscal Year 2016 Performance Report* compares university performance to stated goals and benchmark institutions to determine if Western Illinois University is successfully enacting its vision and achieving the goals stated in *Higher Values in Higher Education*.
- *Iowa Re-Certification for Museum Studies and Distance Education, State Authorization Reciprocity Act and Interregional Guidelines for the Evaluation of Distance Education Programs, and Memorandum of Understanding with Ashford University* all extend the academic excellence and educational opportunity of Western Illinois University:
 - The first report allows Western Illinois University to continue housing the Museum Studies program at the internationally renown Figge Art Museum in Davenport, Iowa, and to offer distance education courses, certificates, and degrees to Iowa residents.
 - The second report promotes administrative efficiency by gaining one approval to offer distance education in 36 participating states instead of seeking 36 individual state approvals.
 - The third report offers educational access to academically qualified students from Ashford University. It is closing its Clinton, Iowa, campus at the end of academic year 2015-2016.
- *Fiscal Year 2017 Tuition Recommendation* extends Western Illinois University's national leadership in affordability and cost predictability.

- *Facility Assessment Report* and *Fiscal Year 2016 Master Plan Update* address Facilities Management priorities, energy utilization, and other *Master Plan* goals and accomplishments.
- *Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Quality Initiative Report* is a new project required of all institutions accredited by the Commission. The Board of Trustees review and engagement in this *Report* maintains the University's ongoing relationship with the Higher Learning Commission-North Central Association of College and Schools and its accreditation expectations.
- *Quarterly Long Tern Plan Update* discusses results from meetings with current and potential new corporate partners that offer tuition reimbursement programs to explore opportunities for student (employee) enrollment, internship placement, advisory board membership, and other opportunities for Western Illinois University. It also discusses results from meetings with new and existing high school partners in making dual enrollment agreements with Western Illinois University.
- *Revision to Board Regulations, II.B.10.e., Contract Modification – Second Reading* and *Staff Reduction Authorization* are part of the University's multifaceted approach to, in accordance with *Higher Values in Higher Education* and the *Long Tern Plan for Western Illinois University*, ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of the University. Other current actions include addressing price sensitivity and elasticity, implementing an early retirement program, and evaluating/implementing reductions in programs and services, following established policies and procedures.

As the material presented in this month's *Strategic Plan Update* shows, the students, faculty, and staff continue to advance the mission, vision, values, goals, and priorities of *Higher Values in Higher Education*, even though Illinois public higher education is in an unprecedented period of time with the current state budget impasse, previous issues of state cash flow, cumulative general revenue declines for higher education over the last 14 fiscal years, and high net export rates of Illinois high school graduates.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the materials presented in this month's *Update* and/or feedback for the continued successful advancement of University *Plans*.

cc: President Thomas	CSEC President Trusley	SGA President Moreno
Interim Provost Neumann	COAP President Koltzenburg	Associate Provost Parsons
Vice President Bainter	Faculty Council Ch. Gunzenhaur	Assistant Vice President Williams
Vice President Biller	Faculty Senate Chair Pynes	Planning, Budget, and IR Staff
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