

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Minutes of the Retreat
August 2-3, 2021

Tuesday, August 3, 2021

The retreat of the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees convened at 8:00 a.m. on August 3, 2021, Riverfront Hall, WIU-QC Campus, Moline, Illinois. Trustee Doug Shaw, Chairperson, presided.

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to convene to Open Session, seconded by Trustee Lang.

Trustee Polly Radosh Yes

Danielle Surprenant, Director of Athletics
Athena Brooks, Senior Executive Assistant to the President
Nicky Friedrichsen, Board Staff

Trustee Lang requested that Faculty Senate develop a faculty recognition program and present it to the Board.

ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

Danielle Surprenant

Ms. Surprenant highlighted the goals of Athletics. The number one priority is to stabilize staffing. The department will also implement a marketing plan, work to curb the deficit and enhance efficiency.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY

Shannon Sutton and Michael Sowinski

FY22 Preliminary Spending Plan was approved in June at \$106.5M, based on flat appropriation, and the FY22 All Funds Budget will be presented at the September Board Meeting. Enrollment is key but it is important to be mindful of the expenses that do not change with enrollment: payroll, footprint of campus.

To be financially stable: increase enrollment, not rely on state appropriation, reduce expenditures.

Higher Values in Higher Education nuggets:

Enrollment: Stabilize Enrollment at 10,000 students and student to faculty ratio would naturally be 17:1. National average is 22:1.

Modernizing technology: Our system works but is inefficient.

President Huang: Resources by definition are limited. Vision without resources is a hallucination.

RECRUITMENT, ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION

Gary Swegan, Doug Freed and Justin Schuch

President Huang began by thanking Gary Swegan for his work with WIU as we have transitioned Enrollment over to Amber Schultz. Gary Swegan said enrollment has stabilized and we are up by four students for summer enrollment.

For fall 2021 graduate international students will make up WIU's enrollment deficit and will get us back on track. The enrollment goal of 10,000 students was set during the 2016-2017 academic year and would have represented a flat enrollment at the time.

Doug Freed thanked his outgoing boss and welcomed his incoming boss. An overview of the strategies are as follows:

Closer alignment with Marketing (data analysis, digital marketing)

Expand Discover Western, Explore Western, Academic visits

Cost is still the number one driver for parents, so scholarships are important

Justin Schuch presented some retention initiatives:

69.4% is current retention rate (Fall 2020 Cohort), Hispanic 76.1%

First Year Advising model

Phone calls to students

Early Intervention Program

Retention Plan formed

Typical students apply to 7 institutions on average (more aspirational due to test optional movement from COVID).

FACILITIES

Troy Rhoads

WIU has over \$500M in deferred maintenance. Since the budget impasse and enrollment decline the master plan is in need of changes to determine where we are at and where we are going. Space utilization studies should be updated, and our facility conditions need to be evaluated. A number of facilities have been taken offline, and though that does cost money, it does reduce deferred maintenance. It is possible to maintain an offline facility so that it looks aesthetically appealing.

The Master Plan is from 2012, Spacialization study is from 2014 and both need to be updated.

OVERVIEW OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE

Billy Clow and Dr. Mark Mossman

It is critical to retain new faculty.

ABET Accreditation will occur this fall for Engineering.

Cybersecurity program is up for review and is accredited by t5etermine where we are at and where wpc0w

Set QC campus as the dual enrollment institution

President Huang would like strong programs highlighted and allocate resources to those strong programs but not at the expense of others, continuous improvement.

COVID PROTOCOLS AND FALL RE-OPENING

Dr. David Braverman and Joe Roselieb

Vice President Braverman handed out an overview of the functions of Student Success. Highlights are new food service offerings in the Union, eSports team launch in Macomb, Alumni Plaza ribbon cutting, and COVID planning.

Protect The 'Necks II COVID-19 Fall Plan:

WIU strongly encourages all members to receive the vaccine

WIU will require everyone to participate in weekly COVID-19 testing with option to opt out by proving vaccination

Incentive prizes available

Individuals can submit proof of vaccination online or in person

Vaccination clinics will occur on campus throughout the semester

Free tests at both campuses

Participating in SHIELD testing and CRL testing

Testing at Campus Rec and Riverfront Hall

Results within 24 hours

Incentive prizes for testing

Failure to participate will result in student conduct/human resources disciplinary action

Why not mandate the vaccine?

Our protocol and response is one of the best within the state, region and nationwide.

Geographic location supports isolation

No FDA approval and is Emergency Use Authorization only

Face coverings required by all indoors

350 quarantine/isolation rooms

Plan if numbers increase:

Will monitor with Dashboard information, Vaccination proof submissions, Complicity in testing program, Bayliss bed count, 14-day average, Hospital ventilators, Health Dept./IDPH guidance.

Consequences:

Limited or cancelation of events/activities

Capacity limits

Testing frequency requirements

Enhanced protocols/restrictions related to travel

President Huang thanked the faculty and staff for attending and providing presentations.