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### February 14, 2017 Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Otterbein University

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# OTTERBEIN UNIVERSITY

## Board of Trustees Meeting Report February 14, 2017

### Chairman's Report

Board Chairman Mark Thresher welcomed the Board of Trustees to the winter meeting. Chairman Thresher provided an update of items discussed at the Executive Committee dinner meeting on Thursday, February 9, which included a financial update on Multi-year Plan and The Point, STAND campaign update, and Board governance update.

Chairman Thresher thanked President Krendl and Cabinet for the All-Committee Meeting discussion on Friday, October 21, which focused on the Strategic Plan 2014-2020 progress update. As noted by President Krendl, the development of Otterbein's strategic plan involved discussions with more than 200 trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members. These conversations culminated in the resulting strategic plan as well as in the creation of new mission and vision statements. Since 2014 Otterbein's senior leadership team has worked diligently to realize these goals while addressing two different levels of priorities. The first was to strengthen the foundation of basic operations and practices at the institution related to such areas as human resource management, business processes, technology solutions, and data-based decision making. These priorities are referred to as foundational priorities. The foundational priorities were essential to making progress on the second level of work, implementing strategies to realize the aspirational goals identified in the plan.

Both types of priorities were necessary to successfully fulfill the overall goal of **Building a Sustainable Otterbein**. The Strategic Plan Progress Report provided an exhaustive catalog of interventions – e.g., policy adjustments, reorganizations, systems improvements, data applications, strategic investments, implementing best practices – across the divisions of the university. Some of these efforts were conducted within the boundaries of individual units, but most required strong collaborations and partnerships working across the institution. The All-Committee Meeting discussion focused on the ways in which Otterbein has been transformed through these intentional efforts to **Build a Sustainable Otterbein** by improving operations and efficiency, assessing productivity, clarifying our identity, and building financial strength.

### President's Report

President Krendl presented information about the 2017 Undergraduate Commencement speaker, **Jane Grote Abell**, Chairwoman of the Board for Donatos Pizza, and Graduate Commencement speaker, **David Blom**, President and Chief Executive Officer of OhioHealth. President Krendl made a motion to award the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Public Service to Jane Grote Abell and Doctor of Health Administration

to David Blom, as approved by the University Senate on February 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Trustee David Fisher and unanimously approved.

President Krendl presented a recommendation to award emeritus status to two (2) faculty and three (3) staff members who are retiring this year or who have recently retired with a combined one hundred nine (109) years of service. Their individual years of service are as follows:

- **Dr. Pete Sanderson**, Professor, Department of Mathematical and Computer Sciences (16)
- **Dr. Patricia Keane**, Professor, Department of Nursing (28)
- **Ms. Marla Garcia**, Executive Assistant to the Provost and VP of Academic Affairs (17)
- **Ms. Alma Holl**, Administrative Assistant, Center for Student Success (26)
- **Ms. Diane Wooton**, Administrative Assistant, Department of Communication (22)

President Krendl made a motion to approve the following **Resolution to Award Emeritus Status**:

*Whereas, these educators and staff have demonstrated a conscientious and strong commitment to the University; and*

*Whereas, they have shown outstanding dedication and loyalty in service to students of Otterbein University;*

*Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Trustees of Otterbein University, on behalf of the entire University community, express deepest appreciation to these dedicated educators and staff for their many contributions to the life of Otterbein University and do hereby confer upon them Emeritus status.*

The motion was seconded by Trustee Pete Bible and unanimously approved.

President Krendl informed the Board that the Otterbein University Personnel Committee unanimously approved the recommendation of the Sabbatical Leaves Subcommittee on the 2016-17 Sabbaticals. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Miguel Martinez-Saenz concurred with their recommendation. She noted that abstracts of the proposals recommended for approval were included in the Board materials.

President Krendl made a motion to approve eighteen (18) Sabbatical proposals for the 2017-18. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cheryl Herbert and unanimously approved.

### **Board Presentations**

The Board of Trustees heard a presentation by staff members from The Center for Student Success including:

- **Dr. Kate Lehman**, Assistant Dean for Student Success
- **Jennifer Bechtold**, Assistant Dean for Student Success
- **Lisa Byers**, Program Manager
- **Deanna Heermann**, Academic Advisor
- **Nate Parsell**, Academic Advisor
- **Karen McGreevey**, Study Abroad Coordinator

Dr. Lehman shared the mission of the Center for Student Success as follows:

*The mission of the **Center for Student Success** is to promote the persistence and graduation of our students. Our primary focus is to support academic advising on campus by enriching the faculty and student advising relationship. Through advocacy and a supportive environment, we help students find their paths, and encourage their progress towards academic and personal success. We work collaboratively with campus partners, students, faculty, and staff to foster a campus culture of student achievement.*

It was noted that one of the most significant accomplishments on campus has been the increase in first to second year retention, which will ultimately tie into improving graduation rates. Key strategies implemented by the Center for Student Success once students are on campus include Cardinal Concerns process, faculty feedback, AMP Mentoring, Living Learning Programs, and cohort support.

The newest addition to Center for Student Success is Study Abroad Advising. The Center is currently assessing ways to support its commitment to global learning experiences including short-term, faculty-led travel courses, semester, summer and year-long study abroad programs, international internships, practicums, research, work and community service. It was noted that the Center will support advising for the upcoming curricular conversion as well.

#### **Board Action**

In addition to the actions taken above, the following action was taken by the Board of Trustees:

- **Resolution to Approve University Capital Budget Plan for 2017-18 Academic Year**  
The Board of Trustees approved the FY18 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) Capital Budget Plan of \$2.6 million, which aims to balance progress on strategic major improvements and maintenance of the existing physical plant. An investment of \$1.5 million of the new dollars would support the next phase of the work at The Point. An additional \$422,500 will support projects at Cowan Hall. The balance of the new investments will support routine maintenance projects, including: student housing improvements, classroom furniture replacement and safety-driven improvements at the Rike Center. The proposal also includes funding to support additional planning for the Campus Center project. This plan continues to prioritize revenue generation opportunities, risk management, and the student experience.

#### **Future Board of Trustee Meeting Dates**

- April 28-29, 2017 (Commencement Weekend)
- October 20-21, 2017
- February 2-3, 2018
- April 27-28, 2018 (Commencement Weekend)

#### **Otterbein University Vision**

Otterbein University will be nationally recognized as a model community of educators, leaders, and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good.

#### **Otterbein University Mission**

Otterbein is an inclusive community dedicated to educating the whole person in the context of humane values. Our mission is to prepare graduates to think deeply and broadly, to engage locally and globally, and to advance their professions and communities. An Otterbein education is distinguished by the intentional blending of the liberal arts and professional studies, combined with a unique approach to integrating direct experience into all learning.