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October 18, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Report

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Board of Trustees Meeting Report
October 18, 2019

Chair's Report

Board Chair Mark Thresher welcomed the Board of Trustees to its fall meeting. Chair Thresher began by congratulating President Comerford who was recently selected as a member of the inaugural class of *Columbus CEO Future 50*. A special issue of *Columbus CEO* magazine will be available on December 27, and a reception in honor of the class will be held in early 2020. Chair Thresher stated that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, October 17, to receive updates regarding real estate, merit pay system development, the Information and Technology Systems Department, reorganization of Academic Affairs, and a preview of the Board of Trustees meeting agenda. No action was taken.

Chair Thresher stated that he met with Faculty Assembly Executive Committee (FAEC) on October 17, and they had a good conversation about a variety of topics. Some concerns were expressed regarding the merit pay system that is being developed, but overall it was a positive discussion. Chair Thresher expressed appreciation for presentations and discussion at the All-committee meeting. He thanked the student trustees for their input about the Campus Center modernization project in particular.

President's Report

President Comerford began his report by providing an update on the implementation of the compensation plan, which is in its second year. Equity adjustments for eligible staff will be made effective on January 1, 2020. Conversations are underway with faculty and staff in regard to developing merit pay systems. President Comerford noted that the strategic planning process is moving forward, and valuable input has been received from faculty, staff, students, and alumni. After reviewing the vision, mission, values and guiding principles some suggestions were made to tighten up language; however, there was consensus to move forward and revisit them in the future. The Planning Committee and University Senate endorsed the current vision, mission, values, and guiding principles in September. He reminded the Board that it had reaffirmed the vision, mission, values, and guiding principles in February 2019. President Comerford focused the Board's attention on a rough draft of six strategic priorities and asked them to provide feedback VP & Chief Kristi Robbins by October 31.

President Comerford noted his appreciation for Becky Fickel Smith '81, former Executive Director for Alumni Relations, who is assisting in the President's Office on a temporary basis to cover the duties and responsibilities of the executive assistant position that was vacated by Caroline Viebranz. He shared his appreciation for Alan Goff and Coral Harris who generously provided the lead gift of \$100,000 to establish the Green Revolving Fund, which will support sustainability initiatives.

President Comerford asked for a motion to approve a *Resolution of Thanks and Appreciation to the Otterbein Police Department, City of Westerville, Westerville Division of Police, Westerville Division of Fire, and Franklin County Sheriff's Office* to extend sincere gratitude for their hard work, dedication, and partnership in planning and coordinating efforts to host the Democratic Presidential Debate on October 15, 2019. Trustee Debbie Currin made the motion, which was seconded by trustee Nevalyn Nevil and approved unanimously. Finally, President Comerford extended his thanks and appreciation to his leadership team for their hard work and dedication during the last several months in particular.

Board Presentations

The Academic Showcase featured the Department of Music, which was well-received by the Board of Trustees. The presentation was led by Department Chair and Professor Dennis Davenport with assistance from Professor Nicholas Ross and Associate Professor Jennifer Merkowitiz.

Action

The following action was taken by the Board of Trustees:

- **Resolution to Approve University Tuition, Room and Board, and Fees for the 2019-2020 Academic Year**
 - The Board of Trustees approved the following fees for the 2020-2021 Academic Year, consistent with the commitment made to the new students entering Fall 2019:
 - Full-time Traditional Undergraduate Tuition with 1.8% increase;
 - Part-time Undergraduate Credit Hour rate with an increase of 1.9%;
 - Graduate credit rates for the Nurse Anesthetist program will increase 4.5% for current students beginning summer 2020; will increase 9.3% for new students beginning summer 2020; and will increase 8.7% for new students beginning summer 2021;
 - Student Life Fee with no increase;
 - Technology Fee with no increase;
 - Room rate with 2% increase; and
 - Board rates with a 3% increase.

- **Resolution of Thanks and Appreciation to the Otterbein Police Department, City of Westerville, Westerville Division of Police, Westerville Division of Fire, and Franklin County Sheriff's Department**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution of thanks and appreciation to the various entities and agencies for their hard work, dedication, and partnership in planning and coordinating efforts to host the Democratic Presidential Debate on October 15, 2019.

Future Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2019-2020

- February 7-8, 2020
- May 1-2, 2020 (Commencement Weekend)