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### October 24, 2018 Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Board of Trustees

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**Otterbein University**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Report**  
**October 24, 2018**

**Chair's Report**

Board Chair Mark Thresher welcomed the Board of Trustees to its fall meeting. Chair Thresher began by thanking President Comerford and Cabinet for leading the discussion at the All-committee meeting on Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, which included the Total Compensation Study report, an enrollment management proposal known as the Otterbein Commitment, a three credit hour update, the multi-year budget forecast, the Campus Center modernization plan, and a property and real estate inventory.

He thanked the trustees for being so engaged in the discussion, which ultimately led to full support for the total compensation plan and multi-year forecast that includes allocating \$3.5 million for staff and faculty equity and merit adjustments over the next four years. In addition, he noted that the Board is supportive of the Otterbein Commitment, which involves a number of affordability initiatives within a framework that includes adopting a model of tuition transparency.

Chair Thresher thanked Interim Provost and VPAA Wendy Sherman Heckler for the report on the three credit hour transition, which shows some progress. The Board supports the recommendation to refrain from making any major changes to curriculum or faculty workload until there is a sufficient opportunity to fully transition to the three credit model with the understanding that conversations about Academic Affairs' organization of administrative duties for faculty is ongoing.

Information related to the Campus Center Modernization project was also shared including plans for a fundraising feasibility study to determine if we should move forward with construction in May 2019 or delay for twelve months to raise sufficient funds. On a related note, as a result of the recommendation to adopt of a model of tuition transparency, the previously approved student fee in support of the Campus Center project will be rolled into a tuition increase rather than charged as a separate fee. After reviewing the property and real estate inventory, the Board plans to discuss recommendations for maximizing, land banking, or divestiture of underutilized properties and facilities in the near future.

Chair Thresher shared that he met with the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee (FAEC) on Thursday, October 18. Discussion centered around implementation of the three credit hour model, support needed for the Five Cardinal experiences, and issues related to sustainability. FAEC also advised the Board to allow the three credit hour model to settle a while before making future changes.

Finally, Chair Thresher said that he enjoyed visiting The Point yesterday to welcome Senator Portman for a tour noting that it is a game changer for Otterbein.

**President's Report**

President Comerford shared that he has enjoyed getting to know people both on campus and off, and his family has felt very welcomed to the Otterbein community. He stated that people are really proud of the work they do at Otterbein, which is what makes this place so special as evident in our culture. He has found that Otterbein is unafraid of change and willing to do bold things, which should make the Board proud of the progress that has been made especially in recent years.

President Comerford stated that Otterbein is in a good position given the challenges facing higher education in the State of Ohio and across the nation, and he thanked Dr. Krendl for her work to get us there. He shared that most colleges are caught in a conversation about being “better” than other schools, but encourages Otterbein to focus on what makes us unique. We must articulate that Otterbein is not meant to be all things to all people. And, we must articulate that in a much more specific way. Although we are having great success with The Point, it’s important to remember that we are still, in our hearts, a liberal arts college.

He reinforced that we are in a shrinking demographic environment, and it’s of great importance to look at students who would not usually look at us. President Comerford shared that he has been spending a lot of time meeting with people in central Ohio emphasizing that we need to help others understand what makes Otterbein unique. It is important for Otterbein to be a leader in the national conversation on higher education with a new model for attracting diverse students on campus, which should be a big part of the national conversation.

### **Board Presentations**

An academic showcase was presented to the Board by Associate Professor Jim Bowling, Museum and Galleries Director Dr. Janice Glowski, and Associate Professor Jonathan Johnson featuring the Department of Art and Art History. Trustees were impressed with the presentation that included information about majors and minors, student success, travel courses, global engagement with artists and students, and faculty scholarship.

### **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 2019-2020 Academic Year, effective Fall 2019 as follows:
    - Full-time Traditional Undergraduate Tuition with an increase of \$600;
    - Part-time Undergraduate Credit Hour rate with an increase of 1.9%;
    - Graduate Credit Hour rates with no increase;
    - Student Life Fee with no increase;
    - Technology Fee with no increase; and
    - Room and Board rates with a 2% increase.
- **Resolution to Revise the 2018-2019 (Fiscal Year 2019) Operating Budget**
  - The Board of Trustees approved the revised Fiscal Year 2019 operating budget where estimated expenses exceed estimated revenues and authorized certain assessments from its Investment Fund to support operations, including a stewardship assessment to support Advancement initiatives. A copy of the approved revised operating budget is attached.
- **Resolution to Amend the Otterbein University Code of Regulations**
  - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to amend Article XII - Purpose, Composition, Responsibilities and Limitations of the Executive Committee, Section 2, to add committee chairs to the Executive Committee.

**Future Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2018-2019**

February 8-9, 2019

April 26-27, 2019 (Commencement Weekend)