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April 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Board of Trustees

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Otterbein University
Board of Trustees Meeting Report
May 2, 2019

Chair's Report

Board Chair **Mark Thresher** welcomed the Board of Trustees and Trustees Emeriti to the annual spring meeting that began on Friday, April 26. Chair Thresher reported that the Executive Committee met on Thursday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m. Items covered included conceptual ideas about new initiatives related to income share agreements and partnering with a local firm on professional development, which was presented at the All-committee meeting as well.

Chair Thresher thanked President Comerford and Cabinet for leading the discussion at the All-committee meeting, which included information regarding the status of the fiscal year 2019 operating budget along with the projected operating budget for fiscal year 2020, the upcoming strategic planning process, and our United Methodist Church affiliation, in addition to a potential income share agreement program and professional development partnership opportunity. Chair Thresher thanked Provost and Sr. VP Dr. **Wendy Sherman Heckler** and VP for Enrollment Services **Jefferson Blackburn-Smith** for coordinating the Columbus City Schools presentation noting that hearing from the CCS cohort of graduating seniors was highlight of the meeting.

Chair Thresher shared that he met with the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee (FAEC) on Thursday, April 25. They presented him with a resolution related to Otterbein's UMC affiliation, which was passed by Faculty Assembly. FAEC discussion topics also included the transition to a three credit hour model, development of a merit pay process, and resources for the Five Cardinal Experiences. In addition, FAEC requested a summary of financial savings that have been realized as a result of the three credit hour model implementation.

Finally, Chair Thresher thanked those able to attend dinner with the Alumni Council and the Noble Transitions ceremony on Friday evening noting that the entertainment provided by Otterbein's music and theatre students was excellent as usual. He especially enjoyed hearing about their impressive plans for the summer, and thanked **Dennis Davenport**, Chair of the Music Department, for arranging for the students to attend.

President's Report

President Comerford began his report by acknowledging **Dr. Wendy Sherman Heckler** noting that it was the first Board of Trustees meeting since she was officially named Provost and Senior Vice President. He stated that Dr. Sherman Heckler has the confidence and respect of colleagues across campus. President Comerford shared that it was the last Board of Trustees meeting for Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Bob Gatti** since he announced his retirement effective June 30, 2019. Current Athletic Director **Dawn Stewart** has been named Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, **Julie Saker** was named Interim Dean of Students, and **Connie Richardson** will assume an Associate Athletic Director role. President Comerford anticipates that a search will be launched for a permanent replacement next fall.

President Comerford made a motion to accept the graduating Class of 2019, which was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees, noting that a total of 651 undergraduate and graduate degrees will

be awarded. He also presented a recommendation to approve faculty promotion and tenure decisions, which was unanimously approved. See names listed under Board Action section.

In closing, President Comerford presented a resolution to award emeritus status to **Robert M. Gatti** who will retire on June 30, 2019, which was approved unanimously.

Board Presentations

Trustee **Dan Gifford** and Executive Director for Alumni Relations **Steve Crawford** presented information about Alumni Relations with an emphasis on the question, "What is the next great innovation in Alumni Relations?" High level goals shared related to volunteer management, engagement metrics, communications, programming, and services.

Board Action

The following actions were taken by the Board of Trustees:

- **Resolution to Accept the Graduating Class of 2019**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to accept the graduating class of 2019 as presented by President Comerford. It was noted that a total of 651 degrees would be awarded including 512 bachelor's, 133 master's, and 6 doctorate degrees.
- **Resolution to Award Promotions and Tenure:** The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to award promotions and tenure effective August 12, 2019, as follows:
 - Promotion to Professor was awarded to **James Bates** (Music), **James Bowling** (Art and Art History), **Daniel Cho** (Education), **Melissa Lusher** (Theatre and Dance), **Nathaniel Tagg** (Physics), and **Uwe Trittman** (Physics).
 - Tenure was awarded to **Carla Corroto** (Sociology, Criminology and Justice Studies).
 - Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor was awarded to **Steffanie Burk** (Equine Science), **Jonathan DeCoster** (History and Political Science), **Hyuk Kim** (Business, Accounting and Economics), **Leonard Leibowitz** (Theatre and Dance), **Yiyuan Liu** (Business, Accounting and Economics), **Jeremy Moore** (Mathematics and Actuarial Science), and **Bethany Vosburg-Bluem** (Education).
 - Promotion to Associate Professor, Non-Tenure Track was awarded to **Kristy Drobney** (Academic Support Center) and **Jessica Crossfield McIntosh** (Courtright Memorial Library).
 - Promotion to Senior Instructor, Non-Tenure Track was awarded to **Beth Derringer** (Academic Support Center).
- **Resolution to Confer Emeritus Status**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to award emeritus status to Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Robert M. Gatti** for his 41 years of service as follows:

Whereas, Robert M. Gatti has served Otterbein University's students since 1978, holding positions of increasing responsibility before being named Vice President for Student Affairs in 1992; and

Whereas, he has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students while leading campus initiatives in partnership with four University presidents; and

Whereas, in his role as Dean of Students, Gatti has enhanced the student experience with his commitment to improvements and expansions to campus safety, residence life, health and wellness, community engagement, and counseling services for the overall well-being of Otterbein's students, thus preparing them to make impactful contributions to their professions and communities; and

Whereas, Gatti has championed social justice, diversity and inclusion, helping to create a campus community where all voices are heard and different opinions are valued regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, military status, or socio-economic background; and

Whereas, his campus leadership in guiding students through their college experience by removing barriers to graduation, providing career and professional development opportunities and helping each individual student achieve success has led to significant increases in retention; and

Whereas, Gatti has been key to the elimination of an achievement gap between students of color and white students as measured by first year retention in 2016 and in growing the diversity of the student body from 11 percent students of color to 19 percent in just six years; and

Whereas, he co-chaired the Otterbein University Governance Review Commission, resulting in an improved governance structure to ensure all members of the Otterbein community are represented; and

Whereas, in his lifetime career in higher education, Gatti has held several offices in professional organizations; received numerous honors and awards on campus, professionally and in the community; has written several articles and made presentations on various topics in his field, serving as a model to his peers and representing Otterbein's best in the community with his professionalism; and

Whereas, his warmth, kindness, caring and mentoring of students have created strong bonds and memories for four decades of Otterbein's alumni, faculty, staff and friends, cementing a legacy that will continue to impact future generations of students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that in recognition of his leadership in advancing social justice, diversity and inclusion at Otterbein, the Otterbein University Board of Trustees recognizes Robert M. Gatti for his outstanding service and contributions to Otterbein University and grants him emeritus status.

- **Resolution to Adopt the 2019/20 (FY20) Operating Budget**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to adopt the proposed 2019-20 (FY20) operating budget with total operating revenues at \$67,371,226 and total operating expenses including depreciation at \$69,805,472 including authorization to use \$2,434,246 in unrestricted gifts and equity to close the projected gap.

- **Resolution for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to publicly declare Otterbein University's dissent from the current and considered exclusionary language regarding LGBTQIA+ persons and to call upon the Church to adopt proactively inclusive policies and procedures. See attached formal resolution.

- **Resolution to Renew Trustee Terms**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to renew trustee terms as follows:
 - **Peter R. Bible '80** (second four-year term)
 - **Deborah E. Currin '67** (third four-year term)
 - **Mary W. Navarro** (second four-year term)
 - **Brant O. Smith '95** (second four-year term)

- **Resolution to Appoint Faculty Trustee**
 - The Board of Trustees approved a resolution to appoint Dr. Joan Rocks as faculty trustee effective July 1, 2019.

Board Special Recognition

- The Board of Trustees concluded the meeting by recognizing and thanking **Dr. Jacqueline Haverkamp** for serving as Faculty Trustee from 2015 – 2019.

Future Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

- August 8, 2019 (Board of Trustees Summer Teleconference)
- October 11-12, 2019
- February 7-8, 2020
- May 1-2, 2020 (Commencement Weekend)