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September 15, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting Report

Board of Trustees

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Otterbein University
Board of Trustees Meeting Report
September 15, 2023

Chair's Report

Board Chair Cheryl Herbert welcomed the Board of Trustees and Emeriti Trustees to the annual fall meeting on Friday, September 15. Chair Herbert met with the Faculty Assembly Executive Committee (FAEC) and felt the discussion was very positive. Topics discussed were the on-going transition to merit-based performance work, Faculty Assembly's faculty engagement and work satisfaction survey, and ways the faculty can support the Board goals. Chair Herbert stated faculty support the Board everyday by creating a thriving and viable educational organization.

President's Report

President Comerford provided numerous updates in his report:

Staff – Jefferson Blackburn-Smith will serve as the Executive Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Dr. Frank Dobson has been appointed the Chief Diversity Officer. HR Director Molly Miller received the HR Impact Award from *Columbus Business First*. Dr. Greg Lott has joined the campus as the new athletic director. There are many new faculty and staff to welcome to the campus community.

Campus Community – This year's first-year class is the most diverse class in Otterbein's history with 35% students of color. There has been good student feedback and good vibes on campus with a very engaged first-year class. Areas of concern are cleaning, Otter Den swipes and building temperatures. It was a very active summer for events and conference with \$1M in gross revenue (\$700K net), which was double from last year. Nearly 300 Antioch University graduate students attended residency programs on Otterbein's campus this summer. Fundraising was high point and the report was highlighted in the Enrollment & Advancement Committee.

Innovation Fund – A fast track innovation submission process was conducted in April/May with new initiatives providing increased enrollment goals for FY24. Thanks was extended to all who were involved for such an involved and rapid process. The new initiatives include student success coach, women's wrestling, eSports, recruiters for STEM, Bachelors of Nursing and Equine Team.

Coalition for the Common Good (CCG) – Thanks was extended to Vice Presidents Bolt, Heckler and Blackburn-Smith for their extra time toward the CCG and Trustees Casperson, Gifford, Harris and Emerita Trustee Ruhlin who are CCG Board of Director (BOD) members. Two academic programs (Ed.D. and CMHC) are launching in the Columbus market. MBA, and MA Education will merge with Antioch programs launch in Fall 2024: Allied Health will be launched in Fall 2024 with students in Columbus and at one Antioch location. The CCG Board is working on annual action plans and proactive review of new institution members. The shared services organization working group is prioritizing infrastructure development. The ninth BOD member is Lynn Pasquerella, President AAC&U. There will be an in-person CCG Board meeting in November along with the Higher Learning Commission visit.

Board Committee Reports

Audit and Risk Management Committee

Trustee and Committee Chair Kaiser reported the committee only had one member at the meeting and deferred approval meeting minutes. The 403(b) plan provides an employer contribution of discretionary 5% the first ten years and 10% after the tenth year. Clark Shaffer Hackett is conducting the annual 403(b) audit report for the institution. The 403(b) audit report and the 5500 report will be filed. The EIIA insurance broker provided Otterbein with reductions in premium requirements. CIO Dennis Gendron shared an IT security update. There is a phishing attempt education on campus. Trustee Kaiser recognized Molly Miller, HR Director, for receiving the HR Impact Award.

Enrollment and Advancement Committee

Trustee and Committee Chair Hinson welcomed student trustees to the committee and acknowledged them for being engaged and supportive. Institutional Advancement is nearly fully staffed and only down one staff member. The committee discussed the Otterbein Fund, scholarships, 1847 minutes platform which is open through the weekend. There were \$6.5M dollars of overall new commitments in FY23. The goals for FY24 are noted in the E&A Board packet materials. A new customer relationship management (CRM) tool is critical. The committee is seeking new ways to steward and engage donors.

The enrollment census data was reviewed and slightly down from projections. Opinions from survey of enrolled and non-enrolled students reinforced that on campus housing and student life facilities are ripe for investment to support recruitment. There was a significant increase in retention (up 4% to 82.4%) and particular growth among student populations (men, BIPOC students and 1st generation students) that were hurt by COVID.

Financial Resources Committee

Trustee and Committee Chair Bible indicated the FY24 budget projections were in the Board packet. Goldman Sachs' reported \$130M endowment value as of 6/30, now at \$137M. We have a good amount of investments in private equity which are doing well for the University. Trustee Bible commended the good work that went into creating an FY24 budget that is operationally balanced.

Governance Committee

The committee's priorities for their November meeting will be new trustee mentoring, trustee terms for FY24 and prospective trustee pipeline.

Student Success Committee

Trustee and Committee Chair Phinney referred the trustees to review the committee's Board packet materials which highlight new faculty and faculty achievements. Special acknowledgment to Dr. Joan Esson, Dr. Tansey and Dr. Ashley Simons. The committee reviewed their charter. The Otterbein READY program is expanding into the sophomore year. There will be Antioch University Clinical Mental Health Counselor (CMHC) interns/graduates to expand Otterbein's mental health counseling program. The innovation fund projects support enrollment recruitments. The committee heard a preview of the Campus Center renovations phase II. Dr. Greg Lott, athletic director was introduced and aims for well-being goals for all students and athletes. Dr. Frank Dobson, CDO, presented the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Plan in terms of Otterbein as a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campus.

Constituency Reports

Alumni Trustee Report

Trustee Stephens reported these alumni highlights:

- Five Alumni Council members were recognized for their service - Maggie Ellison '10 MBA '19 (chair), Lindy Gilkey '06, Mary Somyak '07, Wendy Bradshaw '95, Dom Porretta '13.
- Erin Sites Ensign '08 will serve as the council chair and Holly Schutz McFarland '78 as vice-chair.
- Council member Matt Lofy '08 is conducting outreach to the alumni networks and boards. Many of them are in a rebuilding phase coming off of the pandemic impact. This outreach will help develop a plan for how the Alumni Council can help the alumni networks and boards revive this year.
- The focus of the Council this year will be:
 1. Career Development (connecting alumni and students with internships, mentors, etc.),
 2. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Plan,
 3. Bridging the gap between alumni groups, and,
 4. Supporting the Institutional Advancement Team with engagement and giving.
- Five new Alumni Council members began their service at the August meeting - Fred Glasser '69, Carl Bates '86, Annette Harting Boose '94, Ben Hoeger '07, and Wesley Thorne '96.

Alumni Council has worked hard to make this Homecoming & Family Weekend a success. Their presence will be seen all weekend as they serve on Alumni Council Volunteer Service Day.

Faculty Trustee Report

Trustee Millsap indicated at the end of last semester the Faculty Assembly (FA) conducted a faculty engagement and work satisfaction survey. The feedback was very affirming with faculty finding great meaning and purpose in their relationships with students, teaching, and scholarship. It was also discovered we can do more to ensure that faculty feel valued in the workplace (personal thank you notes, more interactive meetings, etc.). It was suggested to develop a five-year DEIB for recruiting and retaining employees and there was an underlying concern about the loss or shift in culture on campus. FA will track and address these issues in creative ways.

At the first Faculty Assembly meeting in September, the conversation generated a brainstorming list of potential action items for shared work this academic year. Targeted efforts would increase faculty work satisfaction as well as maintaining the culture of Otterbein, being an inclusive community, educating whole person, and engaging with the community and beyond. A faculty poll will be taken to rank priorities and move into planning, implementation, and achieving concrete goals.

Trustee Tansey shared over 100 summer courses were taught including five travel abroad courses. The Masters in Athletic Training started this summer. Many faculty conducted research with students. Faculty advised new students during summer orientation and transition to college programs such as Diversity RISE and Humanities Boot Camp. There were numerous faculty presentations at national conferences. The Communication Department cleaned up at the College Media Association Pinnacle Awards. Nursing had a 100% pass rate on NCLEX.

Student Trustee Report

Trustees Khafagy and Yusuf shared they are excited to be back on campus and thrilled with the first-year student diversity on campus. The First Friday was a success with 69 registered organizations which does not include Greeks. There are over 100 opportunities for students to engage. Student government elections had over fifteen students participating and thirteen were first-years. A student vice chairs program was introduced to Senate committees to a student the opportunity to lead with the chair. The Center for Student Engagement is working to communicate new dining service guidelines and ways for students to place a service request. Greek housing is being evaluated and marketing strategies are being designed to promote living on campus. A new mosque is located in the Science Center to accommodate the growing number of Muslim students.

Board Presentations

Faculty sabbatical presentations were provided by Dr. Carla Corroto, Sociology; Dr. Dean Johnston, Chemistry; and Dr. Kristy McCray, Health & Sport Sciences.

The All-Committee Meeting of the Board heard presentations on the Campus Center Renovation Phase II from Vice President Fox and an Enrollment Consultant Report by Senior VP Todd Abbott and VP Todd Swartz from Ruffalo-Noel Levitz.

Board Action

The following action were taken by the Board of Trustees:

- The Board of Trustees approved a motion to proceed with Campus Center renovation phase II as designated in the resolution.
- The Board of Trustees approved a motion to appoint Dr. James Shilling '77 as a member to the Otterbein Board of Trustees.
- The Board of Trustees approved a motion to recognize Eta Phi Mu (Jonda) on their 100th year anniversary.

Future Board of Trustees Meeting Dates

December 1, 2023 - virtual

February 2, 2024 - virtual

April 27-28, 2024 - in-person meeting and Commencement Weekend