University Update - October 23, 2013

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As I write this latest University Update, snow is falling outside my window and landing gently on Towers lawn. Although the snowflakes are disappearing as quickly as they land, it’s a reminder that we are more than halfway through fall semester. How can this be possible? As many of you do, I spend time each week preparing for my Freshman Year Seminar class. This is my third year teaching one of our Freshman seminars on Women and Leadership.

It’s been a privilege to welcome these young women to campus as their University President, but more importantly as their teacher. I’ve witnessed their growth firsthand during these past nine weeks through discussions and conversations with guest panelists, such as Elaine Roberts, CEO of Port Columbus, who share their own personal leadership journey. We cover topics such as the emerging role of new leadership models in the 21st century. Next week several of my students will join me at the YWCA Woman to Woman Luncheon where they will have the opportunity to connect with leaders from Central Ohio and learn about the critical services and programs offered by the YWCA. Experiences like these help us work toward achieving Otterbein’s vision to build a model community of educators, leaders and learners who set the pace for higher education and contribute to the common good. I am proud and honored to be part of this collaborative effort.

Board of Trustees Meeting
The Board of Trustees was welcomed to campus last week for their annual fall meeting. On Friday, October 19, Chairman Mark Thresher led a planning session to examine how the strategic enrollment and comprehensive campaign plans contribute to the long-term financial health of the University. Representatives of Graham-Pelton Consulting discussed their findings of the feasibility study and made a recommendation that Otterbein enter into a two-phase $50 million campaign, with the first phase commencing immediately to raise an initial $20 million by the end of FY 2016. At the regular meeting of the Board on Saturday, October 19, the trustees voted unanimously to accept this recommendation.

The first phase of the campaign will focus on achieving the strategic enrollment goals with the second phase centering on the academic plan. More information as to how the campaign will be positioned and unfold will be presented at the University Summit on Thursday, October 31, from 3:30 – 4:30 pm in Riley Auditorium at Battelle Hall.

The trustees heard a presentation by the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Grant Team, which includes Dr. Sarah Bouchard (Biology), Dr. Michele Acker (Psychology), Dr. Carrie Hayes (Chemistry), and Dr. Jessica Garrett Mills (Psychology), related to the COACHE survey results as well as a presentation by Athletic Director Dawn Stewart on athletics at Otterbein.

The trustees also took action on resolutions that granted trustee emeritus status to former Board Chair Tom Morrison and former Trustee John King, and named John and Susie King as the next recipients of the Mary B. Thomas Award for Commitment to Otterbein.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Search
The search for a new provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is underway. The search committee is comprised of the following members of the Otterbein community: Jefferson Blackburn-Smith, chair (Enrollment Management), Nicholas Hill (Art), Clare Kilbane (Education), Cheryl Lyman (Business Affairs), Lisa Phillips (Student Affairs), Joan Rocks (HSS), Pete Sanderson (Math), Wendy Sherman Heckler (Academic Affairs) and Clark Tieman (Student.) After accepting its charge from President Krendl, the committee began its work by revising the position description and University profile. Application review will begin on November 1 and continue until the position is filled.

Welcome to Otterbein’s New MBA Director
The Department of Business, Accounting and Economics along with the Graduate School recently welcomed R. Eric Lloyd as the new Director of the MBA program. Eric is a proud 2002 graduate of Otterbein’s MBA program. He has maintained his enthusiasm for his alma mater and support of an Otterbein education since graduation through his ongoing involvement with the Alumni Office. Eric comes to us with extensive experience in business development, project/change management, marketing, and strategic planning. In addition, he has experience in engineering design (BS in Electrical Engineering, Ohio University) and was most recently employed with Bluewolf, Inc., New York, New York. Please stop by his office in the Business, Accounting and Economics Office Suite on the 4th floor of Roush Hall to introduce yourself if you haven’t already done so.

Parking Lot Survey Results
The Otterbein University Police Department completed its annual Parking Lot Survey the week of September 23-27, 2013. Officers counted empty spaces in the 29 parking lots during the hours of 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The average number of empty parking spaces on campus during the hours of the survey was: 257 at 9:00 am, 229 at 10:00 am, 222 at 11:00 am, 301 at 1:00 pm, 462 at 5:00 pm, 483 at 6:00 pm and 532 at 7:00 pm. The most underutilized parking lots were: 60 Collegeview, Center Street lot, Davis Hall lot and the Lower Service parking lot. As in the past, the survey found there are parking spaces available for students, faculty and staff who wish to park on campus.

Please Remember to Join the Conversation
We had a great discussion at our first Join the Conversation lunch on September 25. Our topic focused on what constitutes a model community and ways in which we can work together toward reaching the goal of building and sustaining one here at Otterbein. As a result a number of you volunteered to get involved in identifying ways to build pride, planning celebrations and social gatherings, and creating professional development and learning opportunities. You will be hearing more about these efforts in the near future.

The next Join the Conversation lunch is scheduled for Friday, October 25, 2013, from 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm in the 1847 Room with Vice President for Business Affairs Rebecca Vazquez-Skillings who will be sharing information about the Campus Master Plan. Please mark your calendar and plan to join the conversation!

As always, if you have questions or need additional information about information in this University Update or any other topic, feel free to contact me or a member of Cabinet.