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### University Update - September 12, 2013

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**Announcement of Vice President for Academic Affairs Search**

It is time for us to begin the process of selecting a new Vice President for Academic Affairs. I have met with Faculty Council Executive Committee, and we have identified a plan to move forward aggressively to begin the search within the next few weeks. We have agreed on several basic elements of the plan for the search as outlined below.

First, our goal is to recruit a new Vice President for Academic Affairs as early as possible to assure that we take full advantage of the entire pool of candidates who are seeking such an opportunity. Some institutions have already announced their searches and are in the process of soliciting applications and nominations. It is important that we begin the process early in the year to compete for the best candidates. Fortunately, **Alison Prindle** will serve as Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs for the entire academic year and has agreed to mentor the candidate we select to assure a smooth transition.

Second, we will not be using a search consultant. Much of the work done previously will carry forward in expediting this year's search. We have the institutional profile and the position description that were prepared with the assistance of a consultant three years ago. Those materials can be quickly updated to reflect recent achievements, our new mission and vision statements, and a more current description of our goals and priorities as an institution.

Third, we have agreed that keeping the Search Committee small will ease the process of setting up regular meetings, encourage full participation by all committee members, and allow an early launch of the process. In determining the appropriate constitution of the committee, we identified a plan to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of the members of the previous search team by including several of them, both faculty and staff, on the new committee, and then adding new faculty representatives to round out the membership. Members who have agreed to continue on the newly constituted committee are **Nicholas Hill** from Arts and Sciences and **Joan Rocks** from the School of Professional Studies. Both have extensive experience as department chairs and long histories of strong leadership at Otterbein. Faculty Council will host elections to identify two additional faculty members to serve on the Search Committee, one from Arts and Sciences and one from Professional Studies. These elections will be held in the coming week. Other committee members continuing from the previous committee are **Wendy Sherman Heckler**, representing Academic Affairs; **Cheryl Lyman**, representing Business Affairs; and **Lisa Phillips**, representing Student Affairs. While a smaller Search Committee will allow nimbleness at the outset, all members of the Otterbein community will be asked to provide feedback during the on-campus interview process.

Fourth, I have asked **Jefferson Blackburn-Smith** to chair the committee to encourage a strong partnership between the leadership of Academic Affairs and Enrollment Management. Establishing a strong relationship between these two units at the outset will build a strong foundation for our recruitment and retention efforts.

I will be meeting with the Committee as soon as possible to present their charge, outline the timeline for the search and begin the process of updating the institutional profile and the position description. I

encourage everyone at the institution to engage fully in this search. Identifying the right candidate for this position is critical to our future. Thank you for accepting the responsibility of participating in the process and supporting your colleagues on the Search Committee as we move forward.

### **It's Homecoming Weekend!**

Homecoming weekend is upon us. If you haven't taken a moment to watch the [2013 Homecoming promotional video](#) that Otterbein TV produced, it is a must see! This year change and transition surrounds [Cardy's Rockin' Homecoming](#) which features a [new parade route](#) and a [Block Party on Grove Street](#). The closing of Grove Street from West Main to Home streets is a test to study traffic patterns to determine if this can be done long term. Homecoming seemed a perfect time to test it out, but in order for the City of Westerville to really study the traffic pattern, it will be closed from Sept. 21st to Sept. 28th.

I am most proud to see the number of academic departments which have gotten involved to ensure that Homecoming 2013 is comprehensive and welcoming for our visiting alumni. All six of our Young Alumni Award recipients are speaking in classes before the awards ceremony on Friday evening. A big thanks to those faculty who are opening up their classes for these special guests. Also, the departments of Nursing and Psychology as well as the Graduate School and Equine Center will be part of the Block Party on Grove Street and Quiz and Quill is hosting a reunion. As always, there will be food, music, reunions, Cardy's Kids Zone and a lot more for all generations. I hope to see you on Saturday.

### **Outdoor Wi-Fi**

Good news! Information Technology and Services (ITS) is pleased to announce that the first phase of outdoor Wi-Fi (wireless internet access) is complete. Students, faculty, and staff can now access the **OtterbeinU** high-speed network in several outdoor locations using a tablet, laptop, or smartphone. Wi-Fi is currently available in the following locations:

- In front of Towers Hall
- On the east side of Courtright Memorial Library
- On the east side of Mayne Hall
- In front of the Campus Center
- In the area around the Otterbein Rock
- In the area between Battelle Hall, Towers Hall, and the Shear-McFadden Science building

The **OtterbeinU** network is the same secure wireless network that is used inside residence halls and academic buildings. By connecting to Wi-Fi outdoors, smartphone users can save money by avoiding expensive data charges on their phone plans.

### **Wireless access for visitors**

As a convenience to our campus visitors (including parents, prospective students, friends, and alumni), ITS has enabled the **OtterbeinGuest** wireless network in several indoor and outdoor locations. This wireless network allows access to the internet only and does not require a user name or password (acceptance of Otterbein's usage policy is required).

### **Transitions**

On behalf of Vice President and Dean of Students, **Bob Gatti**, I am pleased to announce **Julie Saker** has been promoted to Associate Dean of Students. Julie has worked in Student Affairs at Otterbein

University since 2001 in a variety of capacities. Prior to arriving at Otterbein, she served as Assistant and Associate Vice President for Student Development and Interim Vice President for Student Development at St. Louis University. Julie currently works with Counseling, Title IX, Student Life Committee, and Crisis Response. She will serve as the representative/designee for Dean Gatti in his absence, when appropriate.

In August I shared that Barb Wharton had accepted a position at Ohio University. I'm happy to report that the search is underway for our new Director of Institutional Research. While the search is underway, **Kirsten Crotte** is backfilling Barb's position. Kirsten has been at Otterbein for nine years and for the last year has been shared between Enrollment Management (as a financial aid Systems Analyst and Project Coordinator) and Institutional Research Department within the President's Office. When the IR Director position is filled, Kirsten will remain part of the IR team, as well as continue her work with Enrollment Management. Kirsten is currently located in the IR office on the third floor of Roush Hall.

Finally, on Monday, September 16, I had the honor of swearing in **John Petrozzi** as Otterbein's new Deputy Chief of Police. Deputy Chief Petrozzi is well known in the Westerville area through his many years of service to the City of Westerville Division of Police. Please join me in welcoming John to the Otterbein community!

#### **Senate Meeting Reminder**

The first University Senate meeting is scheduled for **today**, Wednesday, September 18, at 3:30 pm in Riley Auditorium. See the [Senate webpage](#) for the agenda and other materials. The Governance Review Commission will be providing information about their progress to date.

#### **Remember to Join the Conversation!**

Be sure to mark your calendar for Friday, September 27th and join me in the 1847 Room in the Campus Center from 12:00 – 1:00 pm to share your ideas and further discuss what being a model community means to you! If you are unable to attend, there's always the option of submitting your suggestions via [greatideas@otterbein.edu](mailto:greatideas@otterbein.edu).

#### **Show Your Cardinal Spirit – Friday is Cardinal Pride Day!**

**Friday is Cardinal Pride Day!** Please remember to demonstrate your Cardinal Pride by showing up for work in Cardinal Red for the start of Homecoming Weekend on Friday, September 20. Go Cards!