Tuesday, September 8, 2015

- A special meeting of the Board was called for the purpose of swearing in two new members (Craig King and Katie Scott) and reappointing Nancy Collins.
- When new members are added to the Board, the Board must hold an election of officers (for all officer positions except for the chair whose election is held in January). The Board unanimously voted to keep Ernie House as Vice Chair; and David Tandy as Secretary.
- Additionally, the Board reviewed and unanimously voted on President Benson’s resolution authorizing the University to perform the management and administration of capital construction.
- The Board went into executive session for the purpose of discussing the potential sale and purchase of property.

June 2015

June 2015 was a busy month for the Board. The Finance and Planning Committee, along with other members of the BOR, met June 8, 2015 to review the 2015-2016 Operating Budget (no decisions were made at this meeting); Board members met June 9, 2015 to review the proposed Strategic Plan; and the Quarterly meeting of the Board was held June 22, 2015. The notes from the meetings are noted below.

Meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee: June 8, 2015

- Committee minutes from the special-called FPC meeting can be found by clicking HERE.

Board Retreat: June 9, 2015

Review the EKU 2020 Vision Plan

Matt Roan presented the Strategic Plan to the Board. Click HERE to review the Strategic Plan. The Board members commended the Strategic Planning Team for their hard-work on this significant project. Based on the discussion with the Board, Financial Strength and Campus Revitalization emerged from some of the proposed strategic initiatives as stand-alone-goals. Click HERE to review a summary of the revisions Matt Roan made to the Strategic Plan following the Board meeting. These revisions were sent to the Strategic Planning Committee for review and feedback. All feedback received was positive and no additional changes were made.

Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Regents: June 22, 2015

The five sub-committees of the BOR held their business meetings prior to the full Board meeting on June 22, 2015. Summaries from each of those meetings are provided below.

Institutional Advancement & Honors Committee

Members Present: Ernie House, Nancy Collins, Kyle Nicholas, and Amy Thieme

- Action Items:
  - Approval of April 20, 2015 minutes: Unanimously approved.
- No New Business
Student Life, Discipline & Athletics Committee
Members Present: Janie Miller, Alan Long, and Kyle Nicholas

- Action Items
  - Approval of the April 20, 2015 minutes: Unanimously approved.
- No New Business

Audit & Compliance Committee
Members Present: Alan Long, Janie Miller, and Holly Wiedemann

- Information Items:
  - Representatives from Crowe Horwath (Pete Ugo, Dennis Obyc, and Alice Cowley) presented the audit plan for fiscal year 2014-2015. Audit procedures are broken into three phases: Planning Activities; Interim Fieldwork; and the Audit Approach. GASB Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions will be effective for the year ending June 30, 2015. This adds significant liability to the Institution’s financial statements in regards to pension plans.
  - Mark Maier presented a Colonels Comply update: Reported that posters are up across campus regarding Colonels Comply. Also, new employees will now be presented with information about Colonels Comply as part of their orientation. The campus survey about Colonels Comply will be distributed July 2015.
- Action Item
  - Approval of the April 20, 2015 minutes: Unanimously approved.

Finance and Planning Committee
Members Present: Janet Craig, Holly Wiedemann, and Amy Thieme

- Janet Craig announced that the FPC met on June 8, 2105 at a retreat to review the budget. No decisions were made at the retreat.
- Action Items Approved:
  - Committee Minutes from the April 20, 2015 meeting.
  - Committee minutes from the special-called FPC meeting on June 8, 2015. Click HERE to read the minutes of that meeting.
  - The 2015-16 Budget for the University (click HERE to review the 2015-2016 Operating Budget): J. Craig recommended the budget be adjusted to include more revenue for the Occupational Therapy and Aviation Programs to help meet student demand. A charge was made to the University to develop a plan that addresses those needs and present it to the BOR at its next quarterly meeting.
  - The demolition of the following surplus properties: Brockton, Dupree, Todd, and Martin Residence Halls. The design and layout of these buildings cannot be easily renovated or modified to a format in demand by students without substantial cost.
- The following policy was tabled to give the Board more time to review:
  - Policy 1.5.1 Financial Exigency

Executive and Academic Affairs: Business Meeting
Members Present: Craig Turner, Ernie House, Janet Craig, and Nancy Collins
Dr. Laurie Carter, VP for Student Success, University Council, presented the following Freshmen Snapshot report (based on 2,608 total students):

- The freshmen retention rate to date is on track from this time last year. The next Snapshot will not be taken until October. Presently, 3.2% of freshmen students are on probation, which might hurt the retention rate if they do not complete the summer work needed to improve GPAs.
- A snapshot of sub-populations indicates EKU dual-credit-hour students have an 85.2% retention rate; Greek, Honors, Nova, Student Athletes, Freshmen Academics, and Gross Scholars are retaining at rates higher than 80%.
- The college-by-college Snapshot indicates colleges are retaining freshmen by 70% or higher; University Programs retaining at 47.5% (undeclared).
- Out-of-state students are retained at a higher rate than in-state students (73.2 vs 67.7%)
- Standard Admission retaining at 70.8%; Success-First Admission retaining at 41.9%.

The following Action Items were presented to and approved by the committee:
- Committee Minutes (April 20, 2015)
- Personnel Actions
- New Programs, Program Revisions & Suspensions; Academic Requirements
- Addendum to Retirement Transition Program
- Recommendation for Adjunct Faculty Nominations
- Recommendation for Faculty Emeritus Nominations

The following policy was tabled to give the Board more time to review:
- Policy 4.6.16 Dismissal of Faculty

Recommendations for the new Strategic Plan: A retreat was held June 9, 2015, for the purpose of reviewing the Strategic Plan. The BOR recommended two additional goals: campus revitalization and financial strength)

Student Life, Discipline, and Athletics Committee
Members Present: Janie Miller, Kyle Nicholas, and Alan Long

- The committee approved the following action items:
  - Committee Minutes (April 20, 2015)
- No new business.

Bullhorn Presentation
- Click HERE to review the executive summary presented to the BOR.

Full Board Meeting
(Absent: David Tandy)

- Bryan Makinen was welcomed as the recently re-elected Staff Regent.
- The Finance and Planning Committee; the Student Life, Discipline, and Athletics Committee; the Institutional Advancement and Honors Committee; the Audit and Compliance Committee; and the Executive Committee presented their reports to the Board (see above).
- The following individual reports were made to the BOR:
  - Craig Turner, Chair of the Board
    - Stated he has never seen as much excitement at EKU – revenues are up, expenses down; retention is up; campus revitalization is occurring; happy to see
Bullhorn is looking to increase branding toward alumni (as alumni are an important part of university engagement).

- Kyle Nicholas (outgoing SGA President)
  - Stated that Katie Scott is the new SGA President; SGA has a bright future with her in place. Thanked the BOR for their work with EKU and support. Recommends EKU doesn’t forget to remember the importance of investing in human capital (staff, faculty, and students).

- Richard Day, Faculty Senate Chair
  - Stated that faculty groups will be partnering with the architect group to learn about the process of the new campus master plan and make contributions.
  - Stated that the 16-week calendar move has caused some concerns; Faculty Senate Chair and the Provost are looking to create a working group to work on alleviating some of the issues.
  - Stated that he will be working with Academic Affairs to modify the purpose for development funds (identify how and what they should be used for) and develop a method to monitor their usage.

- Leah Banks, President of Staff Council
  - Stated that the election for Staff Regent is completed: Bryan Makinen elected for three-year term.
  - Staff Council picnic was a success.
  - Staff Council is in the process of completing the president’s evaluation.

- President Benson
  - Thanked Kyle Nicholas for his service as SGA President.
  - Thanked staff for the Staff Council picnic.
  - Reported that Tina Davis is working on a plan to improve the evening graduation ceremony (increase attendance).
  - Stated that $40,000 per college will be allotted for faculty scholarships
  - Reorganizations: Goal is to be more efficient and less top-heavy.
  - Nick Perlick, VP for Development and Alumni Relations, reported that last week EKU eclipsed $4m in donations; this has been the highest amount in a decade.

- All action items from the morning business meetings were presented to the Board for approval. All action items were unanimously approved, as were the April 20, 2015 minutes. The following items were tabled by the Full Board: Policies 1.5.1 Financial Exigency and 4.6.16 Dismissal of Faculty (as recommended by the sub-committees).

- Athletics Presentation
  - EKU recipient of OVC Commissioners Cup
  - Steve Lochmueller presented the vision for athletics to the BOR: Continue to focus on student athlete’s success in the classroom, support efforts to broaden student athletes foundation for their future outside of athletics, continue to raise the bar and pursue Championships in non-revenue sports, focus on building and elevating successful revenue sports to win Championships and finally seek opportunities to move into FBS for the benefit of our athletics programs, but more importantly, to bring visibility, growth and opportunities to Eastern Kentucky University.
  - Several student athletes talked about “what it means to be a Colonel.”
• The Board went into Executive Session for purposes of discussing pending litigation (KRS 61.810 (c) and personal issues (KRS 61.810 (f)).

FYI

• Future Board Meetings 2015-2016; location TBA
  o October 19, 2015  Whitlock Building Room 549
  o January 25, 2016
  o April 25, 2016
  o June 20, 2016

• In June, Governor Beshear appointed Craig King, of Nicholasville, as a member of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents to serve for a term expiring June 30, 2021. Mr. King replaces Janie Miller, whose term has expired. Nancy Collins, of Hazard, was reappointed as a member of the Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents to serve for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

Excitement abounds as we kick-off the 2015-2016 academic year. Thank you for all you do. Please let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy

Dr. Amy Thieme
Faculty Regent
Combs 312
Amy.Thieme@eku.edu
Office: (859) 622-1320
Cell: (859) 358-3790