

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

A newsletter for faculty, staff and students of The University of Findlay

Special Edition

Feb. 4, 2005

HIGHLIGHTS FROM TRUSTEES' MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the University met on Feb. 3 and 4, on campus. Thirty-three trustees attended, as well as undergraduate student representative Whitney Haverfield, graduate student representative Jorge Mera, faculty representative Dr. Linda Peck, five staff members and President Freed.

The Board reviewed and considered reports that had been prepared and provided to them beforehand on academic affairs, student services, business affairs, institutional advancement and trustee personnel matters.

A principal focus of the meeting was on academic affairs, including continuing and possible new academic programs. These programs were discussed in terms of recruiting, enrollment, teaching, learning, and financial support. Preparation of descriptive material for the new programs, site visits and approval or accrediting agencies for several programs will be major activities during the next few months. Those activities and the status of several programs are summarized on page 2.

Plans to convert a classroom and storage room in the Brewer Science Building to a new chemistry laboratory, at a cost of \$250,000, were noted.

Based on registration during the third week of the spring semester, full-time equivalent enrollment is 3,210, compared to 3,451 last year, and 3,323 the year before. Headcount enrollment is 4,046, compared to 4,223 last year, and 4,078 the year before. Enrollment of international students is 431, compared to 430 last year, and 468 the year before.

The undergraduate admissions office is benefiting from an energetic approach, improved procedures and enthusiasm. The number of applications and deposits are up. Efforts to enroll 100 more new full-time undergraduate students next fall, compared to last fall, are promising, but not yet reasonably assured.

The number of students living on campus in University housing is 1,146, compared to 1,164 last year, and 937 the year before. The number of student contracts for the dining service is 946, compared to 960 last year, and 841 the year before.

Improvements to residence halls last summer were received well by students. Those tentatively planned for next summer, at a cost of \$300,000, are: Fox and Bare, third floor – new room furniture and flooring; Morey, second and third floor – remodel common areas and bathrooms; various locations – new carpet and lobby furniture.

Through the first half of the current fiscal year, the budget is balanced, with a surplus. Year-end results will depend upon final spring semester enrollment and other factors. Projections are that the budget for the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2005, will be balanced, debt will be reduced by \$3.6 million and all projects will be paid from operating funds or contributions.

The projected budget is based on enrollment similar to last fall. With that assumption, the budget is projected to be balanced with a surplus, and indebtedness to be reduced further.

For 2005-06, tuition will be increased

four percent and room and board will be increased three percent. Pharmacy will have higher tuition than other programs. Equestrian and pre-veterinary surcharges will be increased.

Academic and physical plant projects in progress or planned for the summer and next year amount to about \$2 million, all of which is projected to be paid from the operating budget or from donations.

Investment results for pooled funds for last year (to Dec. 31, 2004) showed an increase in market value of 15.5 percent. Investment results for the last quarter were 10 percent. About 15 percent of invested assets are in liquid alternative investments, such as hedge funds.

Moody's Investor Service continued its Bal rating of UF and revised its outlook rating from negative to stable.

Results of efforts to make progress on strengthening salaries of middle- and lower-income personnel reflected higher average increases for both groups.

Several positive features of student and faculty activities were noted during the trustee meeting. Those included successful student participation in equestrian competition, theatre, music, athletics, student government, and in many other areas. Faculty teaching and commitment were reported to be excellent. Student involvement in campus activity was similarly reported to be excellent.

There are no known faculty resignations or retirements for next year. Current plans are to add two or three faculty for next year to cover needed

continued on back

areas, increase course work taught by full-time faculty under regular contract and reduce overload teaching.

The Board approved recommended faculty personnel actions for promotion, tenure and sabbatical or other leaves in requests. The names of those affected will be made public after the individuals, their area directors and deans have been notified.

Total gifts and grants through Dec. 31, 2004, were \$2.9 million compared to \$2.6 million the year before. December giving of over \$1 million was ahead of recent years. The \$2.2 million campaign for an addition to the Mazza Museum stands at \$1.1 million in gifts and pledges.

A nationwide search is being undertaken for a vice president of development who will lead the University's fund raising, public information, and institutional advancement efforts. Dr. Hyland will continue on the staff.

A 48-member Strategic Planning Task Force, with broad representation of those associated with the University, held its first meeting in early January. Committees are meeting regularly. The current schedule calls for a report by the end of the academic year.

The Board noted the recent passing of Dr. David Allen and his many contributions during his 35 years of service to the University. A resolution was passed by the Board expressing gratitude for his service and sympathy to those who were close to him.

Reports were made to the Board by student and faculty representatives, each of whom covered features of University operations which they considered important to the groups they represent.

Deans Mary Jo Geise and Lisa Dutton gave excellent presentations on their colleges on Thursday night of the two-day meeting.

New trustees elected are Pamela Beall, director of corporate affairs for Marathon Ashland Petroleum, and Gary Harpst, co-founder of Solomon Software and current chair of Six Disciplines and Plumblin Solutions.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees is Dr. C. Richard Beckett, and vice chairman is Richard E. White.

THE STATUS OF ACTIONS FOR APPROVAL OR ACCREDITING OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Site visit for continuing accreditation of the College of Education by state and national organizations

The campus site visit is scheduled for April 11-15 with teams from the Ohio Department of Education and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). This will be a visit by as many as 10 representatives and will involve the entire campus, as well as local schools that host student teachers and have employed recent graduates.

Doctor of Physical Therapy and Doctor of Pharmacy

A site visit by representatives of the Ohio Board of Regents was completed in December. Responses to their comments and suggestions were provided in late December and were favorably considered by the initiatives committee of the Board of Regents. The committee will recommend approval of both programs to the Board of Regents at its meeting in March. In the meantime, a letter from a Board of Regents staff member will authorize startup activities for the programs.

Material has been provided to the physical therapy and pharmacy accrediting agencies to keep them informed of the progress of the proposals. Both will later make site visits.

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has noted that a formal change in relationship between the University and the Commission is needed as part of starting professional doctoral programs. A request to change the university's relationship with the HLC to remove stipulations on master's degree offerings will be submitted in mid-February. This approach by the HLC probably reflects the Commission's

view of the University as a comprehensive master's university, which needs to have well-defined and monitored standards for graduate programs and their administration before moving to the doctoral level. Removal of the stipulation will allow the University to introduce other professional degree programs at the master's level without undergoing review of each program. The HLC process likely will entail a site visit by HLC representatives. The procedures and review activities for HLC consideration of the request to change the relationship will take several months.

Re-initiation of a Music Education Major

Work is in progress to develop and refine the specifics needed to re-initiate a music education major. The expectation is that a proposal will be submitted to the Ohio Department of Education by early summer with the intention of recruiting students for the music education program, to begin in the fall of 2006.

Adolescent/Young Adult Licensure

The Ohio Department of Education recently approved the University's program for Adolescent/Young Adult licensure in Integrated Science and Life Sciences. This is an important step in that it approves the University program leading to licensure of students who complete these programs and pass associated Praxis examinations.

Athletic Training

A site visit by a team from the accrediting group for athletic training will occur on Feb. 14-15.