

# WSURA Board Minutes

minutes taken 11. 07, 2018

**Present:** Marlene Bireley, Mary Kenton, Joyce Howes, Sheryl Provens, Donna Schlagheck, Dick Williams, Gary Barlow, Carol Stevenson, Ruth Schumacher, Dan Abrahamowicz, Gary Pacernick, Larry Prochaska, Robin Suits, Peggy Bott, Gail Whitaker, Abe Bassett, Mary Gromosiak

**President Howes called the meeting to order at 10:27 am. The Board approved the minutes for the meeting of October 2018.**

## 1. Cheryl Schrader, President of WSU

### a. Spoke about changing the narrative of the University to be more positive in the community

1. example would be misperceptions and inaccuracies (e.g., headlines in the Dayton Daily News, at times, do not reflect the article itself or reflect a past point in time)
2. great news is that the University avoided fiscal watch; WSU returned 6 million dollars to the reserves; projection for this year is 3 million
3. university needs to be able to invest in priorities so cannot return all monies at one time to the reserves
4. currently if there is a drop in revenue, it will not be necessary to immediately make cuts
5. will take a few years before the University is fully recovered and viable
6. WSU is developing a type of community partner newsletter that should help the narrative out to and in the community

### b. Verified that WSURA board members receive the morning “clips” from her office

### c. Strategic Plan

1. distributed draft copy of a “Summary of Strategic Plan”; needs Trustee approval
2. process began in January with stakeholder meetings, defining strategic initiatives, and a project management plan (1300 persons participated over 700 work hours)
3. review of the Strategic Plan will take place every 6 months
4. an extensive website has been created

### d. State of the University

1. Closed 2018 with a surplus (\$10.1 million)—made the impossible, possible
2. University spent over 30 million \$ less than the projected need to cut
3. Budget managers throughout the university now report centrally, which allows better coordination
4. The university will provide the support necessary for every unit to stay within its allotted budget
5. Re: WSU's fiscal rating, the university is expected to be in the 2.2-2.4 range next year
6. Currently WSU has 15,500 students
  - a. brought in more international students than past years
  - b. local enrollment held steady until this past fall, which yielded a 12% decline
  - c. new person in charge of enrollment management, who is increasing coordination among relevant units
  - d. encouragement to WSURA members to help in the recruitment process, including certificate and graduate programs
7. believes University is ready and eager to move forward

### e. Future Goals

1. Diversifying revenue streams
2. Treat failures as opportunities for growth

### f. Initiatives

1. Working to place core courses on line
2. More tracks of the MBA program on line

### g. Bargaining/Negotiations

1. Fact finding report was accepted by the Trustees; recognized as recommended short-term solutions
2. Ongoing process to establish long-term solutions
3. Board of Trustees has always been willing to negotiate
4. University has never, nor ever will threaten tenure
  - a. confusion due to retrenchment language in the documents; retrenchment could be triggered by a score under 2.4 for two consecutive years
  - b. retrenchment language can be removed from the contract by the Board of Trustees
5. President remains positive and hopeful that negotiations will continue and agreement will be reached

### h. Q & A followed

1. Proposals to impact the SSI are currently under discussion

2. Tuition caps (raising it a predetermined %); Joint Commission recommended relaxing the rule re no increase (e.g., to increase by cost of living and legislature action re parameters)
3. WSURA supported 2 programs over the past few years that have been discontinued or cut back –Presidential Lecture Series and Health Fair
  - a. President is hopeful that the Lecture Series can return, perhaps in changed form
  - b. supports the Health Fair as an investment in health and wellness, but staff in charge left the university; WSURA is interested in supporting it; President will discuss this with others
4. Staff morale
  - a. trying to increase communication
  - b. time off (e.g., Wednesday before Thanksgiving last year; this year, the 4 day holiday break between Christmas and New Year's will be covered by the University)
  - c. President welcomes ideas
5. Will there be a commitment to general education, in-person taught courses?
  - a. The President replied that higher education is really at a crossroads (e.g., many institutions are closing, so WSU will have to change)
  - b. via the strategic plan, WSU is committing to experiential learning, which as always been important to the institution
  - c. the President referenced the Strategy Statement of her handout (the "Summary of Strategic Plan"), which notes ". . .unique strengths and resources. . ." as well as ". . .investments of students. . .", both of which she viewed as supportive of experiential learning.
  - d. The President is a strong supporter of the liberal arts
6. community initiatives were discussed—e.g., 25 year anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords
7. other important university initiatives?
  - a. development of a Unified Health Care Plan is a top university priority. Currently WSU's is better than UD; Clark State; Sinclair
  - b. workload---2/3 or 3/2 is the current workload under the Carnegie Plan
  - c. faculty furloughs--- fact finder said if implemented, limit it to 4 days a year/2 per semester. Considered a last resort and can only be triggered by a score lower than 2.4 and only for 2 consecutive years, much like retrenchment, referenced above
  - d. Asst Associate position or similar leadership positions planned to help with work load issue? Response was "yes".
  - e. Is student success under the umbrella of enrollment management? Response was "yes".

## **2. Past WSURA President: Donna Schlagheck**

- a. If interested is attending a meeting with the Dayton Foundation, contact her
- b. Paul Leonard spoke to WSURA on Oct 31, 2018 (27 attendees) on the topic of the mid-term elections. Many, many questions. Great Dialogue.
- c. D. S. is scheduling an appointment with Noreen Wilhelm at the Dayton Foundation re the Del Mar Encore Fellows Initiative, to explore grant opportunities to connect retired or career transitioning older adults with non-profit initiatives that benefit the Greater Dayton Community. DS solicits interest in joining the next meeting tba.

## **3. Activities: Mary Gromosiak**

- a. Reminded the Board that information re upcoming events has previously been sent to members

## **4. Friends of the Libraries: Gary Barlow**

- a. Thanked the Board for the 4 Legacy Books purchased

## **5. Webmaster: Abe Bassett**

- a. Noted that Robin would select photos of board members from those taken prior to the Board meeting

## **6. Webmaster: Robin Suits**

- a. # of hits on the website is up 70% presumably due to interest in the current faculty-union conflict
- b. 3 new WSURA life members

## **7. UCIE: Ruth Schumacher**

- a. 2 handouts were distributed; members asked to review highlighted section of the table