

Dr. Hopkins

Enrollment Update

Dr. Hopkins opened his report with a summary of the current Fall '16 enrollment figures. As of September 12th, total head count is down 1.7% (299 students), undergraduate enrollment is down 0.9% (121 students), and graduate enrollment not counting BSoM is down 4.9% (178 students). Among domestic students undergraduate enrollment is up 8% (103 students), and graduate enrollment is up 7 students. The number of international students has declined by 409 since last year with undergraduate enrollment down 30% (224 students) and graduate enrollment down 16% (185 students). A portion of the international student decline can be attributed to recent policy changes in Saudi Arabia.

Presidential Debate

Dr. Hopkins briefed the Senate on the issues surrounding the cancelation of the Presidential Debate. During the initial phases in 2014, the expected cost of the debate was \$3-5million and there were promises regarding reimbursement and cost sharing. Since then the projected costs continued to rise and some of the expected funding sources did not come to fruition. The debate was canceled on July 17th after additional security concerns and costs made the event unfeasible. Also on July 17th, stipends paid to the employees for the debate ceased and the additional staff members hired for the debate were given 2-month separation notice.

In total, Wright State has spent about \$3million on the debate including the \$2million up-front payment to the Commission of Presidential Debates. A refund from the Commission on the upfront payment will not be determined until all debates are concluded. The University has received about \$1.6 million in private donations for the debate, and most donators have given permission to use the funds for other items. Dr. Hopkins expressed that he will have a full accounting of the debate by the November Faculty Senate meeting.

Budget Remediation

Before turning the floor over to Provost Sudkamp to discuss the ongoing budget remediation, Dr. Hopkins updated the Senate on the status of the voluntary retirement incentive program (VRIP). The program was based a similar program during the 2009 remediation process, and is a necessary tool to help achieve the \$12.7m budget reduction in the first year and \$19.7million by the second year. There are 153 employees (39 faculty, 20 administrators, 46 unclassified staff, 48 classified staff) who have opted to take the early retirement incentive. Dr. Hopkins stated that through VRIP and natural attrition the University is investigating every opportunity to reorganize, including significant reductions of administrative positions, and will come to a decision regarding the reorganization by the end of the week. One change made over the summer was to ask Greg Sample, CEO of Double Bowler Properties & Chief Real Estate Officer, to oversee Facilities Management and to target improved efficiencies and service.