



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2014

Individuals in Attendance

Trustees: Theresa Alder, Doug Barton, Regan Bolli, Scott Bushnell, Brent Davis, Leslie Keisel, Michael McLean, Jeff Olson, Zach Parker

College Personnel: Gary Carlston, Marvin Dodge, Steve Hood, Marci Larsen (recording secretary)

Welcome

Chair Alder called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Alder entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the January and February meetings. Trustee Olson made a motion to approve the minutes from January 17, 2014. Trustee Keisel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Trustee Bushnell moved approval of the February 14, 2014, meeting. Trustee Barton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Student Fee Policy Board

Because Vice President Mathie was helping with an on-campus mock disaster exercises and unable to attend, Trustee Parker and Vice President Dodge introduced this policy to the group. The policy, which defines the purpose, structure, authority, and policy revision procedures of the Student Fee Advisory Board, is a mandate from the State Board of Regents and – as Vice President Dodge indicated – has been discussed with College Council. Trustee Keisel asked if this board sets the student fees, and Vice President Dodge said it is an advisory board and will make recommendations to the administration. Hearing no more questions or discussion, Trustee McLean made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Trustee Davis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

FY 2013 Audit

Vice President Dodge reminded the Trustees they received this audit report during the January meeting in Salt Lake City and asked if there were any questions. He said there were no findings and gave a positive report on the financial standing of the college. Trustee Keisel asked if the college is audited by an independent auditor or the state auditors, and Vice President Dodge said auditors from the State Auditor's Office conduct the annual audits. Chair Alder entertained a motion to accept and approve the FY 2013 audit. Trustee Davis so moved. Trustee McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Investment Reports

Vice President Dodge reviewed the December 2013 and January 2014 investment reports. He reminded the group that the cash management pool is governed by the Money Management Act and that the endowment pool is governed by the donors' wishes. When asked, Vice President Dodge discussed the bond payment for the Suites at Academy Square. He noted it is a 25 year obligation which is paid by rent revenue, student fee revenue, and then the college operating fund if needed (which has not be the case up to this point). Trustee Bushnell asked about the capacity, and Vice President said the new dorm is trending well with on-campus housing being approximately 75 percent of full capacity. At the conclusion of the discussion, Trustee Keisel made a motion to accept and approve the investment reports for December 2013 and January 2014. Trustee Davis seconded the motion, and it passed infamously.

Scholarship Policy

Vice President Dodge said the college has had scholarship practices for a long time and noted there has not been a formal policy. He provided updated copies of the policy, which had been recently approved by the College Council after the standard thirty-day employee review period. Trustee Olson asked about the college's ability to tie students to donors' criteria, and Vice President Dodge said this was part of the reason for creating a scholarship position. He said staff members have looked through each scholarship criteria and talked with donors to ask about slightly modifying criteria for some limiting donations. He said it has been a very good process and again noted most of the practices in the scholarship policy have been in place. Chair Alder entertained a motion to approve to the scholarship policy as presented. Trustee Bolli so moved, and Trustee Bushnell seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Tuition and Fee Rates

President Carlston reviewed the handout which was distributed during the truth-in-tuition hearing and shared current tuition and fee rates at other state institutions. He reminded the group of the process for changing tuition rates and noted an approved 4% first-tier increase for all schools. He then asked the trustees to consider a 2% second-tier increase, which is specific for Snow College where funding would be used to address the five strategic initiatives. He reported that the truth-in-tuition hearing was well advertised but not well attended, which is not uncommon. He said all students in attendance, including Student Body President Parker, were supportive of the proposed changes. Hearing no objections or concerns, Trustee Barton moved to approve the 6% tuition increase and make no changes to the fee amount. Trustee Bolli seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Institutional Residence

President Carlston referenced Regent Policy 207: Institutional Residence policy, found behind Tab F, and noted the Board of Regents recently adopted this policy. He said the biggest change is the “delegation of Regents’ authority to Boards of Trustees for capital enhancements (boosted to \$200,000), subject to other applicable state approval processes.” He said the college will also now pay for expanded television services at the institutional residence and asked for questions. Chair Alder reminded the group that the president’s house in Ephraim was built in the mid-70s and needs to be updated – particularly now when the college will be searching for a new president and the institutional residence is becoming more of a determining factor in recruiting candidates. President Carlston noted the house is adequate for family living but added it should be used for college hosting and entertaining. He asked the trustees to plan to visit the house and see what they would like to suggest for improvements. The group agreed to take a tour of the institutional residence during the next meeting.

Honorary Degree and Commencement Items

President Carlston informed the group that Lt. Governor Spencer Cox will be speaking at the Richfield commencement ceremony, and trustees were delighted with the news. He then discussed the speaker for the Ephraim ceremony, reminding the group that President Monson from the LDS Church was invited last year and had been invited again this year, per his office’s suggestion. He said the college did not yet have a reply from the church. Student Body President Parker said Bob Trythall, a beloved faculty member who is retiring this year, is still a preferred choice for the students. Before needing to leave the meeting, Trustee Bushnell expressed his opinion that commencement is about the students and voiced his support for implementing their wishes. Trustee McLean agreed students’ requests should be considered, and he suggested the impact the speaker could make should be part of the decision. After a lengthy discussion, Trustee Bolli made a motion to invite Bob Trythall to be the 2014 commencement speaker and not wait any longer to hear from the LDS church headquarters. Trustee McLean seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The topic of prayer has been discussed several times by the board, and President Carlston opened the topic for further discussion. He reviewed the history of this subject, noting prayers have not been offered – but “expressions of choice” – had been included sporadically over the past ten years. He reminded the group that no other state school offered prayers as part of their ceremony, and Trustees discussed many aspects of this complex issue. When Trustee Parker was asked if students had a strong opinion, he said multiple conversations have taken place and the officers were united in their opinion of inclusion, rather than exclusion. He asked about other ways to involve students if not through an “expression of choice” and said most students didn’t have an opinion. After a thorough discussion, President Carlston recommended that the ceremony not include a prayer or expression of choice, even if personal faith may dictate otherwise. Trustee McLean made a passionate motion to do nothing – specifically no prayer or expression of choice – during the commencement exercises. Trustee Keisel seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Trustee Parker opposed the motion.

Legislative Report

President Carlston began this portion of the agenda by thanking legislators for their work and support. He then distributed a handout which summarized the legislative details impacting the college. Because, in his mind, the value of the employees far exceeds what they are currently paid, he said compensation will be a major focus of his while building the FY15 budget. He also said the leadership team will continue to garner support for the new science building and work to implement the approved concurrent enrollment program for next fall. President Carlston said the college had been treated fairly by the legislature during this year’s session, and he again thanked the trustees and legislators for their support.

Strategic Planning Update

Vice President Dodge said the strategic planning committee is still on task and is currently reading all of the submitted program prioritization questionnaires (PPQs). He told the group how well the extensive, collaborative process has worked, and Chair Alder thanked him for his leadership and dedication to the assignment.

Report from the Student Body President

Before Student Body President Parker gave his report, President Carlston presented him with a small token of appreciation and thanked him for his leadership. Trustees commended him for a job well done, and he thanked the board for the opportunity to be involved. He said serving as the student body president and on the board have been life changing for him, and he said he feels really good about what has been accomplished this year. He reported that new officers had been elected and appointed, and he expressed his confidence in the 2014-2015 team.

Report from the Chair

Chair Alder had nothing to report but asked the trustees to be thinking about an executive committee for the board. She said it would be an action item on the next meeting agenda.

Report from the President

President Carlston shared a few updates with the board. He said Regent Prince and Regent Jensen would be on campus in April for their annual review, and he happily reported that the number of admission applications is up when compared to last year. He said the on-campus recruitment activities are very popular with prospective students, and he commended the admissions staff members for their efforts. President Carlson also thanked the trustees for their service to the school and again expressed appreciation to President Parker for leading the students. He reiterated his opinion of the students' importance; Trustee Barton shared his son's experience with President Carlston and thanked him for his concern for and interest in student success.