



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2013

Individuals in Attendance

Trustees: Theresa Alder, Doug Barton, Scott Bushnell, Eddie Cox, DeVere Day, Mary Greathouse, Tyler Ingram, Dan Jorgensen, Jim Shank

College Personnel: Marvin Dodge, David Dyches, Marci Larsen, Gary Smith, Scott Wyatt

Others: Dallin Crosland

Welcome

Chair Alder welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. She congratulated Trustee Shank on his new position in Washington and indicated this may be his final meeting. Several also commented on the quality of the meal served and asked that appreciation be shared with the food service staff.

Meeting Minutes

Chair Alder entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the January 2013 meeting. Trustee Day so moved.

Trustee Jorgensen seconded the motion; all voted in favor.

Investment Report

Vice President Dodge reviewed the January 2013 investment report and noted a significant decrease because of the housing bond. Trustee Day asked for a better definition of some terms on the printed report, and Vice President Dodge agreed to follow up with clarification. Trustee Cox made a motion to approve and accept the report as presented.

Trustee Barton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Credit Hour Policy

Trustee Shank informed the group the Academic Committee of the Board met prior to the full board meeting and - among other items - addressed the credit hour policy. He referred the Trustees to Tab N of the agenda and explained this policy was, in essence, a mandate for accreditation. Trustee Shank recommended the Board approve the policy, noting it had not been through the normal policy approval process. Dr. Smith said he would not suggest adopting the policy if it wasn't necessary, and he also reiterated the need to move ahead. Trustee Bushnell asked if the proposed policy conflicted with practices of "testing out" of classes, and Dr. Smith said students would still have the test out option, as long as a faculty member oversees the process and ensures quality. Trustee Bushnell cautioned the group against approving a policy that disadvantaged students or conflicted current practice. President Wyatt concurred and agreed to have the Academic Affairs Office work with the Student Success Office and find a workable solution for the testing out practice and mandated credit hour policy. With a plan to move forward in place, Trustee Shank moved approval of the credit hour policy. Trustee Cox seconded the motion, and all voted in favor.

Prayers at Commencement

As follow up to a previous Board discussion, President Wyatt asked Student Body President Tyler Ingram to share students' perspective on having formal prayers as part of the Commencement program. Trustee Ingram said he and his team of student advocates had a very good conversation about this topic and spoke to twenty-two students, including one Muslim, and one Buddhists. He reported those two specific students asked for no prayers at Commencement and said the others thought the "expression of choice" was the best way to proceed. Trustee Cox suggested letting the administration coordinate with students and take care of the program details. Trustee Jorgensen strongly disagreed and expressed his opinion on the need to take a stand and have prayers as part of the ceremony. A very lengthy discussion followed, and Trustee Bushnell suggested the Board listen to the students. He voiced his belief in the students and Trustee Greathouse and Trustee Cox agreed. Trustee Cox made a motion to leave the decision with the administration and the student leaders. Trustee Ingram seconded the motion. The motion passed with a majority vote. Trustee Jorgensen opposed the motion and Trustee Day abstained from voting.

Early Retirement Proposals

President Wyatt reminded the Trustees of the recent invitation to employees to submit early retirement proposals as part of the on-going budget discussion. He said several employees had taken the opportunity to make a proposal, and he asked Human Resource Director David Dyches to review the recommended agreements with the Trustees. A discussion detailing the early retirement proposals for Rose Abbott, Monica Anderson, Marlin Christensen, Kim Christison, Janet Fautin, Terry Merrill, Susan Stevenson, Rick White, and Yvonne Williams followed. Mr. Dyches noted proposals for David Rosier and Bob Oliver were still in the seven day revocation period and reported Lisa Anderson had announced her retirement plans for 2015. After asking a few questions, Trustee Jorgensen moved approval of the proposals as presented. Trustee Shank seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Tuition and Fee Changes

President Wyatt reminded the Trustees of the two-tiered tuition model used in the system. He reported a proposed system-wide increase of five percent and suggested it be the only increase for the College. He said it would be the lowest increase of any institution, and Trustee Day commended President Wyatt for keeping the second tier at zero. Trustee Bushnell concurred, and Trustee Cox made a motion to approve the Regents' increase of 5% for tuition for Snow College. Trustee Barton seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Trustee Bushnell asked about enrollment numbers, and President Wyatt said the College is expecting a decrease in numbers due to the age change for LDS missionary service. Trustee Jorgensen asked if efforts to bring more international students are paying off, and President Wyatt said staff in the Center for Global Engagement are traveling the globe and working hard to increase enrollment.

Suspension of BT Program

President Wyatt referred to past conversations about the Business Technology program and gave an update on the issue. He said the administration has talked with faculty and considered the proposal they recommended. After reviewing the discussions and summarizing their plan with Trustees, he asked for approval to suspend of AAS Degree in Business Technology, noting the College will teach out the students currently enrolled in the program. Trustee Shank so moved; Trustee Bushnell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Strategic Planning Report

President Wyatt announced the College's intent to create a strategic plan, and he asked Dr. Smith to give an overview of what the plan and process would entail. Dr. Smith shared his plan of looking to the future and creating "the Snow College of 2015." He said he and his fellow vice presidents attended a conference on strategic planning and then hosted a retreat for College leadership to share what they had learned. Since then a task force, chaired by Marvin Dodge and Melanie Jenkins, has been organized. He said the process the College intends to use focuses on strategic prioritization, ties resources to strategic decisions, and is very inclusive. President Wyatt said forums are scheduled next week to introduce the process, and Vice President Dodge welcomed the Trustees to participate at any time. Vice President Dodge noted the process will involve an extremely comprehensive review and will take a great deal of work. He shared how excited he is to have Melanie as a co-chair and agreed to keep Trustees updated and informed as work progresses.

Budget Discussion

To provide a point of reference for this year's budget discussions, President Wyatt distributed a handout from the OCHE summarizing "FY2014 Operating Budget and Legislative Session Results." Vice President Dodge promised to create a full, detailed budget book to be thoroughly reviewed at a future meeting.

Report from the Alumni Association

Trustee Day gave a brief update on alumni happenings. He encouraged fellow Trustees to nominate deserving alums for the Distinguished Alumni award. He also said the Alumni Association will host a Snow College day at Seven Peaks in Provo on August 2 and noted the association is kicking off a scholarship campaign to raise \$125,000 for the 125th anniversary of the College.

Report from the Audit Committee

Because the audits being conducted are not yet finished, the Audit Committee did not meet. Therefore, there was nothing to report.

Report from the Academic Committee

Trustee Shank briefly reviewed the Academic Committee's meeting, noting Stacey McCliff, a faculty member in the Business Department, and Whitney Ward, the Outdoor Leadership and Entrepreneurship faculty member, joined the committee meeting. Ms. McCliff, he said, wanted the board to know that some of the changes discussed earlier were already in the works before the budget cuts. She said, Trustee Shank reported, some of the BT skills will be integrated into other programs. Mr. Ward made a presentation to inform the group of the OLE program, and Trustee Shank said the information and presentation were very impressive. He expressed appreciation for the faculty members' attendance and shared optimism for the forward-thinking initiatives underway.

Report from the Student Body President

Trustee Ingram reported officers for 2013-14 have been elected and are transitioning into their new roles. He also mentioned a few recent activities – (1) his trip to Washington D.C. for a summit on Israel, (2) a big concert on April 12, and (3) a campaign with Education First, where students committed to finish their education by 2020. On the last item, Trustee Ingram reported Snow received 1000 signatures of commitment (compared to much lower numbers at bigger institutions), and Trustee Bushnell commended students for being active participants in Prosperity 2020. Chair Alder thanked Trustee Ingram for his work on behalf of the student body this year.

Report from the Chair

Chair Alder commented on the strategic planning retreat mentioned by Dr. Smith and expressed appreciation for the opportunity she had to participate. She said she felt like those in attendance came away with a new perspective, and she expressed a desire for the Trustees to host a lunch or do something for the employees so they get to know the members of the Board.

Trustee Day asked for follow-up on the presidential selection process Chair Alder reported on in a previous meeting. She said the Trustees will be more involved in the future and reported the Regents did meet and approve a new policy. She asked for copies to be distributed to the Board, and Trustee Day thanked Chair Alder for her work with the other institutional Board chairs.

Report from the President

President Wyatt quickly reviewed upcoming events, specifically Commencement and the 125th Anniversary Kick Off, and congratulated Trustee Barton for his son's accomplishments and recognition as the Class of 2013 Valedictorian. This time of year, he said, is always exciting and a good reminder of what matters most – student success.

Trustee Day asked about the recent change which allowed for the out-of-state portion of tuition to be waived, and President Wyatt said it won't have a significant impact at the College. Vice President Dodge added it does help with scholarshiping international students, and Trustee Jorgensen suggested potential target markets. Many agreed the College has a unique niche and attracts remarkable students.

President Wyatt then spent a substantial amount of time of time talking about potential challenges and opportunities as a result of the changed LDS mission age. He expressed confidence in the College's future and shared his communications with members of the State Board of Regents and Commissioner's Staff, faculty, staff, and community. He said he is encouraged by the invitation from the Regents and Commissioner to work on additional four-year degree proposals, and he thanked the Trustees for their continued advocacy.

Adjournment

Based on Trustee Bushnell's motion to adjourn, Chair Alder declared the meeting adjourned.