

I deeply regret that I'll be unable to join the Faculty Senate for the last meeting of the fall semester. Again, tomorrow I'll be in Frankfort for the presidents meeting and I am using this opportunity for other meetings with transition members.

As a result, I will not be back on campus tomorrow afternoon. As way of updates:

1. The court ordered mediators have requested two additional days of mediation after previous attempts had failed during a week of mediation sessions before Thanksgiving. We are concerned that there will be an attempt to "force" a deal to be signed at the end of this administration – a deal that is void of details but rather conceptual with details to follow. We believe this would not be prudent. So while we remain hopeful that an agreement can be reached that is in the best interest of the children of our community and achieve the goals of the university in our partnership, we are not prepared to do a deal just to do a deal.
2. The CPE has finalized and submitted its budget recommendation for higher education to the Legislative Research Commission and to the office of the State Budget Director. The final recommendation of the CPE is not significantly different from what we had previously discussed in prior Faculty Senate meetings. The CPE did approve a simplification in the measurement of the progression metrics, replacing several of the metrics with one. Still to be determined are the actual target metrics to be set upon which performance funding will be made. Again, assuming that this budget model is fully funded at the 2016 legislative session and again in the 2018 session, and assuming that an institution achieves 100% of this performance metrics an institution's base funding in the year 2020 will be the equivalent of its base funding in the year 2008.
3. We are beginning this week on moving forward with various points discussed with different groups across campus for the prioritization/funding of the inclusion of recommendations that various groups have provided. We anticipate for the meeting a steering committee structure to guide this work and anticipate working through our shared governance structure of the university.
4. Nothing new to report on the NCAA investigation. The investigative committee that I chair has as its members Jerry Tolson, Ricky Jones, Elaine Wise, John Carns and Leslie Strohm. We received an update from Chuck Smrt the week before Thanksgiving. As I understand, no interviews were made by the NCAA the week of Thanksgiving – I do not expect the investigative committee to meet before next week at the soonest.
5. As you're aware, there were several significant university announcements including most recently the announcement that the CDC awarded the School of Public Health and Information Sciences (SPHIS) \$5.7 million to establish a Youth Violence Prevention Research Center that will focus on West Louisville. On Monday the engineering school will announce a significant addition to their ongoing relationship as part of the Signature Partnership Initiative with the west end school.

Again, I regret that I will not be able to join you on Wednesday.

Jim