

Chair's Report
February 2019
Submitted by John Smith

Strategic Planning: Over 1,200 people applied to be part of the three workgroups. This is a great testimony to the desire of people to contribute and the desire of administration to have input and transparency. We will have four seats on each of the three workgroups as senate representatives in addition to the at large members of the groups. We had 19 people apply for those 12 positions. Invitations were supposed to go out Feb. 11 so right now I am not sure who has been selected for those spots. I am serving on the Executive Committee of the Strategic Planning committee as well. Over 200 people showed up for the launch of the plan. Original plans were for around 50. I fully support the 3-year cycle of the plan. Several things happen with longer, more traditional 10 or 15 year plans. First, people tend to wait until the last year or two and then get busy knowing they have to be accountable soon so you end up with a number of years of no real progress. Second, look at how the world functions now. Things change much faster than they used to. It really makes sense to be planning on shorter timelines that provide a greater amount of agility. Third, in that period of time, it's not unusual for many of the leaders and originators of the plan to have left the organization. A series of rolling, 3-year plans makes a lot of sense.

Tuition and Fees: This committee has been very active with a number of meetings to meet our February goal of completion. I cannot share details until recommendations are accepted or declined by the Provost but the committee is very sincere on making sure any fee request is completely justifiable before approving it. There have also been proposals made to lower tuition in some schools/colleges to make them more competitive with other state and regional schools in the recruitment of students.

President's Cabinet: We had our 4th meeting on January 25. Much of that was dedicated to the strategic planning process but two other things came out that were very significant. First, 50% of the responses on the campus climate survey came from staff. As with the strategic planning applications, I think that makes a powerful statement of engagement. The second item was a good discussion around athletics. I think there is a serious miss-conception about Athletics and the budget. People have the understanding that the money spent on coach's buy-outs

etc. represents money from University budgets. In reality, that money is almost entirely donation based and restricted to use in Athletics. Vince sets a portion of their overall budget aside to deal with items like buy-outs that come up. Athletics pays the University full, out-of-state tuition for every athlete and receives much less from the University than other athletic departments. Florida State receives 30M from their university. Our Athletic Department receives around 900,000.

Security: In our November meeting we had Chief Gary Lewis visit to get to know him and to talk about campus security. Concerns were raised over there one being a single officer on duty on the HS Campus at any given time. If that officer gets called on a run of any kind, the campus could be left with no officer. As a result, Krista Wallace Boaz, Jonathan Fuller and myself had a meeting with Dr. Bendapudi to discuss the situation. A pilot program was launched and now there are three officers on duty between 5:30 AM and 7:00 PM. Funding for this goes into early April but response has been very positive and we are hoping to be able to continue the increased staffing.

Chick Fil A: Chick Fil A and the University are ready to go on the Health Science Campus. We are in a hold waiting for required permits from the State of Kentucky. The office that handles those has encountered a number of layoffs and is very short staffed. The new equipment has all been purchased and is sitting in a warehouse waiting for the approval to start renovations.

Red Book Review: The Red Book review process is just beginning. The Red Book affects all of us and its' review will be an important process.

Board of Trustees: Our meeting was mostly executive session regarding litigations and thus I cannot report specifics.

Foundation Board of Directors: Similar to the BOT, the meeting was largely in executive session to discuss pending litigations.

List of Meetings I have attended:

Monday, January 7, Senate Leadership Meeting, 9:00 AM

Thursday, January 10, Tuition and Fees, 3:00 PM

Friday, January 11, Dr. Bendapudi Retreat, 8:00 AM, All Day

Thursday, January 17, Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, 1:00 PM

Thursday, January 24, 8:30 AM, Dr. Bendapudi Strategic Plan Launch, SAC

Thursday, January 24, Senate Leadership Meeting, 9:30 AM

Thursday, January 24, Strategic Plan Kickoff, 8:30 – 9:30, SAC

Thursday, January 24, Tuition and Fees, 2:00 to 3:30 PM

Friday, January 25, Red Book Review, 12:30

Friday, January 25, Dr. Bedapudi, 2:45-3:15

Monday, January 25, Strategic Planning Executive Committee, 10:00 – 11:00

Monday, January 28, Staff Senate Executive Committee, 3:00 PM

Wednesday, January 30, 6 Year Capital Planning Meeting, 2:00 PM, SAC W116

Thursday, January 31, Foundation Committee and Board Meeting, 11:45 AM

Monday, February 4, Staff Senate Leadership Meeting, 9:00 AM, MITC

Monday, February 4, Mark Watkins Meeting, 1:00 – 2:00

Monday, February 4, Tuition and Fees Committee Meeting, 3:00 – 4:30, Belknap Academic Building

Tuesday, February 5, Red Book Review, 1:00 – 2:30 PM

