

Chair's Report
February 2021
Submitted by John Smith

General Counsel Search: The University announced the hiring of Angela Curry as our next General Counsel. She will begin on April 1. Our Executive Committee was very involved in the interview process. They interviewed each of the four candidates and then made individual recommendations to the search committee. I was very happy with the EC's involvement. They asked pointed and insightful questions. In my opinion, the entire pool was very qualified. Different members of the EC I spoke to (after recommendations were submitted) supported different candidates for different reasons. I think this spoke to the overall quality of the pool.

Shared Governance Workgroup: I am happy to report this group is about to become active again. We had just identified the composition of the workgroup when covid hit. Once that happened, it was impossible to get everyone to the table as they were so busy with other things. In my opinion, the original group was too large and would be cumbersome trying to move through the project forward. Michael Wade Smith, David Schultz and myself will meet on Feb. 16. Our goal of that meeting will be to re-structure the workgroup into a more applicable group that can move this agenda forward.

Vaccine Update: There have been two, university wide, emails go out about the vaccine program. Here are the main points we need to understand and be able to communicate to our constituents. Everyone will have his or her opportunity to take the vaccine. The amount we receive from the state vary so it is hard to put an accurate timeline to that though. The state is also mandating the priority for what group is eligible to be receiving the vaccine. Right now we are in-group 1B and anticipate (go back to the first point) starting group 1C in mid-March. Here is a good article regarding the vaccines that answer a number of questions I have been asked. <https://www.uoflphysicians.com/blog/2021/02/04/a-doctors-perspective-on-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

Board of Trustees: We just had our full BOT meeting. The biggest thing to come from that was the restoration of 3.5% of our retirement plan. I was happy to see

that amount as it represented an aggressive approach to, hopefully, fully restoring the remaining 1.5%. As I reported earlier, this was a balancing act. Anything we restored to the retirement plan would reduce the amount of contingency that could be released and vice versa. There was a lot of support for releasing more contingency and restoring 2.5% instead of the 3.5% but Neeli, Dan Durbin and several others wanted to do everything possible for staff and faculty. This percentage represents the smallest release of contingency possible to cover some things like the Nursing School accreditation that we know are coming up.

Tuition and Fees Committee: I am serving on Tuition and Fees. The discussions are very interesting as we will be receiving many proposals and having to work within the CPE guidelines. I am also now on the Cost and Affordability sub-committee. This group looks at many things focused on student cost and making sure we remain competitive with other universities that seem to recruit from the same areas as we are. A large portion of those discussions right now is revolving around financial aid and what other universities are awarding for different grade point averages and test scores. We are specifically looking at our “yield” of registrations compared to awards when compared to other universities.

Meetings Attended:

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3:00 Joint XC and EC Covid Advisory Group

Thursday, Dec. 10, Spring Planning Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 10, 12:00, Board of Trustees

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2:00, Spring Forward Committee

Thursday, Jan. 14, Noon, Tuition and Fees Cost and Affordability Special Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2:00, Spring Forward Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 19, 3:00, Senate EC

Wednesday, Jan. 20, Tuition and Fees

Thursday, Jan. 21, 1:00 Board of Trustees

Monday, Jan. 25, 2:00, Spring Forward Committee

Monday, Jan. 25, 2:00, University Senates Quarterly Financial Review

Tuesday, Jan. 26, 3:00, Senate EC

Thursday, Jan. 28, 11:00, Foundation Board of Directors

Friday, Jan. 29, Tuition and Fees Cost and Affordability, Noon

Monday, Feb. 1, Provost Planning Committee, 2:00

Tuesday, Feb. 2. Neeli Committee, 9:00

Tuesday, Feb. 2, Tuition and Fees, 11:00

Wednesday, Feb. 3, Mark Watkins, 11:00

Thursday, Feb. 4, Neeli Meeting, 2:00

Monday, Feb. 8, Tuition and Fees Affordability, Noon

Monday, Feb. 8, Provost Planning Committee, 2:00