

Chair's Report

Submitted by: John Smith

April 12, 2022

Hi everyone,

The two things going on right now that are requiring the most attention revolve around the presidential search and the search for our next athletic director.

Presidential Search: The Board of Trustees met and have hired a search firm for the presidential search. I was on the smaller group that reviewed and narrowed the applicants down from the original number to the ones that were reviewed by the entire board. I am happy with the selected firm. I had two that were neck and neck in my book and one of them was selected. The two I liked the most were the last two under consideration, so I was happy that my evaluation reflected that of most of the rest of the board. There was a very healthy and lengthy discussion once we got to the final two firms. I took that as a very good thing as to me, it meant we had two really good firms we were deciding between. The selected firm has a very demonstrable history of successful higher education searches for senior leadership positions including an impressive list of Research 1 presidential searches. They also have a very high rate of successful searches and a demonstrated record of placing women and people of color in senior leadership positions. One of, if not the biggest factor in these searches, is the established network of the search firm and what potential candidates they have relationships with. Many of these firms have many of the same relationships with people as they have worked with them on other searches but many also have unique relationships with potential candidates. I am very happy with the firm we ended up choosing. The next thing will be to begin meetings and the actual acquisition of candidates. I anticipate the timeline taking a minimum of 4-5 months and more than likely 6-8. I know there is going to be a large debate about whether the search is "open" or "closed." Please hear this. There has been NO decision made about that but EVERY search firm told us to expect candidates to withdraw if their names are ever released, even the final two or three candidates. It is a Catch 22 situation of wanting transparency but balancing that with the realization that doing so will significantly diminish the quality and quantity of the pool. More to come on that, just a prep statement to let you know where things are.

Athletic Director Search: Dr. Gonzalez appointed me to the Athletic Director search committee. conduct town hall meetings, solicit input from stakeholders etc. I will be hosting listening tours for the Belknap and HSC Campus. Lunch will be provided so plan to join me for either or both of those! Next Monday, April 18, there will be a listening tour in the SAC, Room 116/117 at Noon. That room is in the new section of the building close to the first floor doors that lead to the Belknap Academic Building. On Wednesday, April 20, I will host a session in the Kosair Clinical and Translational Research Building in Room 101/102 at Noon. These listening tours are not intended to provide answers as the process is just beginning. They are more intended to gather information about characteristics/qualities we would want our next Athletic Director to encompass. There have been some answers provided to questions at earlier stops on the tour so it's not like that is not a possibility if you have something specific you want to ask. These two stops are for staff specifically. There are others for faculty, alumni, and the general public also being held.

Construction Update: Kevin and I met with Mark Watkins yesterday. Both resident hall projects continue to be on time and on budget. Most of the materials for those are in the area and being stored at a storage facility. That is important as the Miller Hall project almost got de-railed when some of our needed materials were on a ship in the ocean off a port for two months. That scenario pushed us to within days of scheduled occupancy before things were completed but thankfully, they were completed on time for that.

Meetings Attended:

Tuesday, March 8, Staff Senate, 2:30

Wednesday, March 9, Coffee and Conversation, 10:00 AM

Wednesday, March 9, Dr. Winders, 11:30

Thursday, March 10, Tuition and Fees, 9:00

Thursday, March 10, Tic Toc, 10:00

Thursday, March 10, FCA, Noon

Monday, March 15, Covid ASP, 4:00

Thursday, March 17, Student Fees Committee, DOS Office, 10:00

Thursday, March 17, Video Conference Meeting, MITC, 11:00

Thursday, March 17, Board of Trustees Committee Meetings, 1:00

Thursday, March 17, FCA, Noon

Monday, March 21, Whitney Young, 10:00

Tuesday, March 22, IM Staff, 9:00

Tuesday, March 22, Staff Senate EC, 3:00

Thursday, March 24, Tuition and Fees, 9:00

Thursday, March 24, FCA, Noon

Monday, March 28, Lori Gonzalez, 1:00

Monday, March 28, Covid ASP, 4:00

Tuesday, March 29, BOT, Search Firm Interviews, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Jefferson Room

Wednesday, March 30 to Wednesday, April 6, vacation

Thursday, April 7, Tuition and Fees 9:00

Thursday, April 7, FCA, Noon

Friday, April 8, OCM, Noon

Friday, April 8, AD Listening Tour, PNC, 6:00

Monday, April 11, Senator Monday, April 11, Workday Implementation, 9:00

Monday, April 11, Senator Amy Klobuchar, 9:30, Chao Auditorium

Monday, April 11, Mark Watkins, 11:00

Monday, April 11, Foundation Board of Directors, 1:00

Monday, April 11, Covid Planning, 4:00