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University Update - November 21, 2012

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University Update

November 21, 2012

President Krendl

Giving Thanks

Yesterday I received a note in my email. It said, "Thanksgiving week is a good time to pause and consider the people and the opportunities for which we are grateful. And, in addition to feeling generally thankful, maybe it's time to build a new habit: more routinely and frequently saying 'thank you.'" In the spirit of that note I want to begin today's University Update by saying "thank you" to all of you. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. We have a great deal to be thankful for as a campus community. Your hard work and your dedication make Otterbein a very special place.

Board of Trustees Planning Retreat Summary

The annual Board of Trustees Planning Retreat was held on Friday, October 26, 2012, with nearly 70 campus community members participating, including trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni. The purpose of the retreat was to build upon the work we have done across campus over the last year as we focused on clarifying our mission, re-affirming our core values and articulating our guiding principles.

The last strategic plan, written in 2006-2007, generated a Five-Year Priority List carrying through to 2012-2013. The list identified major initiatives to advance the institution. A review of the list demonstrates that we have made much progress toward the goals set at that time. We moved to university status; we adopted a semester calendar; we re-conceptualized the curriculum; we embraced experiential learning in the form of the Five Cardinal Experiences.

Having accomplished these goals, our focus now turns to reframing our vision of the future. The next step is to re-define Otterbein's identity in the 21st Century, affirming our past and embracing our future, by articulating our vision statement. This visioning process was the focus on the October retreat. Discussions there launched the initiative to articulate a clear, succinct and aspirational vision statement for the institution.

The good work that has been done over the past year in revisiting our mission, values, guiding principles, and institutional priorities has set the stage for the future. Our next steps will be to summarize the ideas that were generated at the retreat and share them broadly with the campus community. This process will begin with discussions with the Cabinet and Administrative Council. Administrative Council will take the lead on developing a draft vision statement, which will be discussed with constituent groups across campus. Our goal is to present the entire package – Vision, Mission, Values, Guiding Principles, and Institutional Priorities -- to the Board of Trustees at their meeting on March 2, 2013.

Information Technology Assessment Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the assessment of our IT operations with John Bucher, Director of Information Technology at Oberlin College, during his visit in September. I appreciate the time and attention that the campus dedicated to engaging in this important process. Next steps will involve meetings with those groups who participated in the discussions leading to the report to review the recommendations, gather additional input and feedback, and begin to establish a plan for moving forward in prioritizing IT projects, establishing an IT governance and policy structure, integrating IT planning into the budget planning process, and creating project management structures for moving IT projects forward. I will be scheduling meetings in the coming weeks to initiate these discussions.

COACHE Survey

We are within sight of our goal of 75% participation rate. I encourage faculty who have yet to complete the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education (COACHE) survey to do so. As the research team has suggested, the survey will inform priorities related to improvements in the workplace. Results of this survey--along with the other data-collection efforts as part of the NSF grant such as focus groups with new faculty and service

audits -- will assist the PIs in developing the fullest picture possible of equity issues in STEM fields (and beyond) on campus.

International Connections Continue to Grow

Courtright Memorial Library officially welcomes two visiting librarians Ms. Jia Peng (Christine) from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) and Mr. Ning Li (Ford) from Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJU). On Tuesday, November 20 they discussed educational opportunities in Shanghai and Chengdu.

In December Kathryn Plank, Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning and faculty member in Education, will return to Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan to deliver both keynote addresses and workshops and to consult with their Center for Teaching and Department of Education on faculty development services.

Finally, in December, Dean Paul Eisenstein and Professor Zhen Huang will return to mainland China to further our developing relationships with the University of Shanghai for Science and Technology and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU). We have already benefited from our partnerships with these institutions, which have brought a growing number of students to Otterbein as part of our Otterbein Semester Program and through the development of 2 + 2 degree completion agreements.

Tree Lighting and Holiday Feast

Otterbein is kicking off the holiday season with our annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Holiday Feast on Friday, November 30, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. A canned food drive at both the Tree Lighting and the dinner will benefit the Westerville Area Resource Ministry (WARM). I hope you are able to attend.

Holiday Open House and Staff Council's Silent Auction

You and a guest are cordially invited to the Otterbein Holiday Open House on Monday, December 3, 2012, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the Roush Hall Fisher Gallery. There will be a Silent Auction sponsored by Staff Council from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Please R.S.V.P. to Lisa Lee at 614-823-1420 or via email at llee@otterbein.edu. Staff Council is also hosting the annual "oBay" Holiday Auction online. Please take some time to do some holiday shopping by visiting their site which can be found [here](#). Items include jewelry, a Clippers ticket package, a hotel getaway and much more.

Otterbein University Pre-Kwanzaa Celebration

Kwanzaa will be celebrated with dance, food, and other traditions on Tuesday, December 4, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Kwanzaa is a communal, cultural celebration that honors people of African descent and their heritage. Ivory D. Williams, master storyteller, will be featured. This event is a celebration for all people, focusing on family, friends and the fruits of the earth.

Holiday Events

I hope to see you at some of the upcoming holiday events during the next few weeks. As always, if you have questions about any of the above information, please feel free to contact me or Kristi Robbins, Chief of Staff.

Happy Thanksgiving!

President Krendl