

## President's Advisory Council Meeting

7 February 2018, 10:00 a.m.

Stallard Boardroom, Lancaster Building

Present: President Taylor Reveley, Rhonda Brock-Servais (recording), Kellyn Hall, Sarah Porter, Lissa Power-deFur, Bennie Waller, Adam Franssen

Rather than an agenda as such, Sarah Porter had forwarded the President a series of questions developed from faculty concerns.

1. What are your thoughts moving forward on the permanent filling of the Provost position? How can the faculty be involved in the process?

The President's response was that he needed to think the process through and talk to the Board. Lissa asked directly, "are you anticipating doing a national search?" The reply was that the President wants a "robust process" and that "typically equates" to a national search. Sarah reminded him that the faculty are deeply invested in this and would like to be involved and kept abreast of the process.

2. When did Justin Pope become a Vice President and what is he VP of? What is the effect of this change on university hierarchy?

The President's response was that Vice President is a "customary title" for a Chief of Staff. It happened in Summer 2017. Then the President talked briefly about different philosophies concerning the role of a Chief of Staff. He believes that e-mail "flattens hierarchy," but went on to say that as far as he's concerned, the Provost is the "prime administrative being" of the University.

3. Are we still looking to grow our enrollment? What are the enrollment goals for the University? Based on the fact that there has been a drop in college enrollment generally, and that first semester freshman suspensions at Longwood were up quite a bit last semester, do we have any plans to address the changing demographic of our freshman students?

The President finds these issues hugely important and spent some time discussing how different bodies have different definitions of "student." This was by way of discussing why there are different numbers in different places. He took exception to the belief that enrollment numbers are flat, noting that enrollment is up by almost 5% since 2012 according to our SCHEV headcount. He went on to say that the institution has gotten better at "the projection business" and he's optimistic about the future. He noted that we are likely to have a record number of applications this year and that we're already

running ahead of average in deposits. He talked about the characteristics of the contemporary college student (anxiety-filled, schooled entirely in the SOL system) and what LU is doing to help both students and instructors. Several people offered anecdotes about classroom experiences and the current class. The President praised Jason Faulk and the work he is doing in Admissions. Bennie encouraged the President to think about how the connections between the Debate and enrollment might be made more obvious.

4. There is still concern among the faculty about the funding of the new Core Curriculum. Specifically, where is the money coming from to fund it, and when is the rest of the requested budget going to come in?

The President responded that both he and the BOV believe that the Core makes LU distinctive and they want to support and maintain it. He further believes the Core is rich in philanthropic opportunities. He says he understands why some faculty might be concerned (Rhonda took this moment to explain old-timer concerns more concretely). He went over some numbers that should help put people's minds at ease: the estimate is 2 million to run the Core, but revenue is up by 30 million over the last five years; also over the last five years, the number of full-time faculty has increased by more than 30, donations are up and the Academic Affairs Budget has increased. Sarah suggested that these numbers could be reviewed at the upcoming Budget Forum.

5. An open letter from alumni has been going around. Do you have thoughts on how to address the concerns put forth? What are your thoughts on the state of Athletics at the University in general?

<https://lancersblog.com/sign-lancer-athletics-letter-of-concern-7c02ba929d32>

Sarah began by noting that the PAC has never spoken about Athletics with the President and that we didn't necessarily want to talk about the alumni letter but other concerns raised by faculty – particularly, the lack of engagement of the IAC and various difficulties that have been noted about dealing with the “student” side of the “student/athlete.” Various people offered anecdotes.

The President reassured us that the AD, Troy Austin, was working with alumni and others to address the concerns of the letter. The President then discussed the importance of athletics to the institution. He believes that intercollegiate athletics is a unique part of higher education in the US and serves to create a bond between an institution and the public. This needs to be protected. He agrees that the IAC could be more robust and applauds the fact it is now a Senate-appointed committee.

The meeting ended at approximately 11:00 a.m.

Faithfully reported by your most humble and obedient servant, Rhonda Brock-Servais