

In lieu of the all-campus meeting originally scheduled for February 28, members of the Executive Leadership Team want to share the following summary of the Board of Trustee meeting that occurred earlier this month. If there are any questions or comments about the contents of this summary, please reach out to any member of the team.

At the Board of Trustees meeting on Saturday, February 19, the program was given by board member Brian Abel Ragen who presented information on Fontbonne's new coat of arms, heraldic badge and seal which he has had commissioned as part of our centennial celebration. The Windsor Herald will travel from England to make the presentation of these items to the university community during Academic Convocation on Thursday, September 22, at 10:15 a.m. Abel Ragen has subsidized the entire project from its conception through its development and presentation in the fall. We look forward to unveiling these new emblems in September.

Academic and Student Affairs:

At the board of trustees meeting, the trustees took the following actions related to academic programs and personnel:

- The board granted tenure and advancement to the rank of associate professor to Anthony Borchardt, Fine Arts, effective with the 2022-23 academic year. CONGRATULATIONS, Tony!
- The board approved motions that conferred degrees to 2022 graduates and also approved changes to Policy Manual IV related to the letters solicited during the tenure and advancement process.
- The board approved the creation of a Master of Science in Biology. Thank you to the department of Biological and Behavioral Sciences for their work providing detailed marketplace scan and workforce demand information for the board. The program must now be approved by the Higher Learning Commission and submitted to the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development prior to being advertised or offered.

Update on COVID

Student COVID cases and exposures to date:

- March 2020 – August 2021: 64 students in isolation, 131 students in quarantine
- August 2021– December 2021: 37 students in isolation, 53 students in quarantine
- January 2022–Present: 57 students in isolation, 35 students in quarantine

Student vaccination status overview:

- 72% vaccinated
- 4% plan to vaccinate
- 12% no plan to vaccinate
- 12% unknown (either fully on-line students or did not submit vaccinate status)

Testing and other mitigations:

- Weekly testing now required of all unvaccinated students and employees
- In-season athletes testing 3x/week
- Campus nurse offers set hours daily and Curative kiosk will open March 1 for daily testing services
- Expecting more changes in quarantine/isolation guidance from CDC this spring
- Tracking, contact tracing, campus mitigation strategies will all likely look different in near future

Enrollment Management and Marketing

- It is too early to predict fall enrollment. The best glimpse of potential fall enrollment comes from application trends, demonstrated interest through campus visits, and FAFSAs received.
 - o First-time freshman applications have nearly doubled the year-to-date comparison and surpassed last year's total. With only a single-digit percentage lag in comparison to fall 2020, we are pacing toward meeting pre-pandemic enrollment totals.
 - The most notable areas of growth are in applications from northern and central Illinois and non-athletes.
 - o Transfer applications are significantly ahead of last year, but lagging behind fall 2020's pre-pandemic totals. The widely publicized shrinkage in community college enrollment has led to a steep increase in competition for transfer students. It appears that while applications are down, the overall pool are better matched with our admission requirements. This is promising.
 - o International and graduate applications are showing strong trends; however, year-to-date comparisons will not be available until late spring, which is the result of the precedence and availability of historical records for comparison.
 - o Campus visits for non-athletes and athletes have considerably improved this year.
 - o FAFSA submission is up by several hundred students. This is also impressive because the national and local FAFSA completion trends are in decline.

Finance updates

The full Board was presented with a portion of the auditor's report regarding three big transactions that are impacting three different years of our audits:

-The sale of West closed in November 2021; however, the bulk of the transaction was recorded when the contract was signed which occurred before our fiscal year 2020 audit was finalized. Therefore, only the expenses from the sale on the closing statement impact this current fiscal year.

-Our fiscal year 2021 audit has not been finalized yet and must include the claim we are filing for the Employee Retention Credit for the first two calendar quarters of 2021. Therefore, even though we will not have the cash from the IRS for quite some time, given their backlog on this program, we will record a receivable and the corresponding income impact of this claim.

-Our fiscal year 2022 audit will include the donation of the value of the Clayton campus land from the Sisters. It was discovered that this value was not recorded on either the Sisters' or the university's set of financials. Some legal work and the Sisters' agreement have now enabled Fontbonne to record this value which will also strengthen the university's asset position. Finally, a motion was presented with the new terms of the re-financing agreement with CNB recording the proceeds of the sale of West and allowing us some improved terms and funding for capital improvements on this campus. This motion permits the President and VP for Finance to finalize these documents with the bank. We anticipate this happening in the next few weeks.