

Notes from Board of Advisors Meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2013

In Attendance: David Allard, Vanessa Allen, Garry Aloia, Cal Bellamy, E. Tom Collins, E. Rick Frataccia, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mary Goolik, Nancy Hamblin, Sharon Johnson-Shirley, Mark Lucas, Gavin Mariano, Chris Morrow, Cynthia Powers, Lynn Reichle, FC Richardson, Jill Ritchie, Dave Ryan, Janet Seabrook, Steve Simpson, Michael Suggs

In Attendance from IU Northwest: Jeri Pat Gabbert, Chancellor William Lowe, David Malik, Kathy Malone, Marianne Milich, Joe Pellicciotti, Beth Tyler

Chancellor Lowe began the meeting by having Board members introduce themselves. He thanked them for attending the luncheon and agreeing to serve on the IU Northwest Board of Advisors. The Senior Leadership at IU Northwest will attend meetings, to assist with Board discussions. Indiana University Northwest has had advisory boards in the past, but not in the recent past. Chancellor Lowe reviewed the purpose and role of Boards of Advisors within Indiana University, and read excerpts from the 1972 IU Board Policy, when advisory boards were first instituted. He encouraged the Board to be actively engaged with IU Northwest, to foster a meaningful partnership and clarify what they wish to embrace as purposes. Chancellor Lowe referenced his recent address to the campus on August 23, 2013, where he spoke about things that are important to the campus and what the campus is accomplishing. Use this link for additional information about the [campus address](#).

The Board of Advisors roster was reviewed. The Board includes a high proportion of Indiana University alumni and attempts to represent the diversity and character of the region. Trustee Phil Eskew, IU Board of Trustees member, could not attend the meeting, but he will serve on the IU Northwest Board of Advisors. Terms of Board service have been randomly assigned at two or three years.

Chancellor Lowe thanked the *ad hoc* Coordinating Group who helped establish the agenda for the meeting, and contributed preliminary thinking about organizational matters. Members of that group include Garry Aloia, Nancy Hamblin, John MacLennan and FC Richardson. He also acknowledged Vice Chancellor Jeri Pat Gabbert and Kathy Malone, for their assistance with preparations and support for the Board. The *ad hoc* group suggested that a chair be elected from among the membership, and an executive committee of two to four members be identified, to get started and set agendas going forward, with additional committees created, as specific purposes, interests and activities emerge from the Board's discussions. The consensus of the Board was to move forward as suggested. The Board chair and the executive committee will be appointed for an initial first year, and Mr. Garry Aloia, IU Northwest graduate, School of Business Advisory Board member, and former Chancellor's Society member, was recommended as the Board Chair for the first year. Mrs. Cynthia Powers moved that Garry Aloia be elected as the Chair, and the Board voted unanimously in favor. Mr. Aloia will assume the role as chair at the next Board meeting. Chancellor Lowe asked for volunteers to serve on the executive committee for the first year, and encouraged executive committee nominations. He and Mr. Aloia will also follow-up to recruit members to serve and will bring a slate to the next meeting for consideration.

Mr. Aloia remarked that serving on the Board is an important service to the campus and community, and Board projects and purposes should be congruent with the mission of the university and parallel with the direction of Chancellor Lowe. Board committees that existed previously at IU Northwest and Board committees that currently exist at other regional campuses will be shared with the group, for information and reference.

Chancellor Lowe reported on the Fall 2013 semester at IU Northwest and key issues facing the campus. Indiana University Northwest is experiencing its highest enrollment ever, with approximately 6,400 students, resulting in record credit hour enrollment. The current first-year class is one of the largest ever,

and also one of the best qualified academically the campus has seen in recent years, with an increase of over 40% of the students receiving honors diplomas. Chancellor Lowe explained that, in the current financial environment, there can be high numbers of individual students, but insufficient revenue from student enrollment to support current levels of resources. The campus has attempted to maintain a reasonable growth strategy to support students and provide for them a good educational experience. With increased enrollment, parking is affected, and the option of parking at Arts on Grant, located at 37th and Grant Street in Gary is available.

Indiana University Northwest has a new building on the way, and occupancy is expected to take place in Fall 2016. Tamarack Hall was torn down approximately 18 months ago, and the State Legislature and Budget Committee has approved \$45 million for a new facility, which will be a partnership facility with Ivy Tech Community College Northwest, with approximately one-third of the building allocated to Ivy Tech. Chancellor Lowe expressed his gratitude to Indiana University for keeping Tamarack in the forefront as a top priority, to our legislative delegation for their support, and also to Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson and the City of Gary, for advocating for the new building and taking an interest and investing in IU Northwest and University Park. Because the new building will be placed in an existing parking area, parking alternatives are being considered. For the first time in two biennia, the legislature approved and released, funds to maintain our buildings and facilities, and there is \$5 million in renovations currently taking place on and around the campus. The area where Tamarack Hall was located has been designated a green space for the campus and work is moving forward with university architects to design that space, which will be a fundraising opportunity going forward. The guiding template was designed by two IU Northwest undergraduate students.

Chancellor Lowe spoke about the challenges faced by the campus, and elaborated on several key issues noted below:

- **Public higher education finance model and embedded dilemmas.** The finance model in the public sector has assumed that there is significant state support, but state appropriations have declined, requiring more from students and less from the state. This year the state appropriation allocated more funding than anticipated and, in an effort to keep tuition low, the tuition increase for Indiana University this year is 1.75%. While there are higher student numbers, that does not necessarily translate into an increase in revenues. If students are not paying a lot in tuition, and if the state is not allocating funds as they were in the past, the challenge that we confront is how the campus manages growth, anticipate revenues and balances the budget.
- **Student academic success and degree completion.** Student academic success is receiving much more public attention, and is considered a high priority by the public, students and Indiana University. Indiana University Northwest serves a range of students and must keep such a diverse range of student constituencies on track to complete their degrees.
- **Accountability environment.** Gradually, higher education has experienced increased accountability requirements regarding, particularly, degree completion. The challenge is to respond to those to whom the university is accountable, and enable a diverse student population to persist to degree completion. Of the 6,400 students, 60% are full-time students. A student must take 12 semester hours to be considered full-time, 15 semester hours is the usual pace for graduation in four years and the average IU Northwest student is enrolled in 13.2 credit hours. Seventy percent of students receive some sort of financial aid. Because a lot of students have jobs and other adult responsibilities, it is challenging to improve student graduation and retention. Internships and scholarship funds would be beneficial to students, to support both degree completion and career achievement. Board members expressed interest in examining innovative ways to make internships align with current jobs held by students.

Board members are also interested in finding ways to help students avoid unnecessary debt and decrease monthly loan payments, which is a national problem. Indiana University is assisting students by providing enhanced financial information before they get heavily indebted, and by keeping tuition down. Additionally, starting this fall, juniors and seniors at all IU campuses who are on track to graduate in four years will have their tuition and fees effectively frozen at last year's levels, through an on-time graduation award that will offset any increases in tuition and fees the student otherwise would have incurred in their last two years of study.

Board members have identified the following topics that are of interest to them:

- Internship opportunities
- Following through on mission to enroll NWI Indiana students, from all student constituencies
- Community-based engagement and partnerships
- Partnerships in the business community
- Philanthropy and scholarships
- Alumni engagement
- Student life
- IU School of Medicine at IU Northwest
- Support for the public schools
- Diversity and inclusion (IU's most diverse campus)
- Academic resources and student success
- Athletics
- International students on campus
- Development and fundraising

In preparation for the next meeting Board members provided the following suggestions for discussion topics:

- Jill Ritchie – Technology (in classroom, online learning, etc.).
- Sharon Johnson-Shirley – The alignment of high school and college-level curricula and expectations, to enable students to be successful.
- Janet Seabrook – Identifying students in the public school systems and tracking them to be future students at IU Northwest. Tie them to the area, which would help stem the “brain drain.”
- Gavin Mariano – Retention is affected by numerous things including health and wellness and student loan indebtedness. Provide a liaison to help students understand how to complete paperwork. Provide better access to campus resources, to enhance student life.
- Cynthia Powers – Share with the Board the University Plan, the timetable for completion, and how it is tracked. Dr. Lowe remarked that strategic priorities are being revised and will be shared at a subsequent meeting.

Based on the responses to the survey sent to the Board, the range of preferences for future meetings was wide and very evenly distributed. The Board agreed to continue to meet on Wednesdays at 11:30, and will meet four times per academic year. Board meetings are scheduled on the following dates:

- **Wednesday, November 13, 2013**
- **Wednesday, February 26, 2014**
- **Wednesday, May 7, 2014**
- **Wednesday, September 17, 2014** (first meeting of 2014-15 academic year)