

## Regional Dean's Report to Board of Trustees December 2016

Here are some updates from the Regional Dean's Office. I will not be at the Jan Trustees Meeting and will not be able to provide an agenda or report.

- 1. NEW ERA Internship Draft Day:** UWFox students represented the campus at the 2016 Internship Draft Day held at Lambeau Field in November (<http://www.internshipdraftday.com/>). At this event, which requires students to pre-register and develop a resume, they can receive up to 5 interviews with regional companies who are interested in taking them on as paid interns. More than 215 students alone attended. Companies are able to score the students based on their interviews and pre-prepared materials and the top students are "drafted" by the companies (i.e. they compete) for the students who are there. While primarily initiated as a regional event, students are now attending from Michigan Tech, UW-Madison and UW-Stout. As you may have seen from President Cross, [internship opportunities](#) are going to be expanded as part of the next biennial budget request, which is intricately linked to [2020FWD](#) (The UW System "Strategic Plan"). Tammy Brunette was involved in the planning and development of the event again – thank you Tammy! At some point, I'd like to ask those who took part to provide an oversight for other students – in a promote and encourage way.
- 2. UW-Green Bay Mechanical Engineering:** Last month I learned that the UW Colleges was one of several institutions who officially expressed concerns that UW-Green Bay is requesting permission to plan a BS in Mechanical Engineering. Greg Lampe specifically asked REO/Deans who might be impacted to provide information about our engineering programs as part of a response to the UW System Associate Vice President who oversees new program. I indicated I would be happy to work with Greg at that meeting in Madison in early February. This discussion is somewhat beyond routine as the concerns that we presented about the need for an additional program need to be fully addressed by UW-Green Bay. I will keep you updated as clearly there could be an impact on our programs with UW-Platteville. Note: this program will not be base funded by UW System
- 3. UW Budget Forum:** Earlier this week I attended a UW Budget Forum hosted by Chancellors Blank (Madison) and Leavitt (Oshkosh). I am pleased to report that the format of the session was quite similar to the way in which Chancellor Sandeen has outlined how the UW Colleges has proceeded with our budget reduction; there was an overview of what has happened to state funding over the last decade and the last 2 years (especially). Chancellor Blank made comparisons of funding with other Big 10 schools. I suspect that the audience was generally made of UW-Madison and UW Oshkosh alumni and supporters as the questions were friendly. In particular, both Chancellors explained the size of their budget reductions in this current biennium, how they approached them [position reductions – as Chancellor Leavitt said, by the end of this year, they will have reduced their staff from 1440 FTE to 1300 FTE almost exclusively through attrition and retirements as that "there is nothing less strategic in building an institution than unplanned and non-specific losses of personnel"], and the effects on campus. Chancellor Blank pointed to the now apparent [drop of UW-Madison in national research rankings](#) and persistent pressure on faculty. She said that in some academic departments, 80% of the faculty

had received offers to move. You are probably aware that UW-Madison spent [\\$24M to keep staff](#) – actually she said that only about \$2M of that was in base salary increases – other uses were, for example, short term stipends for grad students in labs “to keep research going”. At UW Oshkosh, in addition to wanting to stem 4 years of enrollment decreases (including of course decreased transfer student numbers), Chancellor Leavitt indicated that a strong enrollment for 2017-18 is emerging thanks to investment in admissions marketing from approx. \$100K to \$700K. Again, the message from both of them was economic impact, and a need to re-invest.

This past week, President Cross has been talking about the need to [re-invest in the UW System](#).

- 4. Community Activities:** I had an opportunity to talk with Appleton Public Library Director Colleen Rortved to find out more about the programming that takes place at the library and the types of ways that faculty and staff expertise can be involved. Among the items I am following up on is an interest in her having the College Resource Councilor, or perhaps the Adult Student Recruiter visit the library to provide information about UWFox programming, and to know more about events. The library also hosts some specialized topic group discussions in family history (not genealogy), veterans and Polish connections (please let me know if you'd like to explore further).

The Business and Education Group that I have been a part of through the Fox Cities Chamber or about 4 years is actively discussing how to work with an expanded group of school districts who are seeking information about careers and the associated education / training pathways from local employers. Three years ago we developed a portal that uniquely connected employer opportunities with high school teachers; that has evolved to a more robust website now. We are in the process of meeting with individuals who are interested in learning more about the information about career pathways that include higher education through the UW.

Last week I met with the new Chief Education Officer of CESA-6, Ted Neitzke He has only recently taken his position after serving with the West Bend School District as Superintendent. He is also a graduate of the UW Colleges (UW-Washington County). We talked extensively about course options, the result of changes in course options and the varying needs of the 30+ districts in CESA-6.

On behalf of the NE Region, I attended the [NEW NORTH Summit](#) earlier this week In Green Bay. The theme of the conference was (progressively) attract, develop, retain and included highlight presentations by education partners from UW Oshkosh and FVTC. Impressively, there were videos shown throughout the day showing the very strong things that the Fox Cities is doing (young professionals organization – attract; innovative recruitment methods to name just two)

- 5. Legislative Connections:** In addition to sending a hand-written Thanksgiving note to our county and community partners, I will shortly be sending a letter that has been developed by the Chancellor's Office to our newly elected and reelected officials congratulating them, and providing a few key reminders about the campuses and UW Colleges. It is based on the most recent talking points that were developed (I have attached them). Renee is beginning to set of

meetings for me with our regional legislators including Rep. Mike Rohrkaste from Neenah (55<sup>th</sup> District) who has just been [selected to the Joint Finance Committee](#).

Respectfully submitted, Martin 12/08/16