WSU Board of Trustees

Board Meeting
Thursday, April 6, 2017, 8:04 am
164 Room, Experiential Engineering Building

In attendance were board members Sheryl Wohlford, Steve Packebush, Laurie Labarca, Tom Winters, Joe Norton, Pierre Harter, Cindy Schwan, Ken Hush and Vernell Jackson. Also present were John Bardo, Mert Buckley, John Tomblin, Susan Johnson, Andy Schlapp, Troy Bruun, Darron Boatright, Werner Golling, Eric King, Stacia Boden, Lou Heldman and David Moses.

Finance and Audit
Wohlford asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2017 meeting. Hush moved, Norton seconded and the motion passed. Hush reviewed the NACUBO report and the financial reports and stated the results are consistent and acceptable. Schlapp reviewed the 2018 Mill Levy budget showing that excess funds would be put towards innovation campus projects. Hush asked for motion to approve the 2018 Mill Levy budget, Labarca moved, Schwan seconded and the motion passed, will set up meetings with City and County to get their approval. Schlapp discussed the response to the 2016 BKD audit.

WSIA and Facilities
Wohlford asked for motion to approve the minutes from the January 5, 2017 meeting. Harter moved, Winters seconded and the motion passed. Bruun reviewed the WSIA budget, will add cumulative balance line item to 10 year projected budget. Schlapp reviewed the WSU 11.04 policy update which revised the amount for selection of project architects for Board of Trustees projects to be consistent with state procurement procedures.

Off Agenda Item
Boatright talked about the Shock the World foundation campaign’s planned Student Athlete Success Center for athletics, a much needed project as the student athletes and staff have outgrown their facility. This project is a three-story facility that will be adjacent to Charles Koch Arena. The first floor will house a new locker room, clubhouse, and strength & conditioning facility to accommodate much needed upgrades for our track and field program. The second floor will house the compliance and business operations as well as several coaches’ offices. The third floor will be dedicated to the academic experience for our 300 student athletes. It will house state-of-the-art computer labs, private tutoring rooms, and provide spacious areas for group study. The planned cost is $13M, of which $9.2M has been raised. Boatright asked the board to financially support the project so they can meet the campaign goal and start construction.

Executive Session
Motion was made and seconded to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing confidential data relating to financial affairs and to consult with the Board’s attorney on matters protected by attorney-client privileges. Subjects to be discussed related to the planned Student Athlete Success Center. The motion was made at 8:30 and called for the meeting to resume at 9:00. The Executive Session was extended to 9:15, 9:20 and 9:30 by subsequent motions and approvals. Bardo, Schlapp, Bruun, Tomblin, Johnson, Boatright, Golling, King, Boden, Heldman, Moses were invited to remain at the Executive Session. The session ended at 9:30 am and no action was taken.
Off Agenda Item Continued
Wohlford opened the meeting at 9:30 am. Norton asked for discussion on the Student Athlete Success Center financial support request. Several members voiced support for this project and how this use easily fits the purpose of the 1987 interlocal Agreement between the City and County as “support and enhancement of research, educational programs, and facilities at the University”, as well as help recruit students to WSU.

Norton made a motion to honor the request for funds, Hush seconded and The Board of Trustees voted enthusiastically and unanimously to support this project with $2.5M from FY2017 budget, funds previously distributed to the Board from past mill levies collected for University purposes. The motion passed. Wohlford asked that Bardo and Schlapp send a letter to City and County on action taken, with copy emailed to BOT.

Wohlford asked for a 10 minute break.

Wohlford made a motion to approve the Board Meeting minutes from January 5, 2017, Schwan moved and Harter seconded, the motioned passed.

University Update
Bardo discussed the amalgamation of WSU with WATC (which was unanimously approved by the legislature), the new alignment in athletics by accepting the invitation from the American Athletic Conference and the need to find new funding sources for buildings on campus, as state will no longer fund academic buildings.

Tomblin showed pictures of the construction on the Innovation Campus and the upcoming building projects. Boden discussed the need to amend leases due to the Experiential Engineering Building boundary overlapping the planned Partnership Building #2. The Board was asked to vote to amend the lease from the Public Building Commission to the Board of Trustees and to amend the sublease from Board of Trustees to Wichita State University. Winters made a motion to approve resolution No. 04-06-17, Schwan seconded and the motion passed.

The Chairman Wohlford declared that a quorum was present and thereupon, there was presented a Resolution entitled:


The Resolution was considered and discussed; and thereupon on motion of Winters seconded by Schwan, the Resolution was adopted by the following roll call vote:

Aye: Sheryl Wohlford, Steve Packebush, Laurie Labarca, Tom Winters, Pierre Harter, Cindy Schwan, Ken Hush and Vernell Jackson

Nay:

Abstain: Joe L. Norton due to potential conflict of interest.

Thereupon, the Resolution having been adopted by a majority vote of the members of the Board, it was given No. 04-06-17, was signed by the Chairman and attested by the Secretary.
Tomblin gave an update on the plans for a new campus recreation facility. It will be an integrated healthcare model which will house a new counseling & wellness center, a new fitness center plus a drop in daycare facility. Tomblin stated it will be a non-bonded facility, a partnership proposal, with the YMCA, capital costs would be shared by YMCA and WSU. WSU would operate the counseling and health facilities in the new recreation facility. Tomblin shared the YMCA survey results from the students, faculty, staff and community members who responded. The survey indicated a “millennial” focused facility would be the best fit for this project. The YMCA would design, build and maintain with no university debt obligation, WSU students would be charged a “user fee” to cover operations, equipment, staff, maintenance and programs. Tomblin shared a comparison chart of the recreation facility fees at other Kansas universities, WSU’s would be close to what Pittsburg State currently charges. The students would get nationwide access to YMCA facilities starting in August 2017 during the construction phase. The Heskett Center would continue to operate housing such programs as dance, intramural sports, human performance, pool activities and indoor track.

Tomblin asked the Board to tentatively agree to contribute funds towards capitol construction costs, a final vote would happen when design is complete. This contribution would help reduce the student fee. Hush motioned to have Tomblin proceed with discussions on the YMCA project with no financial obligation from the Board of Trustees at this point, Jackson seconded and the motion passed.

Wohlford discussed need for additional board meetings throughout the year and adjourned this meeting at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Johnson
Assistant Secretary