

Board of Visitors Meeting September 29, 2008

The Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University met on September 29, 2008, in the Board Room of the David Student Union with Rector Claude S. Hornsby, III presiding.

Present from Board

Mr. E. G. Allen, Jr.
Mr. John A. Conrad
Ms. Flora Crittenden
Ms. Jane Susan Frank
Mr. William P. Heath, Jr.
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Hoinkes
Mr. Thaddeus B. Holloman, Sr.
Mr. Claude S. Hornsby, III
Mr. James R. Joseph
Ms. Frances Luter
Mr. Michael C. Martin
Mr. Veasey Wilson

Present from the University

President Paul Tribble
Ms. Cynthia Perry, Chief of Staff
Mr. William L. Brauer, Executive Vice President
Dr. Mark Padilla, Provost
Mr. Maurice J. O'Connell, Vice President of Student Services
Dr. Elizabeth Taraski, Vice President University Advancement
Mr. William Thro, University Counsel
Rebecca Wheeler, President of the Faculty Senate
Ms. Lori Jacobs, Director Public Relations
Ms. Beverley Mueller, Executive Assistant

Absent from Board

Ms. Debbie Budlong
Ms. Ann N. Hunnicutt

Rector Hornsby welcomed everyone and called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2008 meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Heath seconded by Ms. Crittenden and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

President's Report

President Tribble stated that the academic year is off to a good start with energetic faculty and engaged students. This year started with a service learning project where 200 leadership students spent the day working at the Food Bank and other organizations in the community. With the leadership of Ms. Jane Susan Frank, CNU and the Food Bank organized a "Food for Thought Day" to raise money and donations for the Food Bank. Ms. Frank said the collaboration between the University and Food Bank was fabulous. Large numbers of students were involved and members of the athletic teams collected over 10,000 pounds of food. President Tribble thanked Frances Luter and Smithfield foods for their very generous contribution of a tractor trailer full of Smithfield Foods. President Tribble said that we want public service to be standard by which CNU is known and this is was important step in that direction and next year the entire freshman class will participate in a service project.

For the first time CNU was ranked in the top 10 schools to watch in America among the national liberal arts schools by U.S. News and World Report. Also, CNU was featured in an article in Forbes Magazine about architecture defining excellence in higher education, and an article will be published in American Executive magazine about the transformation of CNU. In addition CNU will be featured in next NCAA magazine. Time Magazine had a full page featuring Art Casey that talked about Art being a graduate of CNU.

President Tribble said that CNU's athletic teams continue to be successful. The women's volleyball team is ranked 21 st in nation; men and women's cross county teams are in top ten; field hockey continues to do well; men's soccer team competed in Texas against nationally ranked teams playing two games wining one and losing one and the football team is 1-1.

As part of the President's Leadership Speaker Series and Library Speaker Series, this year we have coming to campus Ralph Waller, President of Harris Manchester College; Attorney General Bob McDonnell and former Congressman Tony Hall, past Ambassador of the United Nations Agency on Hunger. In addition, President and CEO of Ferguson Enterprises, John Stegaman will address the President's Leadership students in February.

A white carara marble sculpture will be installed in the circle within the next few days and a dedication is planned on Sunday and President Tribble invited the Board to attend. He said that this is a part of city's efforts to have notable sculptures throughout the city and it is all paid for by private funds.

Due to the anticipated budget reduction, President Tribble reported that CNU has already taken steps to offset those reductions. CNU lost 5% of its funding last year and were required to submit to the Governor budget reduction for additional cuts of 5%, 10% and 15%. He stated that a 15% reduction in state operating funds would have serious consequences.

If budgeted dollars for salaries and benefits and utilities were set aside, there would be only \$75 million left. A 15% reduction would mean a loss of \$4.2 million or 56% of those remaining operating funds and would require the elimination of positions and postponement of the recruitment for other positions, impacting 36 positions; offering at least 100 fewer classes in the next academic year; closure of the European Study Center in Prague; substantially reduce the purchase of books for the library and essentially terminate all travel and purchase of new equipment. President Tribble said that at this time it is not contemplated that tuition will be raised in the second semester but it will be necessary to raise tuition for the next academic year. A 1% tuition increase generates \$180,000 in revenue. Unfortunately, those funds will not go to hiring new faculty and implementing the academic priorities of the university, but rather will go toward offsetting state funds lost.

He stated that despite the budget situation CNU is still soaring and will continue to generate efforts to raise private dollars. Also the Budget Advisory Committee which had been established several years ago is meeting and analyzing the financial situation and making recommendations. The Faculty Senate has indicated that they wouldforfeit their 2% pay increase rather than cutting positions. However, the Governor will probably eliminate pay increases.

Finance and Audit Committee Report

Mr. Joseph said the Finance and Audit committee met and reviewed the year end numbers and found them to be in good order. The committee had an extensive conversation about the impact of the budget reductions. Also, as required by the state, the committee received a report on debt services and balances. There is a policy that debt cannot exceed 10% of total budget and the projected debt scheduled to be issued this year, CNU is well within that range.

Mr. Joseph said the committee had three resolutions to recommend to the Board and asked Mr. Brauer to present them. Mr. Brauer explained the two debt resolutions for Ratcliffe Hall and athletic facilities He explained that these Resolutions are required on each capital project and are prepared by bond counsel and allows the administration to issue debt to finance the construction of capital improvements. The third resolution allows the university to reimburse itself in advance of the bond issuance and allows the university to be reimbursed from tax exempt debt. After calling for questions and discussion, Rector Hornsby called for a motion to approve Resolutions 1 and 2 authorizing the issuance of debt for Athletic Facilities II and Ratcliffe

Hall Addition and Resolution 3 authorizing reimbursement for expenditures for capital projects from the proceeds of 9(d) bonds. Mr. Martin provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Frank and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

The Finance Committee also recommended approval of Resolution 8: Distinguished Service Award for Bob Goodhart. President Tribble explained that Mr. Goodhart was largely responsible for the transformation of the grounds and landscape of the CNU campus. Mr. Goodhart has retired and the university would like to honor his contributions. Mr. Martin moved for approval, Mr. Allen seconded the motion and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

In addition, Mr. Joseph reported that the Committee received a report from Mr. William Biddle, Director of the Ferguson Center for the Arts. The Ferguson Center is reacting properly given the current economic environment and taking the steps necessary to keep the scale of their operation within budget.

Academic Affairs Committee

Ms. Hoinkes reported that at their meeting the Provost spoke about the budget reductions and the significant effects it will have on academics. The committee also received a report on the day of service and the impact that it had on the community and our students. The Provost spoke to the committee about a proposed new three college structure. Currently there are two schools with a disproportionate allotment of faculty with one school with 200 and the other 43 faculty members. The proposed three colleges would be arts and humanities, natural and behavior sciences and social sciences. The Luter School would be part of social sciences. This structure would require three deans and each dean would have supervisory function over the same number of faculty. The new college structure would not be a large additional cost and will fall within the budget. The Provost advised that CNU would be home for two components of Governor's School – humanities and visual and performing arts. This program will bring 400 of the best and brightest high school students to the CNU campus over the summer and will serve as an excellent recruiting tool.

Provost Padilla added that the university is looking at a modified honors curriculum which is being considered by the faculty governance. The new program would allow students to have a respite from general education courses and allow them to take dedicated honors seminars, have special experiences in service learning projects and participate in a capstone seminar. President Tribble explained that CNU is trying to make the honors program at CNU comparable in its success to the Leadership Program which has brought 200 students to the university this year.

Student Life Committee Report

Mr. O'Connell reported to the Board that CNU had received nearly 8,000 applications for the freshman class. This year's class has an average GPA 3.6 and average SAT score of 1181 which is an increase of 11 points. Final enrollment for the class was 1140. Of the applicants 20% are minority with 10% African American, 4% Hispanic and 3% Asian. There were 32 President's Leadership students who are Canon Scholars and their average GPA is 4.1 and SAT is 1386. He noted that 13% of the leadership students are out-of state students. A discussion of recruitment for the freshman class and retention of students took place. President Tribble reported that CNU now has made the SAT optional if a student has a GPA of 3.5 or better allowing the acceptance of some very bright students that we may not admitted previously. Mr. O'Connell reported that last year there were 84 African American applications for first year students and this year there were 114. President Tribble said that was a result of a lot of hard work and thanked Mr. Holloman for his efforts on the Minority Task Force.

Mr. Martin said that Chief Brown reported to the committee on campus safety and security and there are four resolutions to recommend in that regard. Chief Brown presented to the Board the emergency preparedness plan.

Following his presentation Mr. Martin asked the Board to approve Resolution 4: Threat Assessment on Campus; Resolution 5 Campus Violence Prevention; Resolution 6: Crises and Emergency Management Plan and Resolution 7: First Warning/Emergency Notification. Rector Hornsby called for approval of the Resolutions provided by Ms. Crittenden, seconded by Ms. Luter and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Mr. Martin also said that Dr. Hughes, Dean of Students reported to the committee on the engagement of the students during the first month and SGA representative Paul Camacho also spoke to the Committee regarding student activities.

At 1:20 p.m. Rector Hornsby called for a motion to enter closed session under Freedom of Information Acts Section 2.23711 (a)1(1) Personnel; (a)(3) Real Estate; and (a)(8) Gifts Bequests and Fundraising. Ms. Hoinkes provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Frank and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

At 2:10

Following discussion in closed session, Ms. Hoinkes provided a motion requiring a 100% commitment from the Board to contribute to CNU. Mr. Allen seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Rector Hornsby called for a motion to approve Resolution 9: In Memoriam of Harroll A. Brauer, Jr. Ms. Luter provided the motion, seconded by Ms. Hoinkes and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Rector Hornsby called for a motion to approve the President's salary increase of 2% or such increase designated by the General Assembly for public college and university presidents. Mr. Joseph provided the motion, seconded by Mr. Allen and passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

Rector Hornsby called for any other business or discussion and there being none, the meeting was adjourned.

Deborah Budlong, Secretary
the Board

Beverley Mueller , Administrative Assistant to

Claude S. Hornsby, III, Rector