Administrator Assembly February 25, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Jim Garaventa at 4:00 p.m.

Announcements
Glenn Ford is out of town but will be presenting next month.

Human Resources has asked that we announce that Open Enrollment begins on March 1. Watch for new information coming soon. The Benefits and Wellness Fair will be held on March 6.

NEW ADMINISTRATORS
Vern Johnson, Programmer Analyst (ITS) – this is a new position, currently funded on “soft” money but Irv hopes that it will be funded permanently through the budget process. Vern has a background serving the forestry industry, in an IT capacity. Although he has not ever worked with a program like colleague, he has already been very productive.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Dr. Hellie
The President reported that the budget is still balanced. We currently have a surplus of right around 2% (which is just under $1 million), which is right where we usually are.

Dr. Hellie spent a lot of time getting ready for the board meeting last week, which was fairly routine. We learned that the endowment is at $87 million – which is the highest it has ever been although it will probably be a little higher as the market has been performing well in February. Dr. Hellie also pointed out that we do pull out a little to cover operational costs, so it doesn’t all stay invested.

The Board changed up their meeting process a bit this year, choosing to explore one topic more in-depth with each quarterly meeting. In November, we had an Admission/Financial Aid consultant, which was very educational. In February, the board discussed philanthropy and specifically the Board’s role in these efforts and in supporting the strategic plan. The Board has formed working groups to specifically address certain areas, such as scholarship, faculty development, experiential learning and STEM. In fact, we can expect that the next new or renovated building to be the science facilities. The College received praise from Trustee Kerry Carmody that we are actually using our Strategic Plan, not just letting it sit somewhere now that it’s complete.

The Board approved the revenue portion of the budget (tuition and fees) as well as the insurance premiums. As we have discussed at past meetings, the premiums for Kaiser are expected to go up 10%, which would result in a $0 increase for employees, a $8.38 increase for employees & spouse, a $7.46 increase in employees and children and an $11.67 increase for families. The Trust has a slight reduction, so the premiums for an employee and spouse will be $23.23 less and for families $32.60 less. Several of the Board members who are connected to the health care field have cautioned the premiums
will likely go up significantly after the Affordable Health Care Act goes fully into effect. Currently, 17% of our budget goes to covering health insurance.

The tuition, room and board prices have been set - they will increase 5.59% for Fall & Spring Terms, 5.5% for January Term and 6.1% for DCE. Room and Board rates increases vary from 1.0% (HP apartments) to 4.0%. Of course, financial aid will also be increasing for students.

The President will be sending around some comments he made to the Board regarding the recent criticism of higher education in the media - particularly as these criticisms relate to rising costs, more student debt, etc. In fact, the National Association of Independent Colleges released a document (which the President will be sending around) called the “9 Myths About Higher Education.” Although defensive in tone, it refutes many of the myths with actual facts.

Last week there was an article in the New York Times about a study completed at Columbia about the success of online education. It concluded that while it works well for the adult population, it is less successful for traditional age students. In fact, it was least successful among 1st generation students and students of color. Women were also shown to have higher completion rates than men.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**
No reports

**NEW BUSINESS**
No new business

**FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**
None

**Upcoming meeting date** - Monday, March 18 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned by Jim Garaventa at 4:21 p.m.