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April 6, 2019

Dear Trustees,

For the first two months of the year I was a little slow in getting my monthly update out to the trustees. I really didn't have a good excuse, I just wasn't in the routine yet.

Well, this edition is late too. But this month the delay was intentional. I wanted to wait until after the Board of Governors meeting was completed so that I could update you with some of the highlights of that meeting.

Here are some of what I thought were the most interesting discussions:

- The Governors talked about deferred maintenance at the campuses. The Board appeared to be concerned with the level of deferred maintenance that exists on our campuses and what can be done about it. The backlog has continued to grow due to a lack in state funding for this purpose. Governor Sam Smith commented that this has been an issue for the past 30 years.

Governor Sam Smith commented that this has been an issue for the past 30 years. Still, there seemed to be genuine interest in addressing a problem that we as Trustees hear about annually.



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- The System is working with the universities to update and retool its budgeting processes. The Board voted to stabilize the universities' allocation of regular and performance funding for 2019/2020 at the 2018/2019 level so that the universities can effectively plan for next year with greater certainty. Once it is known what additional appropriation is received for next year, the Board will determine allocation of those funds with input from the Presidents and the Chancellor.
 - The universities will be able to propose their own multi-year, in-state tuition strategies with the approval of the BOG. The BOG will continue to approve "basic" tuition for universities that do not pursue their own pricing strategies. These strategies will be proposed by the President of each university after consulting with the Council of Trustees.

I think it is significant that the consultation language is part of the change because it shows that the Chancellor and BOG are looking for ways to enhance the role of the trustee. During my comments I said that I would recommend to all Councils of Trustees that they vote on the president's proposal to demonstrate their support of the strategy.

- The Chancellor highlighted the efforts of the PACT Trustees during his System Redesign Update. The trustee's involvement in the redesign effort has not only been noticed, it has been appreciated.

I also had the chance to present the results of the six PACT committees that will be presented at the PACT meeting this week. I thought it was well received and I believe that some of our committees' work will be used as a template for the Board of Governors.

I have included a copy of report that I gave to the Board of Governors with this update. If you have questions, please let me know.

That's it for March. Looking forward to seeing you this week at the PACT Conference!



Jeffrey W. Smith
President, PACT