

University Faculty Meeting

April 24, 2020

12:00 noon

Virtually via BlackBoard Collaborate

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/0e74fc252da4471495d26951ad8f86fa>

or phone in:

1-571-392-7650 PIN: 848 463 0157

- 1) Welcome and opening remarks (**Noel Painter**)
- 2) State of Stetson's Finances (**Bob Huth, CFO**)
- 3) Comments from the Faculty Finance Committee (**Eric Kurlander**) *note: see attached draft of a FY21 Contingency Plan*
- 4) Discussion (**all are welcome to participate**)
- 5) Summary comments on summer/fall 2020 (**Noel Painter**)

Meeting called to order at 12:02 PM

Provost Painter welcomed the group and thanked everyone for their time. He also thanked everyone for their hard work on their classes and ensuring our students have the best experience they can. He recognized that this semester had been infinitely harder than anyone anticipated.

The focus of today's meeting will be on finances, both where we currently stand and discussions for future planning.

Provost Painter welcomed Bob Huth, Joel Bauman, Eric Kurlander, President Libby, and President-elect Roellke. He also thanked Kim Canup, Harry Price, and Josh Rust for helping with moderating and managing the technology for the meeting.

Provost Painter displayed the website for the virtual Showcase, demonstrated briefly one of the student videos and discussed how the students had highlighted their research virtually. He encouraged faculty to take time to look at it and thanked Kimberly Reiter for guiding the students and managing Showcase.

Bob Huth thanked the faculty for their ability and willingness to move to the online environment in such short notice and to deal with the uncertainty of COVID-19. Kudos to all of you. He indicated his great admiration for all that participated in virtual Hatter Saturday. He was amazed at how well it was put together. It is evident that collectively everyone wants to ensure Stetson maintains its current vigor.

Mr. Huth reviewed the budget summary for projections through the end of the year; he included the caveats of the increased difficulty for any projections due to the continuing uncertainty caused by COVID-19, that these figures do not reflect CARES Act money coming to the University, and we don't have a good understanding of how summer enrollment will be at this point.

- Tuition and fees are down \$700K
- \$1.1M deficit for DeLand campus
- \$275K deficit for Celebration

The deficit is due in part to the cancellation of the Innsbruck summer program and cancellation of in-person summer courses on the DeLand campus.

On the positive side, operating expenses are down \$2.6M due in part to people being very budget conscious and sticking to only necessary purchases. This is much appreciated.

The University is slated to receive from the CARES Act Stimulus Funding \$3.5M. Those funds will be used half for institutional expenses and half toward direct benefits to students. We have received half of it so far; that is the portion to be used for student benefit. We are learning that there are many restrictions on how the money can be used.

Joel Bauman thanked everyone for what they do day-in and day-out to help with both our current and prospective students. Thanked faculty for helping with Hatter Saturday where 300 prospective students participated. The students appreciated time they were able spend virtually with the faculty.

Leading to March 13, all was going well, we were where we needed to be in First Time in College (FTIC) and transfer, and international prospective students. The strategy was to increase pool of qualified students and decrease pool of less academically and financially prepared students; 925 FTIC and 125 transfers was plan

At this point, we are running a bit ahead on incoming transfers.

There has been a decline in deposits for in FTIC since March 13, we suspect due to hesitation on what the future will hold.

8,766 freshman have been admitted, 537 deposited (compared to 672 last year). Expected 50 fewer than last year, so down 85 from expected. 59 deposits on transfers (compared to 33 last year) 20-30 Hatter Saturday commitments compared to 60-90 last year

May 1 national reply date, will extend to May 15

May 15 2 weeks after national reply date, provides truer picture after having processed checks

June 15 first monthly payment plan due for tuition

July 15 tuition due for new and continuing students

Our current waitlist is 116% higher this year than last year. Approximately 40% are uncertain due to financial situations, travel uncertainties, health concerns, etc.

Joel Bauman thanked faculty who are calling and emailing students. Students appreciate the interactive time with the faculty and the ability to connect on a personal level.

Dr. Eric Kurlander reviewed the Contingency Plan recommendations by the faculty finance committee. He noted that the committee met three times over the past four weeks, as opposed to that many times in a typical semester.

Dr. Kurlander noted that the committee was in consensus on the points they recommend – academics are the priority, classroom instruction followed by people and avoiding layoffs of staff. He noted that we are in a better position than many of our peers. Institutions that are more endowment-driven will have no choice but to tap their endowments to survive.

Stetson has basically done a 10-year field experiment – we increased enrollment by 60%, increased the student/teacher ratio and increased non-academic expenses. If we use our experiences in what has and has not worked it an help us make more meaningful decisions based on data and not on the status-quo.

We feel we have a lot we can do without sacrificing academic program.

President Libby noted that the administration is in the process of defining a planning group for deficit management; the group will include faculty, staff and administration and they will be examining what is the best course of action.

Provost Painter opened the floor to questions. He noted that all questions would be recorded and appended to the minutes.

There were several questions about where cuts would be made. Bob Huth noted that principles will be to protect academic program. When we get into \$15-20M in cuts it will be necessary to look at all areas to make it work. All will be a part of a process, it will be consultative.

There was a question about the potential of saving money on agreements with 3rd party contractors and if we are re-negotiating any contracts. The only contracts are with Chartwells (food service) and Advent Health (Health Center activity). Stetson saved \$200K 8 years ago when negotiated, Advent Health gets better insurance rates and that is not our core competency. Contracted in 2014 with Chartwells after RFP, we pay a management fee to profit-loss process, \$1.4M in savings to Stetson. During COVID-19 – Chartwells is operated as a partner, offering reduced fees based on number of students. The contract includes a Force Majeure – favorable outcome, paying for what we're using.

A question was asked about paying for recruiting of the Saudi or other international students. Joel Bauman explained how recruiting contract works for Saudi students, a fee is paid only when a student selects Stetson and pays their tuition, room and board. You must also consider that even without these contracts we would spend money to recruit international students, so that money is included in the fee to the recruiter. These are full-pay international students that any institution would be grateful to get one, and we have 63.

Provost Painter thanked everyone for their questions and reiterated that additional questions should be entered into the chat so that they can be responded to later.

Provost emphasized how important it is for faculty to continue to engage with students – incoming and returning – now and through the summer terms.

Some areas of focus for us for the coming months include:

Strengthening Fall Learning

- Planning for online course enhancement
- Improving/developing your own pedagogical skills
- Creating resources for students that increase their navigation through your major area and into powerful job and graduate school outcomes

Individual Outreach

- Add certainty to returning students and their parents through your perspective, offered via individual communication
- Group engagement for students that share an area of interest with you
- Mentoring for newly registered students on the transition into college life

Building the Summer 2020 Experience

- Meeting the demand of returning students for summer offerings in your area

- Development and implementation of new academic and engagement experiences – classes, webinars, common book reads – this summer for students joining us in the fall
- Participating in webinars, summer recruiting events, summer orientation

Kimberly Reiter reminded everyone of the University faculty meeting on April 30 at 3pm to review the QEP recommendation. There is also a Faculty Senate meeting Monday night, everyone is invited.

Meeting adjourned 1:20 PM