

FACULTY REGENT COMMENTS TO UNIVERSITY SENATE: February 16, 2017

I am sorry I cannot be at the Senate meeting this afternoon. I am away working on accreditation standards, and cannot get back in time for this important meeting.

I want to thank all of you and our faculty colleagues who were able to participate in the campus meetings a few weeks ago with our next president, Dr. Tim Caboni. I know he appreciated the opportunity to talk with faculty and staff and students alike, and I anticipate that he will be spending more time on campus in the months ahead as he prepares for the leadership transition on July 1. He has specifically mentioned that he looks forward to talking with the Senate leadership as early as possible.

In the meanwhile, the Board chair has talked with Dr. Caboni and plans are underway to ensure the best possible transition for Dr. Caboni as he assumes the WKU presidency.

I am sure that you will enjoy getting to know Dr. Caboni in the coming months days ahead. As with every change in leadership, a unique opportunity is also created for the faculty to also consider how to best communicate with the president and advance the realities of shared governance. I have read and studied everything I could put my hands on regarding 'shared governance' over the past months, and it is clear that just as there are huge changes facing colleges and universities in so many ways, so too is there a need to consider ways to more effectively achieve the 'shared governance' that is a core value for us. I know that this is an opportunity that this body will look forward to addressing.

The Board of Regents is scheduled for committee meetings on March 24. Also on that same afternoon the Board will be meeting to discuss possible revisions in the BOR Bylaws. Over the past several months, the Board has spent the better part of two different days pursuing professional development with the assistance of a consultant from AGB (Assn of Governing Boards). During this time and in several of the meetings over the past months, there has been some sentiment that it may be time and appropriate to review the Board's Bylaws and improve upon them in ways that will enhance the Board's work. This will be an opportunity for the BOR to make these improvements, working collaboratively with our new President.