



Office of the President

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John W. Garland

November 5, 2010

Enrollment

As you know, our fall enrollment took a downturn for the first time since 2005, dropping 6 percent from last year, to 2,288. We are looking into the reasons for the decline but two stand out immediately.

First, for the students we have historically served finances have always been one of the top barriers to receiving a college education. The barrier is even greater during in the present economic climate, and many students and families are deferring college or choosing the community college option. Others are choosing institutions that can offer more financial assistance than CSU.

We have also embarked on an effort to improve the academic profile of our entering classes, and this too may have had a dampening effect on our fall enrollment. Other universities that have done this have often seen a short-term decline in enrollment—but gains in retention over the long run.

The good news is that we saw increases in continuing student enrollment (4 percent); transfer student enrollment (2 percent); and Dayton Campus enrollment (2 percent). All these increases are in line with our strategic plan for enrollment growth and reflect our efforts to retain current students as well as attract transfer students and grow enrollment at the Dayton Campus.

Budget challenges

The decline in enrollment, combined with reductions in state revenue, has resulted in a budget shortfall of \$2.8 million. To address it, we have implemented a number of strategies, which I have already shared with you. They include an immediate hiring freeze, no merit increases for non-bargaining unit staff, an eight-day furlough and a holiday shutdown. In addition to these cost saving measures, we must also increase our grant funding and, most important, our enrollment. We have set specific enrollment goals for spring and summer terms and developed strategies to meet them.

Our focus will be on growing our enrollment through both retention and enrollment of new students. Enrollment growth, particularly through retention, is key to addressing not only the current shortfall, but also reductions in state funding that appear to be looming on the horizon.

At risk consultation

We have had two meetings with specially appointed officials from the Ohio Board of Regents and the Governor's Office to try to reach agreement on an acceptable funding formula for Central State. The formula currently on the table, like past formulas, does not serve Central State well, primarily because it does not account for our mission as an access institution and does not recognize the unique challenges faced by institutions like Central State that serve a high proportion of at-risk students. We are hopeful that our current discussions will lead to a funding formula that provides the resources Central State needs to fully support and ensure student success.

Visit by TEDA delegation

We will host a visit Nov. 9-10 by a delegation from TEDA Polytechnic, one of the institutions we visited during our trip to China in June. TEDA is a three-year technical college in the Tianjin Economic Development Area (TEDA) near Tianjin, China. The purpose of the TEDA visit is work out the details of an articulation agreement that would enable TEDA students to transfer to CSU to complete their degrees. TEDA is particularly interested in having their students come here to study English. We also intend to explore the possibility of an agreement that allows CSU students to study at TEDA Polytechnic.

This agreement is the first step in our effort to develop a global studies center and provide more opportunities for our students to study and pursue internships in other countries.

Residence hall construction

Work has begun on construction of the two new residence halls and, as you know, we have submitted a proposal to borrow funds for the project through the federally funded Rice Capital HBCU Financing Program. Our proposal is currently on hold until it has been determined that the site has no archeological significance and also until it is approved by the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. The developer will continue to finance the project until Central State is able to secure the funds to assume responsibility for the financing.

In addition to requesting funds through the HBCU loan program for construction of the residence halls, we have requested funds for three other projects: continuing restoration and rehabilitation of Emery Hall; renovation of Anderson Hall; and upgrades to McPherson stadium. These three projects, as well as the new residence halls, are considered integral to our efforts to recruit and retain students.

Master Plan

The firm that is updating Central State's Master Plan will be ready in the near future to present an updated plan for consideration. They have had several meetings on campus with key constituents, including cabinet, faculty, students, and residents of Wilberforce and Xenia Township. The process has encouraged us to dream of what we might be, and the vision we've seen unfolding is that of a vibrant, growing campus with academics at its core. I look forward to sharing the final results of the planning process with you in the months to come.

Personnel

Dr. Donald L. Steward has joined my administrative team as the new Vice President for Information Technology and CIO. He brings with him a wealth of experience as a leader in the field of telecommunications and information technology and has overseen extensive technological upgrade projects in both the higher education and private sectors.

Most recently, Dr. Steward served as Vice Chancellor for Information Technology/Regional CIO at Indiana University Northwest, where he also served as interim Vice Chancellor for Physical Facilities. He was also Chief Information Officer at State University of New York College at Fredonia and managed the operation of an extensive communications network at George Washington University, where he oversaw implementation of a consolidated voice and data communications system.

Dr. Steward began his career in the telecommunications field at Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph and later worked for C&P Telephone in Northern Virginia and Bell Atlantic-Management Services Incorporated. He also served in the U.S. Navy as a nuclear power plant instructor and on both diesel and nuclear submarines and in the U.S. Coast Guard reserve, serving as base commander on duty weekends.

Dr. Steward holds a bachelor's degree in engineering technology from Florida International University; a master's degree in special studies with a focus on telecommunications policy from George Washington University; and a doctorate in higher education administration, also from George Washington University.

Dr. James C. Renick has been named dean of the Dayton Campus. He replaces Cheryl Marcus, who will coordinate the North Central Association (NCA) reaccreditation process for Central State. Dr. Renick, who has served as my senior advisor since May 2009, will continue to serve in that capacity. His extensive background and proven leadership in the higher education arena will be of great value as we continue our efforts to grow the Dayton Campus in both size and academic quality.

Pre-Law articulation agreements

The Pre-Law program commemorated Constitution Day on Sept. 16 with a special program that included a ceremony at which we signed articulation agreements between Central State and three Ohio law schools: the University of Dayton School of Law, Capital University Law School, and Cleveland Marshall College of Law. These agreements greatly enhance opportunities for students in our growing Pre-Law program to pursue the study of law after graduation.

Outreach

Activities in which I have participated since the last board meeting include:

- President's Council Division II, Indianapolis, Indiana, June 19
- Meeting with Bill Pardue, Dayton, June 20
- Third annual dinner for the general counsels of the ACE board, Washington, D.C., June 27
- National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA) annual conference, presidential panel session, June 27-June 30
- Meeting with Senator George Voinovich, Washington, D.C., June 30
- Videotaping for University podcast series, CSU, July 14
- Meeting with Howard University President Sidney Ribeau and Larry Warren, CEO of Howard University Hospital, Washington, D.C., July 21
- Urban League 100 Anniversary meeting, Washington, D.C., July 27-Aug. 1
- Welcome Week activities, CSU, August 10-Aug. 15
- Black Elected Officials Gala, Dayton, Aug. 21
- At-risk consultation meeting with Chancellor Eric Fingerhut and OBR staff, Columbus, Aug. 23
- SOCHE executive committee and board meeting, Dayton, Aug. 24
- Visit to campus by Sen. Gilmore, Aug. 31
- Dayton Development Coalition Entrepreneurial Oversight Committee meeting, Dayton, Sept. 1
- Inter-University Council (IUC) regional meeting/panel discussion participant, Wright State University, Sept. 1
- Groundbreaking for new residence halls, Gov. Strickland in attendance, CSU, Sept. 2
- Dayton Classic, Dayton, Sept. 3-4
- Memorial for William Saxbe, Mechanicsburg, Sept. 5
- Dayton Development Coalition board meeting, Wright State University, Sept. 9

- Dayton Contemporary Dance Company (DCDC) press conference, CSU-Dayton, Sept. 10
- White House Initiative on HBCUs annual conference, Washington, D.C., Sept. 12-15
- Investiture ceremony for University of Cincinnati President Gregory Williams, Cincinnati, Sept. 19
- Homecoming week activities, Oct. 4-10
- ESP annual meeting, Dayton, Oct. 13
- Kick-off Presidential Leadership Institute, Dayton, Oct. 15
- Meeting with President Barack Obama, Columbus, Oct. 17
- Interview on radio show "Biz Talk w/Joshua Smith," WCSU, Oct. 21
- NAACP Freedom Banquet, Dayton, Oct. 22
- Meeting with 1890 presidents and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., Oct. 26-27