Executive Committee Meeting of December 13, 2010

The meeting began at 4 p.m. Attendees: President Champagne, Provost deAbruna, President Bosco, 1st Vice President Alfieri, 2nd Vice President Moskowitz

The President spoke about an expansion of the library.

Decentralizing of the hard copies, pictures, etc.

Looking into creating a book about RWU

There are some old photographs of the campus, but more material is needed to put together a more comprehensive history.

There is some thinking of, perhaps, making the campus a repository for Roger Williams memorabilia.

In regards to the Board of Trustees

The Board had a very good meeting.
This is a new era because the Board is doing the work expected from a board.
Everything that gets to the full Board must go through the Board Committees.
The chair of each committee is a member of the Executive Committee which reports to the chairman of the Board.

Regarding NEASC
We will begin our five year report in February. A written report is due in August 2011.

Pres. Bosco inquired about the list of prospective Board Members that had been assembled by the Faculty Senate to serve as a distinguished educator.

Provost de Abruña asked that the list be first given to her.

President Champagne said that the Board has agreed to have a distinguished educator on the Board.

Mr. Wajsgras, CFO of Raytheon, may be brought on to the Board.
There are 7 openings on the Board and they will be filled to satisfy specific needs.

The Board will have a calendar of regular meetings.

There are plans to elect one of the officers of the Alumni Association on the Board.
The Alumni Association will be organized around the different schools.

Its first priority is to help alumni.
Do things for them, then launch what is basically a scholarship program.
They will recruit alums to become members of the association.

President Bosco inquired about needs assessment that President Champagne said is being conducted.

The President replied that the University is conducting a self-evaluation to assess its strengths and limitations as part of drafting a five year strategic plan for the Board by May 2011.

Where are the gaps?
What existing programs could be expanded?
What could be added that is transformational (e.g. graduate programs)
How to enhance the University’s facilities?

As of January 30, anyone who wants to create a new program will have to complete a protocol of prescribed basic questions.

The Five-Year Strategic Plan should have a draft by May 2011 that includes:
1) a proposed schedule for implementation
2) costs and benefits

The Board must decide with the new President if this is something we really want.
The strategic plan is what you wrap the capital campaign around.
The Executive Committee and the Deans’ Council will be involved in forming the final draft.
The Faculty Senate will be greatly involved.

Vice President Moskowitz asked the President if he had shared this vision with the Board and, if so, do they agree with it.

The President has indicated that a draft of five year plan is forthcoming and that they will review it in the fall of 2011 with the new President.

The President said that the University is in negotiations with Mr. Hereshoff concerning the purchase of 14 acres of land along Metacom Avenue immediately north of the campus.

Continuing education and graduate programs are other ways of adding another thousand students.
One to two thousand students require the addition of at least another dorm with 500 rooms.

The University has a debt of $145 million.

The President said that Vice President Williams is negotiating the refinancing of one the University’s bonds.

The Maher Building is also in play and is in good shape and could be easily transformed for the School of Education and other uses.

The University’s endowment is at $72 million.

We do not have enough funds to build another dorm, but we have someone who is interested in underwriting the construction of a dorm on our property as long as we agree to pay them rent for its use.

Bayside needs a lot of work. We need to set aside $4 million to repair it. The nice thing about it is that the dorm is all paid for.

President Bosco asked the President if the subject of reorganization had come up in his discussion with the Board.

The President replied that it did and the consensus was that the new President should decide how to finally reorganize the University. Until then there will be no reorganization.

The School of Education will remain the School of Education. We should get a good plan for its future and get some outside input. Perhaps we could have a lab school in one of Bristol’s public schools; the town of Bristol is interested in such an idea.

We first need to have a vision for the School of Education.

Vice President Moskowitz asked if reorganization is now frozen.

The President replied that the Board never approved the reorganization. He said that he checked all the minutes and did not find it in any minutes. Former President Nirschel had only informed them about what he was intending to do. Administrative organization is ultimately the responsibility of the President.
The President said that they had presented the action of the Faculty Senate regarding General Education to the Board.

The Board approved the implementation of the new General Education program effective the fall of 2012, subject to several revisions cited by the Senate.

Provost de Abreuña made a presentation of the program and she told the Board that this program is transformative.

Up to this point the Board had not been given a full presentation on the overall meaning and the strategic significance of the General Education reform process.

The Board approved the plan with the lower number of required credits and greater flexibility.

Several faculty emeriti were approved by the Board and these will be announced.

**Regarding University Life**

The President replied that 6 kiosks are going up in visible campus areas to be used for promotion/exhibit purposes.

**Steering Committee question about the University’s Mission Statement**

The President replied that it is a substantive exercise.

The Provost asked if this was not the purview of the Board.

The President replied that only the Board can change the mission. The Board has to be the one to agree to even begin that process.

Submitted by,

Peter R. Alfieri
First Vice President of the Roger Williams University Faculty Senate