

# **UNIVERSITY CENTER AT PONCA CITY**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **MEETING MINUTES-MARCH 8, 2018**

The University Center at Ponca City Board of Trustees held a special board meeting on March 8, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. at the Evans Big Fork Ranch, 2750 County Road 250, Marland, OK.

Chair Barry Bickle presented item A-called the meeting to order and roll call was taken. Those present were Chair Barry Bickle, Vice Chair Bruce Evans, Louise Abercrombie, Rich Cantillon, Jeremy Frazier, Pat Hullet, University Center Foundation Members Chair Lee Evans, Pat Collogan, Diane Anderson, Marc Labossiere, Matt Bintz, Mike Eckholt, Cindy Gorrell, Bill Geubelle, Mert Martens, Steve Parr, and Chris Mendoza, Ex-Officio members Carl Renfro, CEO/Supt. Bruce DeMuth, CEO Adam Leaming, Associate Director Robyn Armstrong and Recording Clerk Barbara Bloomfield.

CEO Leaming welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Lee Evans for providing the venue. CEO Leaming introduced David Myers. The board was reminded that the meeting was only for discussion and no decisions would be made.

CEO Leaming was asked to define the duties of each board. The Board of Trustees'—who are appointed by the Governor—duty was defined as hiring the CEO and approving the budget, setting and approving policies and procedures for the UC. The UC Foundation own the facility, provides an avenue for fundraising, and assists with the financial needs of the UC Students.

The meeting then discussed current issues. Some of the current issues mentioned included the steep decline of state funding, students transitioning to online only courses, the raising of UC and partner institution fees, the social changes in the surrounding area, and the fact that Universities can raise tuition and the UC does not have those capabilities.

It was mentioned that the University Center's Vision Statement does not contain students at all. A five year goal for the University Center should be to focus on educating students and not on the finances.

Some of the ideas discussed to increase enrollment at the University Center included having a presence in high schools to increase concurrent enrollment, develop a relationship with Pioneer Technology Center, partnering with other colleges and universities, increasing available course offerings, bringing in retired teachers for an event, increase status in the community, increase access, and have the UC Foundation assist with expenses and operations.

The next conversation involved discussing ways to help better the University Center. Some methods included offering labs, compiling success stories, creating partnerships, and helping the UC develop a campus-like atmosphere.

Next, it was discussed how the UC can find other revenue sources. Some sources mentioned included utilizing the unused portion of the UC building as well as the parking lot pad site. A

more permanent solution mentioned was a possible sales tax with the of a scholarship fund to make higher education more accessible for Ponca City residents. A suggestion was mentioned to form a committee to look into the process. Volunteers for the committee included Bruce Evans, Lee Evans, Pat Collogan, Carl Renfro, Mert Martens, and Barry Bickle,

The next topic discussed was concurrent enrollment. The University Center mentioned the High school is currently working on getting grade point averages weighted at the high school the same as AP courses. Currently there's been some positive movement with the Public school administration for this change. The University Center would like to find funding sources to cover costs of fees and books for concurrent students to help expand enrollment.

It was discussed that an annual fundraising goal of \$55,000 would be ideal. Strategies mentioned included developing a personal touch with fundraising, including one-on-one visits and personal phone calls, and recognizing donors. They also talked about an endowment program through lawyer's offices and brochures and improving the current mailing list and system.

Pat Hullet made a motion to approve adjournment. Louise Abercrombie seconded the motion. Abercrombie-yes, Bickle-yes, Bouldin-absent, Cantillon-yes, Evans-yes, Frazier-yes, Greenwood-absent, Hullet-yes, Seidel-absent.