REPORT OF THE ALUMNAE TRUSTEES

JUNE 2, 2018

The Wilson College Board of Trustees met this past year on October 20-21, 2017, February 16-17, 2018 and May 11-12, 2018.

This academic year represented our first opportunity to view the progress of the Wilson Today plan measured over a full four-year cohort. It was also our initial opportunity to assess the efforts aligned with Wilson’s new strategic plan, “Setting the Balance – Prioritizing the Student Experience.” The following are highlights of the College’s progress and activities as reported to the Board of Trustees:

This past year, Wilson welcomed its largest incoming class since 1966. The traditional undergraduate program had 553 students, the ADP program had 273, the graduate program had 258 and 132 students participated in Eduspire, an on-line program. With total enrollment at 1216 (adjusted to normalize the numbers, we now use a “full time equivalent” measure, and the FTE was 873), Wilson now has a student-faculty ratio of 12:1, well on its way to the goal of 13:1. We are seeing higher-quality applicants, as well. Factors that are contributing to the improved recruitment and enrollment include our nursing and veterinary medical technology programs, as well as the availability of an expanded athletics program.

Wilson offered a Rowland LEAP (Learning, Exploring, Achieving and Participating) program last summer, which is a bridge program to assist at-risk students in making the transition to college, which was funded by a Title III grant. It was a great success, as the 15 students who participated all completed their first year. Next year, it will expand to include 30 students.

The College launched a One-Stop Student Services Center, that co-located the business and financial aid offices, for more holistic service to students on financial issues. The College also moved its athletic competition to the Colonial States Athletic Conference, which will mean less time travelling for our student-athletes, and more games in areas in which the College actively recruits.

**Academics**

The College is continuing accreditation preparation work for the Middle States Review. It has also formed a Liberal Arts Review Committee to revisit our general education requirements, with a continual focus on providing a pathway for students to complete their Wilson degrees in four years.

It also has pursued articulation and dual enrollment agreements with a number of area high schools (allowing high school students to take college-level courses here) and with a local community college (to facilitate the transfer of their graduates to Wilson if they wish to complete four-year degrees).

The new Nursing Skills Lab (in the old Disert/Rosenkrans basement lounge) replicates an intensive care unit and is populated by high-tech robotic “patients” for whom nursing students and others in the health care field can provide monitored care.

**Buildings and Grounds**

Plans are moving forward to begin work on a new Veterinary Education Center. This is a critical initiative, one necessary to maintain accreditation of a key program. We are in the process of securing permits and approvals for the Vehicular Bridge Project that will connect the two parts of the campus and make the fields beyond the current small bridge more accessible and useable by the College community.

There was a burst pipe this past winter in the Boardroom that severely damaged the Boardroom that sits behind Patterson Lounge. None of the furniture, paintings or rugs in Patterson Lounge were damaged, although that space did incur some damage. Insurance will cover some of the costs of repair, but the College decided that this was an opportunity to upgrade these rooms as well. Work is ongoing to assess what we can do and at what cost.

The College has leased Henninger Field from the Borough of Chambersburg and is making some upgrades that are needed to enable it to meet NCAA standards. The field will be used by our baseball team.

**Institutional Advancement**

Giving to the Wilson Fund is down in 2018, the first year in a while without a Lenfest Challenge. The current giving total is approximately $658,000.

Most of the funding for the Veterinary Education Center is secured or pledged. We are hopeful that the remaining $700,000 (of the $2.8 million cost) can be secured through donors.

**Finance/Audit**

Revenue and endowment returns are up, but so are expenses. On balance, financials are improving. We will be looking to replace a letter of credit that the College currently has with the Bank of America.

The College got a clear audit on its financials.

Compliance initiatives underway at the College include assessing and taking steps to meet the requirements of the European Union Data Protection Regulations (which apply to all residents of the European Union, including students from the EU studying here, students studying abroad in the EU, alumnae who live in the EU), assessing that we have appropriate cyber risk controls in place and appropriate liability insurance maintained by the College in case of a breach, and preparation for an overall review and assessment of the College’s policies and procedures in the employment area.

Following are highlights of the actions taken by the Board over this past year:

The Board approved a new Masters in Education in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, preparing students with skills that will be needed by an expanding swath of our community.

The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and the Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Budget, as well as the funding for the Veterinary Education Center. The Board also authorized the College to replace the letter of credit that it has with the Bank of America.

For the school year that will begin in the fall of 2018, the Board approved maintaining the current tuition rates for the 8th straight year, and a two percent increase in the charges for housing and board. For the school year that will begin in the fall of 2019, the Board approved a three percent increase in tuition with no increase in housing or board charges. Currently, the tuition for a full-time traditional student is $23,745 (it will increase to $24,457), housing is $5,500 and board is $6,094.

Alumnae Trustee Sarah Weikert Wilson ’10 resigned from service in that capacity because she accepted a teaching position at Wilson College. Sue Ann Morin Cook ’81 replaced her for the remainder of her term. Lynne E. DiStasio ’74 concluded her service as Alumnae Trustee. Upon her election by the Alumnae Association, Maxine Lesher Gindlesperger ’98 will join the Board as an Alumnae Trustee.

Retiring from the Board are Trustees Sheldon Goettal, James A. Smeltzer and Pamela Francis Kiehl ’66. Nirmal Joshi resigned from the Board. The Board reelected incumbent Trustees Christopher Gable, Lisbeth S. Luka ’69, and James Orsini.

The Board elected Dr. Linda E. Krach ’74 and Dr. William P. Kiehl (Pamela’s husband) as Trustees.

The Board elected Barbara L. Tenney ’67 as Chair, J. Samuel Houser as Vice Chair, Lisbeth S. Luka ’69 as Secretary and Mary Jo Maydew as Treasurer for the upcoming year.

The Board named Marguerite Brooks Lenfest ’55 as Trustee Emerita.

Most importantly, the Board of Trustees approved the conferring of degrees on May 13, 2018 at its 148th Commencement. Degrees awarded included:

Master of Accounting 2

Master of Education 68

Master of Education Technology 4

Master of Fine Arts 6

Master of Arts in Humanities 8

Master of Science in Nursing 25

Bachelor of Arts 26

Bachelor of Science 64

Associate of Arts 2

Respectfully submitted

Lynne E. DiStasio ‘74

Sue Ann Morin Cook ‘81

Judith C. Grove ‘74

Alumnae Trustees