

Board of Visitors- November 1, 2013
Legislative Advocacy Committee

Members Present:

Ed Reeder
Susan Mills
Frank Gentry
Steve Wyatt
Reba Moretz
Mary Elizabeth Barwick
Virginia Parker
Laura Aiken
Jonathan Kappler
April Kappler
Bob Hatley
Four Eggers

Laura Aiken called the meeting to order at 10:02. Introductions around the table seeing as there are several new members. April Kappler moved to accept the minutes; Four Eggers seconded. The minutes were approved.

Susan McCracken provided a review of the action of the NC General Assembly during the 2013 session and described legislation that directly impacted the UNC system. Highlights she mentioned included an overall budget reduction of 4.7% which was generally offset at Appalachian State University with tuition revenue and enrollment growth funding; a 6% legislatively mandated increase in out-of-state tuition 2014-15 for undergraduate students; \$2 million in planning for the college of health sciences building; a bill allowing attorneys to represent student in Student Conduct Hearings passed; and another bill allows concealed carry permit holders to have handguns in locked cars on campus.

Susan then provided an update on how the planning dollars for the college of health sciences will be used. We are the only campus to receive planning dollars for capital and no planning has been funded since 2009. Appalachian is working with a consultant to explore how a public private partnership could finance the construction of the building. Our goal is to have a more comprehensive design and finance plan to convey to legislator and BOV members before the next meeting.

Susan talked about the interim before the short session. She will be meeting with members in their districts. Several legislators have come to football games. Susan encouraged the BOV committee members to spend time with their local members. Committee members expressed their concern about Appalachian remaining at the bottom of the UNC system schools in terms of funding per FTE. They asked about how to generate more support for Appalachian from the Board of Governors' members. Committee members shared that they do not hear negative comments about Appalachian but rather the opposite – that we are spending wisely and using resources wisely.

In close, Susan reinforced the message that securing funding for the college of health sciences remains a critical priority. She encouraged committee members to begin working on relationships now, before the short session begins.

The meeting adjourned 10:49am.