

**Board of Trustees
2009-2010
End of the Year Report
Professor Phil Lonergan, PSU Art Department**

I want to open by giving my impressions of some of the problems with this observer position. The main issue is that most of the work for the Board of Trustees happens in committees. The BOT has five main committees: Audit, Executive, Financial Affairs, Investments, and Programs/Services. You can read more about the committees here: <http://www.usnh.edu/bot/committees.shtml>. Most of the work gets done in these committees. As a result, at the big Board meetings, there is very little actual business conducted. While voting does take place at these meetings, most policy changes are shaped and determined long before these final votes. Besides voting, most of what happens here involves showcasing of the school sites where each meeting takes place. When we met at PSU, for example, Barbara Lopez-Mayhew discussed one of her new courses, and students involved in that course—on Italian culture—performed songs for our BOT group.

My point here is that the kind of information that is transmitted at these meetings is not, in my opinion, as relevant as the business that transpires in the committees. I believe that the Steering Committee, in conjunction with our Administration and the new BOT faculty rep, should consider removing this observer position and replacing it with observers to one or more of the above committees. On the rare occasions that important work was mentioned in these larger general meetings, it was almost always in reference to a committee report that I never received. I don't mean to imply that this observer position is a waste of time, but simply that our valuable faculty time might be better spent in the committees.

I will conclude with a brief summary of the most recent meeting we had (4/29 at KSC), since I have received some direct questions from faculty who thought there might be important issues discussed that would have relevance for some of our current campus conversations. At this meeting, the KSC HR department talked about how involving HR at all different levels could help meet the needs of the college. The director of HR at Keene gave as one example the fact that she could keep track of faculty demographics which could help the Provost and President plan budgets and make hiring plans. She talked about how HR should be involved early in all building plans, too, since the cost of staffing of buildings (not just faculty and administration, but cleaning crews, etc) is something that needs to be calculated from the beginning.

There were also motions related to tax exemption (and renovation of the new PSU art gallery at 34 Highland Street, by the way) , deferred maintenance, capital budgets, and a renovation to Smith Hall at UNH (you can read more about these motions at <http://www.usnh.edu/bot/documents/Agenda042910.pdf>). They were all passed unanimously with virtually no discussion, which shows that all of the work on these issues had been done in advance.

Finally, the Presidents gave their reports electronically. The PSU report will be highly familiar to faculty. It is virtually the same one that President Steen sends out electronically every month, mainly focusing on faculty and student achievements. You can read all of these reports including PSU's at http://www.usnh.edu/bot/documents/Presidents_Reports042910.pdf.

I welcome any additional questions, either privately by email at plonergan@plymouth.edu, or at the next faculty meeting. I appreciate the privilege of having served as a representative for our faculty this year.

2009-2010 REPORT TO PSU FACULTY

USNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Yvette J. Lazdowski, DBA, CMA, CFM
2009-2010 Faculty Observer

The Financial Affairs Committee (FAC) met several times during the academic year to discuss issues related to fiscal decisions such as future planning, current operations, review of financial data, and the annual audit. The agenda of each meeting often covered several of these topics, thus this report will be a summarization of the general topics discussed. Based on existing national and local economic conditions, the FAC made decisions in a cautious and prudent manner. Some of the key issues included:

1. **ANNUAL AUDIT REVIEW:** The audit was performed and results were presented by USNH administration and PriceWaterhouseCoopers. The system received a "clean" opinion and appreciation for providing all necessary information in a timely manner. The audit emphasized that the operating margin needs to remain in the 3-5% range, and this is an area of concern given the potential of shrinking revenues and inevitable continuation of cost increases at all campuses.
2. **CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FUND RAISING:** These issues were discussed as they pertained to the various institutions. The PSU ALLWell Ice Arena project is proceeding as planned and the FAC is supportive and enthusiastic that the arena will be a valuable addition to the PSU campus and community. Fund raising efforts continue to be an area of focus at all the universities, particularly towards annual gifts from alumni.
3. **MERCER REPORT AND PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE:** The Mercer Report was prepared to establish a baseline analysis of current benefits. This fact-finding mission enables the FAC to have comprehensive information to make judicious decisions on these important issues. The public higher education update provided key data that will be used to manage fiscal challenges in future years.

My overall sense is the FAC is very concerned about the increasing cost of maintaining the USNH institutions so we may all continue to provide a quality educational experience for our students. As an

accountant concerned with the financial details, I feel confident the FAC is working very hard in the best interest of everyone involved in the USNH system. They are moving carefully through complex financial issues that affect all of us and remain focused on affordable tuition for students and their families, as well as respecting the faculty's concerns. I believe we are in good hands, and need to remain calm and patient during these challenging fiscal times.