

Chairpersons interviewed on presidential search, salaries

BY VICTOR LOPEZ
STAFF WRITER

Students protested outside of the Community Center on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 22, while the board of trustees met inside to vote on various business matters of Guilford College.

The protestors' message: our faculty pay issues must be addressed. There is no way, the signs said, that Guilford's professors should be ranked dead last among peer colleges.

During a break, some trustees trickled out and engaged students in conversation before they were called back in to vote on matters that affect students.

Regardless of unhappy students or underpaid faculty, the band played on.

The trustees gave the green light for administrators to figure out what would need to be cut should enrollment meet a bare minimum requirement. During the last round of reductions, several adjunct and staff positions were cut.

The Board also confirmed the tenure of two professors and raised tuition and room and board by three percent. Additionally, at the request of the CCE SGA, student activity fee for the adult population was raised by \$15.

According to the Vice President for Finance Greg Bursavich, the

amount and percentage of any salary adjustments will depend on the actual enrollment in Fall 2014 and the enrollment anticipated for Spring 2015.

So for now, where finances and layoffs are concerned, much is still up in the air.

Following the meeting, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees Joseph M. Bryan Jr. and Chairperson of the Presidential Search Committee Carole Bruce sat down with The Guilfordian for a brief Q&A.

Q: What can you tell me about pay inequality? You have read The Guilfordian and can agree, I'm sure, that faculty are an important part of this institution — why is it that we are dead last among our peers?

Bryan Jr.: I have no intention of going out and talking to (the protestors). The board has been made aware that salaries are the first priority in the worse case. This is really not a board issue. This is something we entrust to the administration of the College. The budget committee recommends to the president, and he in turn makes his recommendations to us.

Bruce: Faculty is our biggest cost. If we budget deficits in order to raise salaries, we will eventually run out of money. You have to remember that we have

been contending with the \$2.5 million in funding cuts. That is a lot of money to lose.

Bryan Jr.: There have been many small liberal arts colleges that have gone belly up. That is what we are trying to avoid here. Higher education all over is facing financial issues.

Q: What can you tell me about the presidential search?

Bruce: I think the entire board is very satisfied with the applicants. We have over 92 very qualified professionals to choose from.

Q: Can you clarify what "qualified" means?

Bruce: The applicants have read what the community is looking for, and not only understand, but also are enthusiastic about the ethos of the College. Our next president will value the Quaker values of the College, its testimony, programs such as Principled Problem Solving; and the person accepting the position will have a full understanding of Guilford. I should also add that the board approved a hybrid interviewing process should it be requested. I speak for the entire board when I say it is only if needed.

We would essentially create a small proxy group for the various college constituencies (students, faculty, staff, alumni,



On Feb. 20., chairman of the Board of Trustees **Joseph M. Bryan Jr.** spoke to the community along with other board members at the town hall meeting.

board of visitors) sworn to confidentiality to interview the trustee. The hybrid interviewing would only be done if it were impossible to interview otherwise. We want the process to be as open as possible.

Bryan Jr.: We are pushing for

\$5.3 million dedicated to campus IT plan will create new learning spaces

BY JAKE DELAHANTY
STAFF WRITER

What would you do with \$5.3 million? Guilford College's answer: pour the money into a new information technology plan, which was finalized this month.

Assistant Academic Dean for Academic

Support Barb Boyette, a member of both the Technology Advisory Committee and the IT Plan Subcommittee, gave an overview of the IT plan.

"It is a plan designed to direct how things will grow with our IT infrastructure and with our use of it over the years," said Boyette in an email interview.

Associate Professor of Music Kami Rowan, a member of the same committees, explained what this new IT plan means for the College.

"The biggest thing I think (the plan) will bring (to Guilford) is a greater focus on technology," said Rowan in an email interview. "We can't be in a time where technology drives our culture and thrive as an institution without it."

Chief Information Officer of Information Technology & Services Craig Gray has been in charge of driving and designing this IT plan for two years.

"The largest expenditure of money and effort center on two significant goals: shoring up the technological infrastructure at the institution so that we can build a platform strong enough to support innovation in the classroom and empowering the evolution of teaching and learning through technology," said Gray in an email interview.

Gray elaborated on what all this means for students.

"I think what the students will see is the same sort of incremental improvements that have been ongoing over the last two years in terms of wireless Internet and the College's infrastructure," said Gray. "More importantly, I think it means students will see more technological focus in the classroom, more consistency and more learning opportunities."

But where is the money going?

The IT plan itself answered this in detail.

According to the new plan, the "majority of the investment, 51 percent, is for infrastructure and capacity upgrades, 32 percent is focused on teaching and learning, and 17 percent is for administrative systems and human support."

The IT plan also outlined that \$675,000 of the \$5.3 million will be spent on a 10 Gig Fiber Optic Project. \$400,000 will be spent on a Wireless Build-out and \$195,000 will be spent on a Storage Area Network.

The goal is that, although a lot of these major changes might not appear flashy, they will seriously enhance the school.

Early College senior Akosua Bekoe expressed her reaction to the plan.

"I believe this a good idea because traditional classroom settings limit the kind of learning that can take place," Bekoe said. "With more technology, the possibilities can be endless."

Senior Gretta Eller hopes the plan will not hinder the College's traditional learning environment.

"As long as this (plan) doesn't take away from the professor-to-student interaction, I think it could be a great addition to the school," Eller said. "This old-school approach to learning is one of the main reasons I came to Guilford."

Guilford is moving forward with this new plan in hopes that it will help keep the College modern and competitive in a world dominated by technology.

