

UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2019

Attendees

Andrew Benton	Connie Horton	Deryck van Rensburg
Paul Caron	Lee Kats	Mark Roosa
Richard Cupp	Rick Marrs (chair)	Jonathan See
Stewart Davenport	Pete Peterson	Helen Williams
Michael Feltner	Jeff Pippin	
Rick Gibson	Steven Potts	
Gary Hanson		
Keith Hinkle		
Judy Ho		

Absent

John Mooney
Phil Phillips
Joan Singleton

Observers

Lisa Bortman	Marnie Mitze
Darren Good	Jody Semerau
Ildiko Hazak	

I. Call to Order and Devotional

Provost Marrs called the University Planning Committee meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. on May 15, 2019, in the Seaver Board Room at Pepperdine University - Malibu campus. President Benton presented devotional thoughts.

Helen Williams and Mark Roosa moved and seconded approval of the minutes for March 20, 2019, which were adopted.

II. Reflections on Two Decades of Presidential Leadership in Higher Education

President Andrew Benton began by sharing the critical points in his presidency. President Benton commented that he loved every minute of his presidency. He served as Executive Vice President for nine years at Pepperdine. On December 7, 1999 Pepperdine University's Board of Regents announced that Andrew Benton would become the seventh president of Pepperdine University. President Benton reflected that at the time he needed to speak to the students and he had to grab the

attention of faculty. President Benton brought up the importance of raising money, diversity, good progress, heritage, scholarship, life of faculty members, community and the importance of warmth of this university. When Andrew Benton got elected as president, Pepperdine's relationship with Church of Christ needed to be strengthened. Under his presidency, Pepperdine built the Center for Communication and Business building in 2002. Pepperdine raised the money for the building construction. President Benton noted that it was a good move for Seaver college. Then, the University built the Drescher Graduate Campus in 2003. President Benton commented that it was a bold move to build Drescher. Pepperdine borrowed \$65 million to build Drescher. President Benton commented that Pepperdine raised \$354 million during the time of the worst recession. Altogether \$470.8 million was raised through the Campaign for Pepperdine.

President Benton continued that in 2006 Pepperdine had a weak alumni association. Chris Grimm helped President Benton to come up with the Alumni Leadership Council. Pepperdine needed a new view and it was time to make a change.

President Benton recalled that in 2008 he received a letter stating that he will be able to receive the University's funds but not on the schedule. President Benton explained that Pepperdine put money into a fund and got a good short-term interest rate. He received the letter that Pepperdine can have the money but not on the schedule that was planned. After receiving this news, Pepperdine had to cut 10% of the operating budget. There was no complaint. People understood that it was a serious and tough time.

President Benton continued that during his presidency, Pepperdine did achieve exceptional growth. During President Benton's tenure Pepperdine opened new campuses in Lausanne, Shanghai, Argentina and Washington, DC.

President Benton noted that previous president, David Davenport, never wanted dissidence. In 2001 Pepperdine started the University Faculty Council (UFC). President Benton noted that he wanted to accomplish more. President Benton also commented on dealing with the LGBTQ community. He noted that Churches of Christ is conservative and this issue cannot be ignored. President Benton commented that Pepperdine has to continue to move to better communication. There were a lot of issues regarding social engagement in 2015. Student leaders did a protest at that time. President Benton commented that the next president needs a game plan regarding social engagement.

Finally, President Benton posed the following question: "How have I changed in two decades?" President Benton stated that he was an introvert and judgmental. According to the Myers-Briggs Personality Type Indicator, President Benton now is less introvert and more

feeling. He noted that he has taken himself out of the judging business. He will leave it to God to judge.

President Benton continued that he decided in 2015 to step down and announced his decision in 2018. He gave the Board of Regents plenty of time to search for a new president. President Benton said that he wanted to do it for the right reasons. He wanted to announce it the right way, at the right time and under the right circumstances. President Benton commented that he is much at peace. He is running toward a grandson. He is not running away from anything.

Provost Marrs commented that this is a year of a lot of lasts. Provost Marrs continued that he has been in a lot of meetings together with President Benton. Provost Marrs commented that when he attended the Provost conference, one of the topics was the following: How do you introduce the president? It was the most challenging question. Provost Marrs noted that he felt that they were always colleagues. He never thought of President Benton as the boss. Provost Marrs noted that great leaders have the ability to listen. President Benton always listened. He is a students' president. Provost Marrs shared that he and President Benton interviewed every tenure track faculty. They were interviewing for fit not credentials. Provost Marrs thanked President Benton for everything he did for Pepperdine. Rick closed the meeting with a prayer.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m. The next meeting of the University Planning Committee will convene at 8:30 a.m. on September 18, 2019 in the Seaver Board Room.