

Dear All,

There is still some dust settling after last Friday's admission response deadline, and there will no doubt be further shifts between now and the tuition responsibility deadline (May 31) and then again until school opens. I am, however, very pleased to report that we have, at the moment, a new sixth grade class of 166 students, with the possibility of a few more still to come as we continue to aim for 170 sixth graders each year. This news is one of the pieces of data needed as we prepare the budget and contracts for next year. It means that we can continue to move towards sustainable endowment spending, ahead of the plan I've shared with departments, without cutting programs, salaries, and only decreasing positions through consolidation. In addition, financial aid, as forecast, will also go up next year. Rather than meeting as many times in small departmental groups as I did after we adopted the five-year budget plan, I'll offer a general meeting for all those interested soon after this year's budget process is complete.

There is still work to do on two counts before issuing contracts:

- 1) Analyzing budget requests (which came in higher than normal this year). This work is also a bit more complicated this year as we finish the shift to a new general ledger; the good work of the business office on this will greatly aid our financial analysis in the years ahead.
- 2) Finishing work with clearer job descriptions and with professionalizing the contracts we send out each year. (This in response to the feedback we've received from employees for greater clarity and equity about these matters, particularly in regard to 5th responsibilities for those teaching in 8-9 and 10-12.)

I'll have news on this work when we meet next week, Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> in Simms. I then plan to start sending contracts, first to full-time faculty, then part-time, followed by administrators. I'll also share what I can about the academic and business administrative restructuring underway and its timing. One thing I can share about this right now: we've taken a close look at the work load of our division heads and deans with students and families, recognizing the challenge and importance of this work. As a result, we will be providing more resources in this area next year - - stay tuned for more details to come on this.

For now, though, a round of applause to the admission department, all those who assisted in admission events, and everyone on campus creating such a positive and useful set of experiences for our students and families!

Thanks,

Andy