



Board of Trustees
COLLEGE HALL
800 FLORIDA AVE. NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002-3695

October 12, 2009

Dear Campus Community:

As the Board of Trustees meets this week to select the 10th president of Gallaudet University, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who is part of the Gallaudet community for participating in the process. We expect to make an announcement about the decision on Sunday, October 18, in Swindells Auditorium.

In particular, I would like to commend the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC) for their fine work. This group, led by Trustee Jim Macfadden, included individuals nominated by every stakeholder group and selected by the Board from among these nominations. They are:

Leticia Arellano (Staff)
Lance Fischer (Alumni)
Leah Geer (Graduate student)
Christopher Kearney (Undergraduate student)
Nancy Kelly-Jones (Board of Trustees)
Irene Leigh (Faculty)
Pamela Lloyd-Ogoke (Board of Trustees)
James Macfadden (Chair of PSAC, Board of Trustees)
Sharrell McCaskill (Administration)
Lillie Ransom (Faculty)
Nanette Virnig (Clerc Center)
Frank H. Wu (Board of Trustees)

We also look forward to a successful transition from Dr. Davila's remarkable leadership. We are counting on the entire campus to be involved in orienting the new president and supporting him or her in the important task of implementing Gallaudet's Long Range Strategic Plan.

In this regard, I would like to encourage the Presidential Transition Advisory Committee (PTAC) as they begin their hard work. This group, led by Trustee Cheryl Heppner and faculty representative MJ Bienvenu as co-chairs, also includes individuals from every stakeholder group, selected by the board from nominations. They are:

Taye Akinola (Graduate Student)
Mark Amisshah (Administration)
David Armstrong (Administration)
MJ Bienvenu (Faculty)
Frank Duffy (Faculty)
Sherry Duhon (Staff)
Cheryl Heppner (Board of Trustees)
Justin Jackerson (Undergraduate Student)
Sean Virnig (Alumni)
Janet Weinstock (Clerc Center)
Frank H. Wu (Board of Trustees)

To recap where we are in the presidential search process and the final steps, the PSAC recommended four finalists and the Board decided to invite all of the finalists to campus for interviews. The presidential finalists are:

Dr. T. Alan Hurwitz

President, National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID)
Vice President/Dean of Rochester Institute of Technology for NTID

Dr. Roslyn Rosen

Director, National Center on Deafness at California State University, Northridge

Dr. Ronald J. Stern

Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer, New Mexico School for the Deaf

Dr. Stephen F. Weiner

Provost, Gallaudet University

This week, all of these four finalists will return one last time to meet with the Board. Following these meetings with the finalists, the Board will engage in deliberations to select the next president pursuant to the institutional by-laws.

The selection of the president is the most important responsibility of the Board. In addition to the interviews, the Board will have the benefit of the individual campus interviews and the feedback provided by all stakeholders based on those interviews. The Board also will have the benefit of confidential background checks.

Throughout the process, the Board has had the expert advice of Dr. Mike Baer, an experienced consultant with the Isaacson Miller search firm. I want to emphasize that the PSAC and the Board have made all of the decisions; Dr. Baer has only had a consulting role.

In the final stage of the process, the Board has reviewed any conflicts of interest in the presidential selection that may affect any trustee. The Executive Committee of the Board has followed a strict procedure of requiring that all trustees disclose any professional or personal relationships that may present a conflict, or even the appearance of a conflict, and it has followed up by interviewing individual trustees about their respective situations. As chair of the Board, I was subject to the same disclosure requirements, and my own situation was evaluated by the Executive Committee without my participation. One trustee has recused himself from all decision making related to the presidential selection. The three newly-appointed trustees have been asked to recuse themselves as well.

In closing, on behalf of the Board, I also wish to extend our appreciation and congratulations to Dr. Robert Davila, the 9th president of Gallaudet University, for his three years of distinguished service and leadership. We all look forward to the Gala celebration on December 5, 2009 to commemorate his tenure, as well as other festivities on campus.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Benjamin J. Soukup

Chair