



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

October 16, 2009

Dear Campus Community:

The Board of Trustees' fall meeting on Kendall Green has been an historic one for the University. In addition to discussing several important business matters that affect the University as part of our regular activities, the trustees have been involved in deliberations regarding the selection of Gallaudet's 10th president.

During our meeting, the trustees took several actions, including:

1. Election of officers for next year: Benjamin Soukup, chair; Frank H. Wu, vice chair; Tom Humphries, secretary; Cheryl Heppner and Harvey Goodstein, at-large members.
2. Appointment of James Payne, a member of Gallaudet's Board of Associates (BOA) since 1996, as chair of the BOA. He replaces John Yeh, who is stepping down as chair after serving in this role since the BOA's inception in 1991. The trustees also appointed a new member to the BOA, Andrea Custis, vice president of sales and local marketing for Verizon Telecom's Potomac Region.
3. Continuance of tuition and fees for the 2010-2011 academic year with no increase from 2009-2010.
4. Approval of assessment and attendance policies for the Clerc Center.

We welcomed Rachel Hartig as the new faculty representative to the Academic Affairs Committee. We also received numerous outstanding reports from members of the administration and campus community that provided valuable information on which to base our decisions. The board was pleased with President Davila's report on the progress the campus is making toward implementing the Long Range Strategic Plan (LRSP). The trustees were also encouraged by the news that the University is recruiting significantly more undergraduates and has one of the best freshman retention rates in the University's history! Our hats are off to our enrollment management team and to the faculty and staff for a job well done. It is clear to us that there is much more work ahead to ensure Gallaudet's long term viability and financial well-being. In the coming weeks we will be sharing more about the costs of the LRSP and the priorities we need to focus on to achieve our goals for a better and stronger Gallaudet.

I would also like to mention that during our time on campus this week, the Board of Trustees held an appreciation dinner for members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and a Distinguished Faculty luncheon honoring Jean Berube, a faculty member in the Department of Physical Education and Recreation who has 44 years of service to the University. The new board members also attended one and a half day orientation program.

Related to the selection process, a September 28 email message to the campus community announcing the appointments of trustees Claire Bugen, Jameson Crane, Jr., and Heather Harker stated that these new trustees would not be participating in the selection of the new president. I want to correct this statement. These outstanding new board members will have the same opportunity to participate in this important decision as their fellow trustees. They will have the same access to information collected on the four finalists, such as the survey results and comments from the various constituency groups, the video of the campus interviews, information on background checks, and statements from references. They also are subject to the same standards regarding conflicts of interest.

Today and during the next two days, the Board of Trustees will be interviewing and deliberating our choice for the University's next president. I hope you will be able to join us on Sunday afternoon for the announcement in Swindells Auditorium and the reception to follow in the atrium of the Kellogg Conference Hotel. If you are unable to attend, you can watch the live coverage at [psac.gallaudet.edu](http://psac.gallaudet.edu).

Thank you for your continued support of Gallaudet University.

Sincerely,  
**Benjamin J. Soukup**  
Chair