

Welcome to a new academic year and I hope that it is a good one for every faculty and staff member and for each student. In my visits to departments, I am excited and encouraged by the clear commitment to our students, to their education, and to our work in the classroom. Almost daily I receive compliments and kudos for staff and faculty from students, alumni, parents, other faculty/staff members or community members. Thanks to each of you for your good work. DePauw has much to be proud of and I am certain that the vast majority of colleges and universities in America would happily trade places with DePauw in a heartbeat.

That said, these are challenging times, particularly in higher education and I provide a brief update on administrative efforts to address those challenges.

I am happy to lead the collegiate effort in supporting state hate-crimes legislation for the state of Indiana. The Eli Lilly Company is taking the lead role in the business world and DePauw will serve that role in higher ed. Indiana is one of five states that does not have a hate-crime law and our leadership role in achieving this legislation will make Indiana safer for all members of the DePauw community and for all residents of our state . In the coming weeks, you will be asked to write to your state representatives to support this push. I hope you will do so.

We are facing a serious need to address student housing so in March, we formed a Student Housing Steering Committee comprised of staff, faculty, and trustees to examine housing needs. They selected the firm Mackey Mitchell to lead master planning and approved a more detailed vision for South Quad including the development of the Dells. An initial plan will be presented to the Board in October and detail design work has begun on the first structure which will replace Hogate Hall. This will be funded through a mixture of philanthropy and borrowing. You can expect more news on this front throughout the year and we are hopeful to see improved housing on campus soon.

The Campaign for DePauw is coming to an end with a June 30, 2019 close. With some hard work, a lot of philanthropy and a little luck, we may be able to make this the most successful campaign in DePauw's history. Our last campaign ended at \$376M and included the unexpected \$128M Holton gift. Even without a gift of that size, we are within shouting distance of that total. Many thanks to Steve Setchell and his team for the good work to get us across the finish line. I continue to meet regularly with alumni, donors and potential donors to secure a financially sustainable DePauw.

Finally, many thanks to those that attended Tuesday's budget info session. It is clear that like all of higher education, DePauw has fiscal challenges that are very real. Together, we can build a university of choice an distinction that is truly a great place to learn, live, and work. As we do so, we will call upon our shared values to light the way.

Thank you.