

Information Item 4

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees Report

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
October 2018 Report
Joseph B. Ryan, Ph.D.
Oct 19, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Members of the Board,

I am excited to assume the responsibilities as the *Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees*. This position represents an excellent opportunity to serve as a liaison to promote collaboration between the Trustees and faculty. To best address Clemson's future challenges and opportunities, it is critical that the faculty and Trustees work in unison to (a) achieve the University's long-term strategic goals, (b) establish an open dialogue to identify critical insights and questions that have the potential to significantly impact the University, and (c) improve the value of Clemson University for our students and the state of South Carolina.

As the faculty representative to the Board, I will strive to inform both the faculty and Trustees of each other's important roles and responsibilities. While both faculty and Trustees are experts within their respective areas, few are extremely knowledgeable or experienced in the culture and responsibilities of the other. Therefore, my objective for working with Trustees is to foster a deeper appreciation of the faculty's perspectives on specific issues under consideration and remind you of the value and prestige our faculty generate for the institution. For this initial report, I propose several recommendations to help (a) promote a culture of research productivity at Clemson and (b) ensure the BOT effectively utilizes faculty expertise in your decision-making process.

Promoting a Culture of Research

A consistent topic of discussion that faculty have addressed from across colleges has been the importance of promoting a culture of research at Clemson. Given that Clemson has recently achieved R1 status, I strongly recommend the University place an emphasis on increasing both the quality and number of doctoral students as well as post-doc positions within each college. These positions serve as a force multiplier in the area of research by increasing faculty scholarly productivity. One method to expand these positions is to establish a number of fellowships across disciplines that provide competitive stipends in line with other R1 universities.

As the University prepares to enter into the quiet phase of our next capital campaign, the focus of fundraising should not be limited to supporting scholarships, professorships and endowed chairs. Providing competitive fellowships will increase both the number and quality of doctoral students at Clemson and directly support our ClemsonForward goals. Doctoral fellowships will directly strengthen Clemson's ability to conduct high-caliber research, elevate scholarly impact and continue to build upon academic reputation as an R1 university.

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Utilize Faculty Expertise

As the faculty representative to the Board, I believe a critical responsibility of this position is to ensure the Trustees are provided with the most accurate information that reflects existing conditions on campus. This will help Board members make informed decisions regarding the future. After attending my first Board meeting this summer, it was apparent that many Trustees typically sought information regarding faculty perceptions from senior administrators, as opposed to the faculty members present (i.e., Faculty President, BOT Rep). My impression is that faculty could enrich the discussion and lead to better informed decision-making. Please feel free to reach out to me as a resource at any time. I am honored to represent the faculty of Clemson University and look forward to working with each of you in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Ryan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joseph B. Ryan, Ph.D.
Clemson University