



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1980

Class Agent
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Hello, Classmate!

This past Saturday, February 17, I attended the class agent forum at Wabash. (It was a lot colder with a lot more snow on the ground in Crawfordsville than it was back home in the Region. Go figure.) In addition to reconnecting with my fellow class agents and meeting some current Wabash students (always a pleasure), we spent a lot of time discussing alumni involvement and what we could do to keep you connected to what is going on at Wabash.

As per usual, President Scott Feller delivered some enlightening and encouraging remarks. He said that like many colleges and universities, Wabash is struggling with public perception. He was particularly concerned that somehow rejection is associated with quality, that an institution that accepts less than ten percent of students who apply must therefore be the best at educating. This perception makes Wabash look less appealing; nevertheless, we are distinctive, as we are one of the few remaining institutions that requires comprehensive exams to graduate and that personal responsibility among students (in the form of the Gentlemen's Rule) is paramount. President Feller cautioned against becoming a "transactional institution", where students expect good grades in exchange for paying high tuition and fees.

Wabash is in a tough environment regarding enrollment, as the number of men attending college has dropped significantly over the past several years. This makes recruitment more difficult, but Wabash is up to the challenge. President Feller cited the overnight visit that is encouraged among prospects as key to recruiting. On a positive note, Wabash is first among colleges and universities in Indiana in enrollment by young Latino men. Also, President Feller proudly pointed out that 98 percent of the students who were enrolled this past autumn returned for the spring semester.

On the positive side, President Feller noted that alumni engagement is very good. Wabash remains one of the elite institutions with forty percent of all alumni contributing to the College. (As a staff member said, "That institution thirty miles south does backflips when they hit twenty percent!") Wabash recently received its largest philanthropic grant ever: \$25 Million from Lilly Endowment. This will enable the College to begin the demolition and renovation of the Sparks Center, which will start in early June after Big Bash weekend.

Wabash's annual Day of Giving is April 24. We will keep you posted on how you can participate.



As a great cap to the day, that afternoon after the meeting Wabash defeated Wooster in basketball, thus securing the regular-season NCAC conference championship. Way to go, Little Giant ballers! WAF!

As always, I look forward to hearing from you, learning what is going on in your lives. Feel free to shoot me an email at wabashagent80@gmail.com.

Yours in Wabash,

Ken Williams
Class Agent, 1980