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Dear 59ers:

The winter Wabash Board meeting has just concluded and there is a lot of news. We managed to escape the worst threats of the recent tax reform legislation thanks to the efforts of Bob Grand '78 and others who managed to persuade VP Pence and the White House that a 1.4% tax on college endowments for colleges with at least \$250,000 endowment per enrolled student would be devastating to a number of small colleges. The origin of this proposal did not come from the WH but from the tax-writing committees of the Congress.

The cost of a Wabash education continues to rise. This year tuition is just above \$41,000 plus another \$10,000 for room and board. Although the latter figure varies with where the student lives. Interestingly, 11% of Wabash student families are able to contribute NOTHING to this cost. Another 43% of the families can contribute no more than \$5,000. Shockingly, those families who can contribute substantially to these costs are unwilling to do so. They shop around to get the most merit financial aid available.

As the College heads toward the 200th anniversary in 2032, there will be plans for fundraising efforts so that we will be as financially stable as possible.

One new element in the Wabash fundraising effort is the emphasis on the role of women as donors. This past fall we welcomed the first woman to the Wabash Board of Trustees.

Jennifer Evans is the mother of Jack Montgomery '16 and is serving on the Board's Long Range Fundraising Committee. She is a cum laude graduate of Cal (Berkeley) and holds an MBA from the Kellogg School of Northwestern University. She has been in leadership positions at Continental Bank in Chicago (VP), Citibank in New York (VP) and Citizens Fidelity Bank in Louisville (VP). She has been active in a number of non-profit organizations and served as director of Economic Development for the City of Louisville. She is married to Jack Tankersley, who is co-founder and Managing Director of Meritage Funds, a venture capital fund. She resides in Denver, CO.

Jennifer has already contributed substantially to plans for the future of Wabash by emphasizing the need to attract more women as donors. Wives, mothers, sisters and female friends of Wabash have enormous potential as donors. Jennifer will lead this effort to tap the largest source of family wealth in America.

President Hess concluded his presentation to the Board with a stunning revelation. Wabash ended its football season with a thrilling victory over DePauw and leads in the all-time series. But DePauw leads Wabash in endowed professorships 45-13! When you hear from the College be understanding, be supportive, and be generous.

Sincerely,

Robert (BOB) Wedgeworth,
Roger Billings and Craig Green
Class Agents