

Senate Council
April 18, 2011

Proposed Questions for Preferred Presidential Candidate (received thus far)

1. What is your sense of the roll of the humanities in twenty-first century higher education, and especially in a flagship, R I, land-grant university like UK?
2. The consultant hired by the UK Board of Trustees took a list of "peer" universities and suggested that UK's president be paid at the median of those universities' presidents. The UK faculty, who have not had a raise since the 2007-2008 academic year, are ranked at, or very near, the bottom of the pay scale of those "peer" universities. Do you feel that the president of UK should be paid at the median of its peer universities while the faculty are paid at the bottom, or that the university president should be paid at the same relative level as its faculty is paid?

Quite frankly, I doubt that the candidate will actually give an answer to this question, but it should get the point across to him about the animosity toward the BOT resulting from their policy of continually hiking the president's salary while the faculty and staff are completely overlooked and ignored.

3. I have observed the fairly rapid evolution of our University from a broad-ranging institution respecting all disciplines to one dominated by two drives: 1) The sports dynasty, largely located at the edge of campus, but not at the edge of attention, and 2) the vast empire dedicated to the health fields, including Pharmacy, Medicine, Dentistry, various clinics and other institutes.

The 'health' empire is located near the south of main campus. The 'sports' dynasty is located across Cooper from the main campus, but focused on just north of Avenue of Champions.

Between these wonderfully financed and developed two bookends lies the neglected core, that which truly identifies a university. People in general don't see this divergence yet, let alone regret it, but our leaders must be people who understand the need for a dominant intellectual core, from Agriculture, English, Mathematics, Engineering, and Science, together with other important thrusts.

This vital campus core should not be taken for granted! We need attention, and soon.