

President Belton's Comments to Board of Regents and University Assembly

February 2019

I would like to take the opportunity to briefly update you on the progress we've made as an institution in just two years.

We've gone from:

The early stages of the Faculty Joint Committee which was opening seeking direction and a campus overcome with general anxiety to

Achieving the vast majority of FJC Savings, a plan to accomplish the rest by 2021, leadership actively working on ancillary recommendations and a new found sense of creativity and entrepreneurial approach amongst the faculty

From a \$3M budget deficit and reactionary solutions

To two years of balanced budgets, transparency and a Budget Advisory Committee made up of faculty, staff and students making thoughtful, strategic recommendations and challenging PC (President's Council) to make the hard decisions necessary to support salary parity and fiscal sustainability

From news stories about KPLU, Football Coaches and Financial Problems

To news stories about the PLU Pledge, Significant Grants and Program Accolades and Theater advertising that messages the great things we do because we are Pacific Lutheran University

From a plant fund deficit and no real sense of priorities for the campus

To the Center for Student Success and much needed Library upgrades, a potential nursing expansion and a renewed focus on wellness facilities, third spaces and classrooms.

From an overly broad vision that arguable didn't focus on what truly are our distinguishing advantages

To preparing to deliver a concrete, actionable and measurable draft strategic plan for our next president by the May board meeting

Two years ago we were going through a presidential transition

And now we are, well... preparing for a presidential transition

But times have changed, and you can comfortably share with presidential candidates that the people of PLU have spent the last two years paving the way for their success.

I couldn't be prouder of the work our faculty, staff, students leaders and administrators have done to move this place forward...

So if you like what you see, if you want PLU to continue on its current trajectory...

Do your level best to select a president who will value, trust and put faith in the ability of this cast of characters who have and continue to do the heavy lifting.