February 28, 2019

Friends,

We have important news to report! Earlham’s Board of Trustees and the senior administration of the College listened to the concerns expressed by many football alumni about the process the College was using to raise funds to sustain the football program and, at its February meeting, decided to make significant changes to the fundraising effort.

One of the primary objections raised had to do with the stipulation that we needed to raise $300,000 in cash by March 30, 2019, and $600,000 in pledges payable over the next two years. Any cash gifts received toward these goals would be redirected to other campus priorities if the fundraising goals were not met.

The Board heard your concerns and made the following important changes to the fundraising process effective immediately.

First, in addition to cash gifts, pledges will now be counted toward both the initial $300,000 fundraising goal as well as the goal of securing an additional $600,000 in commitments for the following two years. As you will see from the new pledge card, donors now have the option to pledge an initial gift to the project, in addition to pledging for two subsequent years. Importantly, if the fundraising goal is not met, all pledges will be voided.

Second, the board, in consultation with the administration, decided to extend the fundraising deadline to June 1, 2019, in response to the desire that the football program have an opportunity to return in 2020. This will allow the Football Review Committee (FRC) the time to complete their overview of the program and share their findings with the President. This also gives the College more time to reach football alumni and secure your support of the effort. If the deadline were to be extended beyond June 1, 2019, there would be no possibility of the football program returning in 2020.

Make no mistake – there is still a great deal of urgency to this fundraising effort. The sooner we secure the funds necessary to continue football at Earlham, the sooner we can begin the process of hiring new coaches who can begin recruiting the next generation of players to the College.

Because of this urgency, Earlham has decided upon the following process moving forward. Following the review of the FRC findings, if the decision is made to pursue the reinstatement of football and if the fundraising goal is met – i.e. pledges for an initial gift reach $300,000 and pledges for support over the ensuing two years reach $600,000 – donors will be asked to fulfill their pledges for their initial gift within thirty days. If donors fulfill their pledges as promised – a very important part of this equation – Earlham will then be able to begin the hiring process needed to restart Quaker football at the earliest possible date.

We hope that this change in process, and the guarantee that any gift you make will go to sustain the Earlham football program, will encourage you to rally and donate to this most important undertaking.

As always, feel free to contact Stan Hill in the Office of Institutional Advancement at hillst@earlham.edu with any questions or concerns you may have.

Go Quake!

Ian Henry ’01
Gerry Cooper ’62
Stanley D. Hill ’93

Mark Meyer ’73
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