

July 11, 2022

To the Washburn Community:

This morning, the Board of Regents met to discuss the two search firms we were considering to assist us in the search for Washburn University's next president. At our last meeting, we started with proposals from four firms and narrowed the list to AGB Search from Washington, DC and WittKieffer from Oak Brook, Illinois.

Four board members met to hear presentations from both firms. There was a good deal of conversation and question/answer period with both entities. We reported back to the full board at this morning's meeting. While both firms were strong contenders, the board agreed that WittKieffer was the better fit for Washburn and for this search. We were particularly impressed with their plan to gather information from stakeholders and appreciated their robust, well-rounded approach. Additionally, they provided a realistic approximate time frame, had broad experience conducting searches in higher education and other industries, and a noted number of hires of females and people of color. We will now move forward to finalize a contract with WittKieffer.

The Board continues to work on the composition of the search committee that is inclusive of the campus and broader community. We have had preliminary discussions about the appointment of an interim president. We know that the search process will continue beyond Dr. Farley's tenure in the office and candidates are being considered.

After our agreement is finalized with WittKieffer, we expect to update our timeline with more exact dates. Look to the presidential transition website for further information as we move forward. Our next meeting will be Thursday, July 28, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Kansas Room of the Memorial Union.

We continue our work on this important hire and appreciate everyone's support and interest.

Shelly Buhler, chair

Washburn University Board of Regents