The Board of Trustees met on Friday, April 30 in the Howell Board Room. The spring meeting began with the annual organizational session for the Trustees. This included the re-election for three-year terms of Ken Calkins, Luis Faura, Richard George, James Long, Tad Lowrey, Greg Petersen, Steve Reenders and David Shively; and the yearly election of officers—Luis Faura, Chair; Ken Calkins, Vice Chair; Ann Quay Davis, Secretary—and Executive Committee members Ben Harris, Mark Hicks, James Long, Tad Lowrey, Sue Searing and Don Wilson. Also re-elected were Diana Towles as Assistant Secretary and Avo Kechichian as Treasurer, and Trustee Committees were approved for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Professor Trish Long and Professor Richard Rose presented the Draft Strategic Plan for Diversity to the Trustees. Their report highlighted the work of the President’s Working Group and the components of the proposed plan, summarized the proposed initiatives for the 2010-2011 year and reported on their meetings with the various La Verne constituencies. Professors Long and Rose reported that the Working Group will continue to refine the plan and bring a revised document to the Board in the fall. The Trustees enthusiastically endorsed the continuing work to finalize the Draft Strategic Plan for Diversity, approved the proposed initiatives for 2010-2011 and thanked the Working Group for its efforts. The draft plan can be accessed via our web at: http://sites.laverne.edu/strategic-plan-for-diversity/.

ASULV President and Student Representative to the Board, Noor Wahba, reported on the students’ spring activities including the ASULV elections, recent Greek Week events, a May concert performed by Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, and CramJam—bigger and better—a finals event. The Trustees thanked Noor for her leadership and for her reports.

Professor Jack Meek, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, highlighted learning events noting the Benazir Bhutto/Ahmed Ispahani Lecture featuring Dr. Arun Ghandi, Ivan Misner’s “Networking like a Pro”, the Afghanistan & State Building Symposium, and Faculty Book and Research Days. Dr. Meek noted there continue to be multiple opportunities for positive dialogue between administration and faculty provided by our faculty governance structures, some of which include the Educational Effectiveness Committee, Budget Advisory Task Force (BATF), Provost Café, Faculty Senate, Faculty Assembly and Senate Executive Committee meetings with the President’s Executive Council.

Provost Greg Dewey introduced Allen Easley, Dean of the College of Law, who reported that the College has received the written report from the ABA visiting team. The report is positive and the College will respond with corrections of fact and updates on improvements made since the Team’s visit in February. Representatives from La Verne, including Chairman Faura, will appear before the ABA Accreditation Committee in Washington, D.C. on June 25. The Committee’s recommendation will be sent to the ABA Council for their meeting in San Francisco in early August. Dean Easley reported that the process continues on track.

Greg Dewey presented a report to the Trustees recapping the written report that has been received from the WASC visiting team. He reviewed their key recommendations regarding diversity, a unified vision and the administrative structure of the University. The Board was
informed that all three issues are under review and work plans to address the concerns are in progress and are being discussed in a variety of forums.

Greg updated the Board on the collaboration with the Claremont Graduate University on the B. Sc. in Community Health. Greg reported that the courses for the new major had been developed and these new courses are currently under review by the Curriculum Review Committee. Following approval of the program by the Committee, the program would have to be approved by a vote of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Assembly. Greg reported that an articulation agreement at CGU for transfer of La Verne undergraduate Community Health courses into the CGU MPH program was in an advanced draft stage as was a Memorandum of Understanding with CGU. Pending approval of the Faculty Assembly, Greg would return to the Board in the fall for final program approval. He did request permission from the Board to move forward with the plans for this program and to pilot those community health courses that are approved by the Faculty Assembly. This permission was granted by the Board. This undergraduate degree program was endorsed at the meeting by La Verne faculty members Kent Badger and Jerome Garcia.

Greg requested and received approval from the Trustees to launch a joint degree program in Community Health with Claremont Graduate University. The program, which had been presented to the Trustees in their January meeting, has moved through the faculty governance structure and has been approved for a beginning date in the fall of 2010.

Trustee Ken Calkins and Provost Greg Dewey requested Trustee approval for faculty and administration recommended promotions, tenure, sabbaticals and emeriti status. The Trustees also approved recommendations for the awarding of honorary degrees to commencement speakers Sheriff Lee Baca and Irene Zubaida Khan. An honorary degree was also approved for Artist-in-Residence and Visiting Professor Georgij Paro.

Executive Vice President Phil Hawkey reported on the status of the proposed Water Campus to be developed on property south of Arrow Highway that is owned by the Metropolitan Water District. La Verne’s partner in the proposed project would be the Lewis Operating Corp. To date, the project is still in the proposal stage and is being reviewed by the MWD. Phil and Randall Lewis, a principle partner of Lewis Operating Corp., presented the update and answered the Trustees’ questions. The project, if accepted by the MWD, would provide facilities for water research and education in a joint effort that would include the University of La Verne and other educational and commercial entities.

Trustee Ken Little, Investment Committee Chair, presented the Committee’s annual report. The Committee oversees the University's Endowment, Trust and Annuity Funds, Notes and Real Estate, and Cash investments. The Committee reviews all investments quarterly and compares La Verne's results against industry benchmarks. Ken reported that 2009 was a dramatic improvement over 2008 with growth of 26.6% compared to the benchmark of 21.9%. While the University's endowment stands at a modest $30.6 million, the University's Cash investments range from ten to forty million dollars throughout the year.

Two important actions of the Trustees were the approval of the compensation package as presented by the chair of the Trustee Human Resources Committee, Ken Calkins, and the approval of the 2010-2011 budget, as presented by chair of the Trustee Finance Committee, Jim Long and Treasurer Avo Kechichian. The total budget for next year will be $126,715,384, an increase over this year of nearly $9 million. The increase in revenue is the result of tuition and fee increases and
enrollment growth in a number of programs. Although we have not surpassed past record enrollment numbers, and in spite of projected enrollment declines in several programs, Avo was pleased to note that next year’s increase in revenue is the largest in our history. The compensation increase package totals $3.17 million dollars. It includes a general increase of 2.1%, an equity increase for faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences, and market and equity adjustments for other faculty.

In addition to the general increase, classified and administrative/professional employees will receive market adjustments as a result of raising their minimum salaries from 86% of the market minimum to 87% of the market minimum. Longevity increases will be awarded to qualifying employees. Adjunct and Overload compensation will be increased by $200 per course beginning July 1, 2010. That represents an average increase of 7.6% per course.

Next year’s budget also provides funding for increases in contractual obligations and academic initiatives including those to meet the standards of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, American Bar Association, California Commission on Teacher Credentialing and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. We will fund 24 new and re-instated positions that include 13 faculty, five administrators and six classified, additional financial aid for students, increases in technology, and increases in operational expenditures.

This is an impressive budget and the Board expressed their appreciation to the Budget Advisory Task Force for their efforts and to Treasurer Avo Kechichian and his team for their work in assembling the 2010-2011 budget proposal. The Trustees approved the budget and compensation recommendations as presented.

Following the budget approval, Phil Hawkey reported on campus improvements. He announced the achievement of Silver LEED Certification for the Campus Center and outlined plans for the remodeling of Founders Auditorium. Phil also discussed plans to renovate Ortmayer Stadium and asked the Trustees to allocate funds from this year’s budget to fund the stadium renewal project. Reviewing the current master plan, Phil suggested that we need to begin planning for a new academic building as well as a new residence hall.

Trustee Ivan Misner, speaking on behalf of the Trustee Development Committee, reported that $1,083,500 has been raised for the auditorium renovation project, including The Ahmanson Foundation’s commitment of $250,000, announced just prior to the Board meeting. The project fundraising goal is $1.4 million. Ivan predicted success and asked that all Trustees commit to this endeavor.

Trustee Ken Calkins requested that the Trustees approve an update of the La Verne History. The last history of the University was published in 2000 and Ken suggested it should be revised through our 120th anniversary in 2011. Ken reported that Peggy Redman, Terrence Deal and Adeline Cardenas Clague have agreed to lead the task. The Trustees approved Ken’s request. The Trustees adjourned following a brief closed session.

La Verne Trustees contribute hundreds of hours to the work of the University each year and they lead La Verne’s fundraising efforts with their own commitment of resources. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented group providing leadership for La Verne’s endeavors.