

Paul H. Dixon
Trustee Report Dandelion Diatribe
April 6, 1998

Unedited Transcript

00;00;00;17 - 00;00;25;22

Paul H. Dixon

one of the things I like to do with you every after every board meeting is to give you an update on the decisions that were made and where we're going as a college. The academic committee had a very good meeting and as they interviewed prospective faculty and offered some contracts to some folks for next year, they also

00;00;26;09 - 00;00;43;05

Paul H. Dixon

granted some leave of absence and so forth. And so very positive time, some changes that were made in as we restructure the college into schools and also as we look at some other changes that need to take place academically.

00;00;44;01 - 00;01;10;13

Paul H. Dixon

We had a very good meeting with the Student Life Committee. one of the things that was presented. We have participated in a student satisfaction study comparing ourselves to the Christian College Coalition schools. I believe that 84 institutions participate in and out of that, we also did a comparison of a small group comparing us to Wheaton students, Taylor

00;01;10;13 - 00;01;31;03

Paul H. Dixon

students and Messiah students who would be comparable institutions with their commitment to academic quality and and things that they're trying to do. And so what you find from that is, is the student satisfaction. And I'll tell you it, it was just exciting to see the results of our student body.

00;01;31;28 - 00;01;51;22

Paul H. Dixon

We came in number one in student satisfaction with the library and all that's available with technology in the library. We also came in number one, the student satisfaction and career services. We also came in in the top five in numerous areas, and we're just very, very thrilled with the results.

00;01;51;22 - 00;02;10;01

Paul H. Dixon

So that helps us as we look towards the future. So Student Life Committee spent a good bit of time going over that with a lot of other things that they were considering. In the end, the development committee, our major study was where we're going with the fundraising, as they do every year.

00;02;10;18 - 00;02;24;26

Paul H. Dixon

We're having a record giving year to the general fund. I think we're up about 12% over last year. It looks like the Lord willing we will raise more dollars in the general operations than we ever have in the history of the college.

00;02;24;26 - 00;02;46;06

Paul H. Dixon

So my congratulations to Dr. Clark and to the Jeff Brock and to the development department. We also spend a lot of time talking about the Student Life Center and the architects came in. We're kind of past the bubble stage as to how it's all starting to form up and the more willing they hope to present an actual

00;02;46;06 - 00;03;05;26

Paul H. Dixon

layout of the building and some external renderings to the board in June so we can move forward. And so that by far, the all the completed drawings could be turned over to the contractor. The contractor can put it out to bid and we can vote next January on breaking ground immediately for the Student Life Center.

00;03;06;03 - 00;03;27;16

Paul H. Dixon

That would be available for the fall of 2000. So again, a lot of time spent on that and then on what we're calling our five year marketing plan and the five year marketing plan and the fall. Of course, the 98 opening the new Technology Learning Center, the renovated Old Chapel or Cedar Hall, that's going quite well and

00;03;27;16 - 00;03;49;24

Paul H. Dixon

lord willing in the fall of 99, opening a new dormitory. God willing in the fall of 2000. Opening the Student Life Center, which is going to be somewhere in the range. It's still to be settled on 115,000 to 130,000 square feet, about the same size as this facility, which will include the new dining commons or out looking

00;03;49;24 - 00;04;10;22

Paul H. Dixon

out over the lake and the new theater. And it will include just a lot of different things snack shops, student offices for the government, student government association, game rooms. A many, many things to help us. We have never had much of a student center, as you know, and this is going to really take us forward and I

00;04;10;22 - 00;04;30;10

Paul H. Dixon

know the students will enjoy it. So God willing, that would be in the fall of 2000 and then the Lord willing. And this is probably the if he is. But if we can pull it off by the year 2002 to bring online either a new athletic center with retrofitting the old athletic center into fitness and recreation or

00;04;30;10 - 00;04;50;07

Paul H. Dixon

a new fitness and recreation center. And so we're we're plugging along on those things. And apart from facilities, God willing faculty, board of Regents, everyone, it's possible we would be having in that five year span. A new graduate programs new distance, learning all kinds of things happening program wise.

00;04;50;20 - 00;05;10;27

Paul H. Dixon

And it's this is a major undertaking, but what's neat is to look back on the last five years and see what has been a. And then just to kind of mirror that and see God willing, what would happen in the next five years, and it's just thrilling to see what the Lord helps us to do in five

00;05;10;27 - 00;05;25;28

Paul H. Dixon

year increments. And I announce to the board that God willing, as Mrs. Dixon and I have prayed about this, we would like to. This is our 20th year. We'd like to stick around for another five years and see that five year plan through.

00;05;26;04 - 00;05;54;18

Paul H. Dixon

So that's kind of what we're planning to do, and we're excited about that as we look into the future. one of the things that. one of the things that we would always share with you is a college families, particularly the students, as it at this meeting that the board solidifies the budget for the next year, which is

00;05;54;18 - 00;06;12;18

Paul H. Dixon

9899. And so we are able to to tell you what it's going to cost next year. I know that always thrilled you and it's not one of my favorite things to do either. But here it is. This is the way the comparative analysis of what college costs are.

00;06;13;02 - 00;06;32;19

Paul H. Dixon

You can see what it will cost right on down the list at these other institutions and what they are going to do, how much they are going to be raising their costs. Every, you know, somewhere in the neighborhood of three and a half to four and a half to five and a half, some over six CityVille will

00;06;32;19 - 00;06;52;15

Paul H. Dixon

be right about where we have been for a number of years now at 5.43% and the total cost next year at roughly \$14,790. one of the things that I always do with you as a college family, I think, you know, I try to be transparent and open with you.

00;06;53;25 - 00;07;22;25

Paul H. Dixon

It is an excellent value and it is one of the lower costs. Accredited Christian liberal arts colleges. But I'll always preface that by saying, you know that we are not a heavy discount institution. And what that means is that in higher education today, discounting is a major factor they use to discount 20 to 25% of every institution

00;07;22;25 - 00;07;41;15

Paul H. Dixon

or every tuition dollar, which means they give that back in financial aid. And many college presidents, my friends say, Paul, you are not a 14,000 dollar institution, you're really an 18,000 dollar institution and everybody knows that and you ought to be charging that.

00;07;41;25 - 00;07;53;16

Paul H. Dixon

And so what you do is you take those excess dollars and you take those and you put them into a pool and you give them back into institutional aid. The problem with that is somebody has to pay the full bill.

00;07;53;28 - 00;08;08;11

Paul H. Dixon

Somebody has to pay all of that money to make it possible for others to go for less. So what we have done, we only discount about \$0.04 of every dollar. We won the lowest discounted institutions in the United States.

00;08;08;11 - 00;08;21;08

Paul H. Dixon

To be honest with you, my friends in the state of Ohio at the secular private colleges say, Paul, we would give anything if we could go back and be where Cedar Bill is today. Muskingum has aren't there endeavoring to do that.

00;08;21;09 - 00;08;37;28

Paul H. Dixon

They're cutting their costs and they're cutting their financial aid and it's been amazing. They've been written up all across the United States with that approach. But I always want to tell you, we know that even though it may cost you, the costs may be more at other institutions.

00;08;38;05 - 00;08;55;15

Paul H. Dixon

Some of you might qualify for more financial aid and be able to go there for less than you can go to bill. And so that's that's where it is for this next academic year now. What are going to be some of the value added issues for next year when you come back?

00;08;55;15 - 00;09;17;04

Paul H. Dixon

What are some of our student priority admissions? Well, first of all, we are spending roughly \$2.4 million. Frankly, our cost increased won't generate that much money. We're going to spend dollars, other dollars that we've had to set aside to do this to provide it.

00;09;17;04 - 00;09;32;25

Paul H. Dixon

Technology Learning Center. We're not raising dollars for that, but those are institutional dollars that we have and a good management sense prepared for. But you will take advantage of a \$2.4 million that will greatly enhance your education here at Cedar Bill.

00;09;33;09 - 00;09;57;00

Paul H. Dixon

The the the actual operating costs that have to come out of your dollars that you pay will be almost \$100,000. We're going to spend once again a half a million dollars in dormitory upgrades for next year. In the last three, in the last four years, we will have spent \$2 million upgrading dormitories.

00;09;57;05 - 00;10;17;05

Paul H. Dixon

What are those upgrades? I want you to see those. I think it's possible for us to do that. We're going to upgrade carpet and repaint plenty. We're going to provide unit lounge furniture for Penny Lawler and Rogers. Provide desks and chairs.

00;10;17;08 - 00;10;45;12

Paul H. Dixon

Not that you don't have them now, but better ones for desks and chairs for printing and Lawler room lighting for Maddox, Penny, Lawler, Marshall, Carr, Rogers. We're going to remodel the bathrooms and Marshall, Carr and Roger. Most of you didn't know, but up to this point, we've had a little path going out from Marshawn Carr and Rogers

00;10;45;19 - 00;11;00;18

Paul H. Dixon

. We're going to remodel the lounge and replace the furniture in the Marshall basement. We're going to provide lounge furniture, a new lounge furniture for Prunty. We're going to remodel the R.D apartment in Matic's, and we're going to replace a lot of your mattresses.

00;11;03;27 - 00;11;26;09

Paul H. Dixon

Exterior lighting for Hill, the Pretty and Lawler red carpet, the Coed and TBE Lounge in Madix replace the tile with the mat in the car basement entry, repaint and add lighting to stairwells and car and marshall. And that just gives you some idea of some of the things that we will providing for when you come back next

00;11;26;09 - 00;11;47;26

Paul H. Dixon

fall and they'll be taking place during the summer. Now, if we can go back and look again, dormitory upgrades that we, I think you need to back up one more where the dormitory upgrades for 500,000 graduate programs that now when we say this is an expense, it is at 150 87.

00;11;47;26 - 00;12;05;16

Paul H. Dixon

There will also be that will generate income that will wash that out. But this will be an advantage for undergraduate students to have a graduate program. We'll have four new faculty positions in Bible, science, arts and athletics, new staff positions and increased hours.

00;12;05;16 - 00;12;30;10

Paul H. Dixon

And you could see a number of the new staff positions will be provided additional institutional financial aid of about \$100,000 new student wages and increased hours of about \$82000. Dorm security with card access this is what we hope to go to across campus, going to cost us \$50,000 to do this and brought in the three Willetts Maddox

00;12;30;10 - 00;12;46;06

Paul H. Dixon

dorms and a totally new key control system for all of our dormitories. Paint the exterior of Founders Hall and Fine Arts Building Repair, The Athletic Center and herb and hall roofs. Conversion to Microsoft Office Upgrade Founders Hall and Williams Hall.

00;12;46;06 - 00;13;06;23

Paul H. Dixon

Fire alarm systems, books and periodicals. Additional paving and sidewalk repair. Engineering Student Design Competition. We will be spending almost \$4 million advancing the institution. And so this gives you an idea of where we take these additional dollars and what we do with them.

00;13;06;24 - 00;13;41;07

Paul H. Dixon

We'd like to think that every time you come back to Cetaphil College, it's a new place. It's a better place and this is what we'll have, God willing. The fall of 9899 now. When I met with the trustees and when we talked about my future plans, some of you think that when I meet with the trustees, they

00;13;41;07 - 00;13;59;02

Paul H. Dixon

want to evaluate me and my annual self evaluation and then trustee evaluation. They want to evaluate me on funds, raised numbers of applications, how we're doing in enrollment, how we're managing that. They don't talk to me about that stuff.

00;13;59;24 - 00;14;13;21

Paul H. Dixon

They just get me on the outside and they say, How are you doing with the dandelions every year? That's when I was hired at this college. The main thing that they hired me for was to do away with the dandelions.

00;14;13;28 - 00;14;41;09

Paul H. Dixon

The first question was not where are you doctrinally? But where are you with the dandelions? They did not ask me for a strategic plan for anything else on this campus, but they wanted to know what my strategic. I put up with this for 20 years, I've put up with this stuff.

00;14;41;21 - 00;14;57;09

Paul H. Dixon

I want you to see this fall. This is just one folder of the things that I get. I now this is just in the last year. These things come from our students. They come from our your parents. They come from your grandparents.

00;14;57;09 - 00;15;11;00

Paul H. Dixon

Alumni send me things from all over the United States and around the world. It is. I have things like this. Can you believe this? They actually sent me in the last few months a dandelion jelly because they think that I would eat this.

00;15;15;00 - 00;15;30;17

Paul H. Dixon

Look at what I had when I walked in here today, a dandelion bag and something about how all kids love dandelions, and then they say, Can you imagine any kid loving anything so ugly? I mean, we have a wonderful God.

00;15;30;18 - 00;15;41;18

Paul H. Dixon

But when he created the dandelion, I don't know what he was thinking about. This is really bad stuff. And then I want you to know this is that what I showed you? That's just part of it. Would you look at this one?

00;15;41;26 - 00;16;02;27

Paul H. Dixon

The silver dandelion pop up book you actually open it up and a bunch of dandelions pop out at you when you open it. That's good. Would anybody give that to a kid? I can't believe it. You'd give that to a kid that you really don't think very much of.

00;16;02;27 - 00;16;18;07

Paul H. Dixon

If you wanted to give them a dandelion paper and look at this one that somebody sent me, one of our beloved God loves a dandelion, and it was sent to one of our grad to do missionary on the mission field.

00;16;18;24 - 00;16;42;01

Paul H. Dixon

What kind of students are we turning out at the bill when they go to the mission field and think about God love and the dandelions? Hello, dandelion, can you believe? Bob Barr and this one was sent to me by two of our 1997 graduates they wanted and they talk about how much they love their president or how

00;16;42;01 - 00;17;09;24

Paul H. Dixon

they're going to miss the Monday morning chapel. If they love me, they never send me a book like that. And then really, it is the amazing dandelion and included in this amazing dandelion is a picture of three of

our illustrious students, and you can only view of your extreme dislike and general disgust for the Turks at Canham

00;17;09;24 - 00;17;26;20

Paul H. Dixon

officiant Ali, as I guess that's the way you pronounce her. Also, I would want to know how to pronounce Dandelion any other way. We one had one of our students who last week sent me all the history of the dandelion, and she learned that in her French class, can you believe that there would be a French class

00;17;26;24 - 00;17;41;05

Paul H. Dixon

that would teach the history of the dandelion? We present to you this definitive work on the subject containing within its pages. You will find this we did they all inspiring story of an often misunderstood yet beautiful perennial weed.

00;17;41;11 - 00;17;55;08

Paul H. Dixon

It is our desire that in reading this, the Lord will bring about a paradigm shift in your thoughts and policies concerning the most prolific flora on our campus that's written by some of our students. But here I want you to notice is they got this out of a library.

00;17;55;10 - 00;18;05;25

Paul H. Dixon

They gave it to me. They stole it from that library. That's a kind of any student. Any student that loves a dandelion would steal the book out of a library. I'll guarantee you that. And then look here. Can you believe this one?

00;18;06;00 - 00;18;24;03

Paul H. Dixon

Here are some of our young ladies, and I thought I had relationship with these young ladies. I thought that we, as president and students that they look at, they're out there someplace in the world blowing off dandelions so that they will spread for others to have and to enjoy.

00;18;24;08 - 00;18;44;24

Paul H. Dixon

Then this one really takes the cake. This is a church bulletin. Listen to the sound of silence and in it, hear it. God's voice. Now hold, hold your seats. This comes from the Grace Community Church in Washington courthouse, where Dr. Robert Mackey is the pastor.

00;18;47;23 - 00;19;05;22

Paul H. Dixon

Now, look, he thinks it because he's a this only distinguished faculty member at CityVille College because he's been here 82 years teaching on our faculty that somehow he thinks he thinks everything's OK. I want you to know those of you who have him for the 11:00 class.

00;19;05;24 - 00;19;34;08

Paul H. Dixon

He won't be there. He's gone. He's gone. Then look at this one. All that little kid has a dandelion and a tan. And of all things, she is in a Cedar Mill college dress. Now what? That's from a staff member, not only of the faculty organized in the students, in the graduates, but the staff who are organizing

00;19;34;08 - 00;19;44;05

Paul H. Dixon

and giving dandelion to their kids and by look at dinner. I want you to know this is where my these are the kids who are really on the right team. Here is a student. You can't see that. I know that it's all right.

00;19;44;06 - 00;19;57;04

Paul H. Dixon

It's addressed to me from South Korea and Stephanie Bolton in South Korea picked a dandelion to let me know she hated them when she was in this country. She hates them when she goes to South Korea. God bless her heart.

00;19;57;07 - 00;20;11;28

Paul H. Dixon

That's a true vote. College and they look up here. I got an idea for you. We now I'm getting so many things about recipes. So you guys, you know, they want recipes, dig up something dandy for dinner and how you can use dandelions.

00;20;12;02 - 00;20;26;12

Paul H. Dixon

All you dandelion. I want you to know you will now have dandelion pie. No more shepherd's pie. But I've instructed Chuck that all the dandelions we find, we're going to put them out there in your pie. We're going to give them to you for dessert.

00;20;26;17 - 00;20;41;27

Paul H. Dixon

We won't have steak night anymore. It'll be Dandelion Night. You love them that much. And then look here. I just love this dude. This student sent this to look like. This one says, I'll go back to that. I love this cartoon.

00;20;41;27 - 00;20;55;14

Paul H. Dixon

I saw this Saturday all the first dandelion of spring. There's Garfield and ate it. And then he says, Now let's find the first Robin Hood that's off of it. Garfield is a man after not what the robins, but with the dandelions.

00;20;56;09 - 00;21;17;18

Paul H. Dixon

Now look at this when a student said this to me, neither shout, Thou bring an abomination into thine house less. Now be cursed. That's thou be a cursed thing like it. Be thou shalt utterly detest it. Thou shalt utterly applaud for it is a cursed thing.

00;21;17;18 - 00;21;36;12

Paul H. Dixon

I want you to know God's on my side. I was going to preach after this, but I don't think I will this time. We we had an interview with Cal Thomas on the Dandelion. It was a classic, but I love his last statement.

00;21;36;17 - 00;21;57;04

Paul H. Dixon

His last statement was, I have so many dandelions in my yard. I'm going to have a yard sale and sell my yard. Believe it or not, we do all of that every year to say we have beautiful lawns at Cedar Bill, and we would like to keep them that way.

00;21;57;22 - 00;22;20;24

Paul H. Dixon

We've done our best to build sidewalks for students and faculty and staff and administrators to walk on. We humbly request that you keep your cotton pickin feet off of our lawns. Keep them on the sidewalks. But if you see a dandelion out there in the lawn, you are welcome to go out and pick it.

00;22;21;03 - 00;22;23;28

Paul H. Dixon

That's the only reason. Have a great day.