

Unification Theological Seminary Alumni meet at the NYC Extension Center

Cabot W. Peterson
December 20, 2016

NEW YORK - On Wednesday, December 14, alumni/ae of the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) attended a meeting at the NYC Extension Center of UTS, which is located at 4 W 43 Street in New York City, to dialogue with Dr. Hugh Spurgin, President of UTS, and two members of the [UTS Board of Trustees](#), Dr. Michael Balcomb and Dr. Michael Jenkins, about the future of UTS and the Barrytown campus in upstate New York.

The meeting was also broadcast worldwide to allow online participants to view the program.

The primary purpose for the meeting was to report to the alumni and friends of UTS the present financial situation of UTS, the educational institution, and of the Barrytown property, in particular.

Recent rumors and speculation, some of which have appeared across the internet, as to whether or not the property is in the process of being sold, have led to uncertainty in the minds of some alumni about the future of the property and the continuation of UTS as an institution of higher learning.

While the Board members reassured the audience that currently the Barrytown property is not listed on the market, they did acknowledge two vital points: 1) there have been several offers made for the property, and 2) the yearly maintenance and operating expenses, which at present are a little over \$700,000 for the 2015-16 fiscal year, is not sustainable without new sources of revenue.

Dr. Spurgin also pointed out several “positive” aspects of UTS’s current situation: the reaccreditation that UTS received this year from [Middle States Association](#); enrollment is up at the 4 W43 Extension Center this semester and should continue to rise in the future; the Maryland Instructional Site is doing very well and expects enrollment to rise; and, finally, plans for the development of Online/ Distance Programs are also moving forward.

Following Dr. Spurgin’s [PowerPoint presentation](#), which took approximately 30 minutes, members of the audience, which included several faculty members and alumni, were invited to come up and either ask questions or to offer suggestions as to what should be done with the Barrytown property, which also includes the Massena House.

Over a dozen professors and alumni took the opportunity to participate in the Q & A session, offering a variety of opinions as to what could be done to make the property profitable.

Anthony Ferrantello, an architect for more than 30 years and a 1983 UTS graduate, gave a somewhat surprising - but nonetheless enlightening - assessment of the structural quality and integrity of the building by pointing out that people who tour the main building are always impressed with how well built it is and how well it has stood up for the past 85 years. His conclusion being that instead of viewing the building as a liability because of its high maintenance costs, it should be viewed as an asset.

Although the majority of people, including the Board members and alumni, expressed a desire to keep the property and find a way to make it profitable, two current members of the UTS faculty - [Dr. Keisuke Noda](#) and [Dr. Andrew Wilson](#) – were opposed. Both expressed their belief that the property should be sold and the funds invested in improving and expanding the facilities in NYC, whether at the seminary’s

current home or in a new building, and to also improve the quality of education by investing in the educational mission and in the students.

The next alumni/ae meeting will be held at 4 W 43 in Manhattan, on Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 3 PM on the first floor.

For further information or updates contact either Robin Graham at r.graham@uts.edu or Dr. Hugh Spurgin at h.spurgin@uts.edu

[Dr. Spurgin's Powerpoint Presentation: Alumni Presentation](#) | [The Meeting Broadcast: Dialogue with Alumni and Friends](#)

Board of Trustees

The UTS Board of Trustees meets three times per year. Board members engage in the life of the seminary and their church communities, bringing their personal, spiritual and professional perspectives to strengthen seminary governance. Trustees share a commitment to excellence in theological and ministerial education.

#	Name	Position	Resides in
1	Dr. Michael Balcomb	Chair	Ossining, NY
2	Dr. David J. Billings III		Brandywine, MD
3	Mrs. Crescentia DeGoede		Bloomfield, NJ
4	Rev. Franco Famularo	Vice-Chair	Montreal, Quebec
5	Mr. Dan Fefferman		Bowie, MD
6	Dr. Christine Hempowicz		Bridgeport, CT
7	Dr. Michael Jenkins		Manassas, VA
8	Dr. Ki Hoon Kim		Skokie, IL
9	Rev. Ernest Patton		Arlington, VA
10	Dr. Hugh Spurgin	UTS President	Bridgeport, CT
11	Dr. Thomas Ward		Bridgeport, CT



Presentation and discussion with:



UTS Alumni/ae

on December 14, 2016

Commencement Ceremony May 28, 2016



Agenda

1. Accreditation
2. Enrollment
3. Maryland Instructional Site
4. Online Development
5. Barrytown Campus
 - A. Operations Cost
 - B. Purchase Proposals
 - C. Property Options
6. Alumni / ae Support
7. Next Alumni Meeting

1. Accreditation

- UTS is accredited by Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) in compliance with their accreditation standards
 - In 2014, UTS was ruled to be out of compliance with four standards (Mission, Institutional Resources, Admissions and Student Learning Assessment) and was placed on probation by MSCHE
 - The current administration rectified these issues, and UTS has been re-accredited



Mission Statement

The Unification Theological Seminary offers educational programs in an interfaith context, which cultivate the heart, mind and spirit; bridge religious and cultural divides; promote leadership, service and engagement with the world; and provide tools for success in ministry and professional life. UTS is committed to the Unification vision of one global family under God.



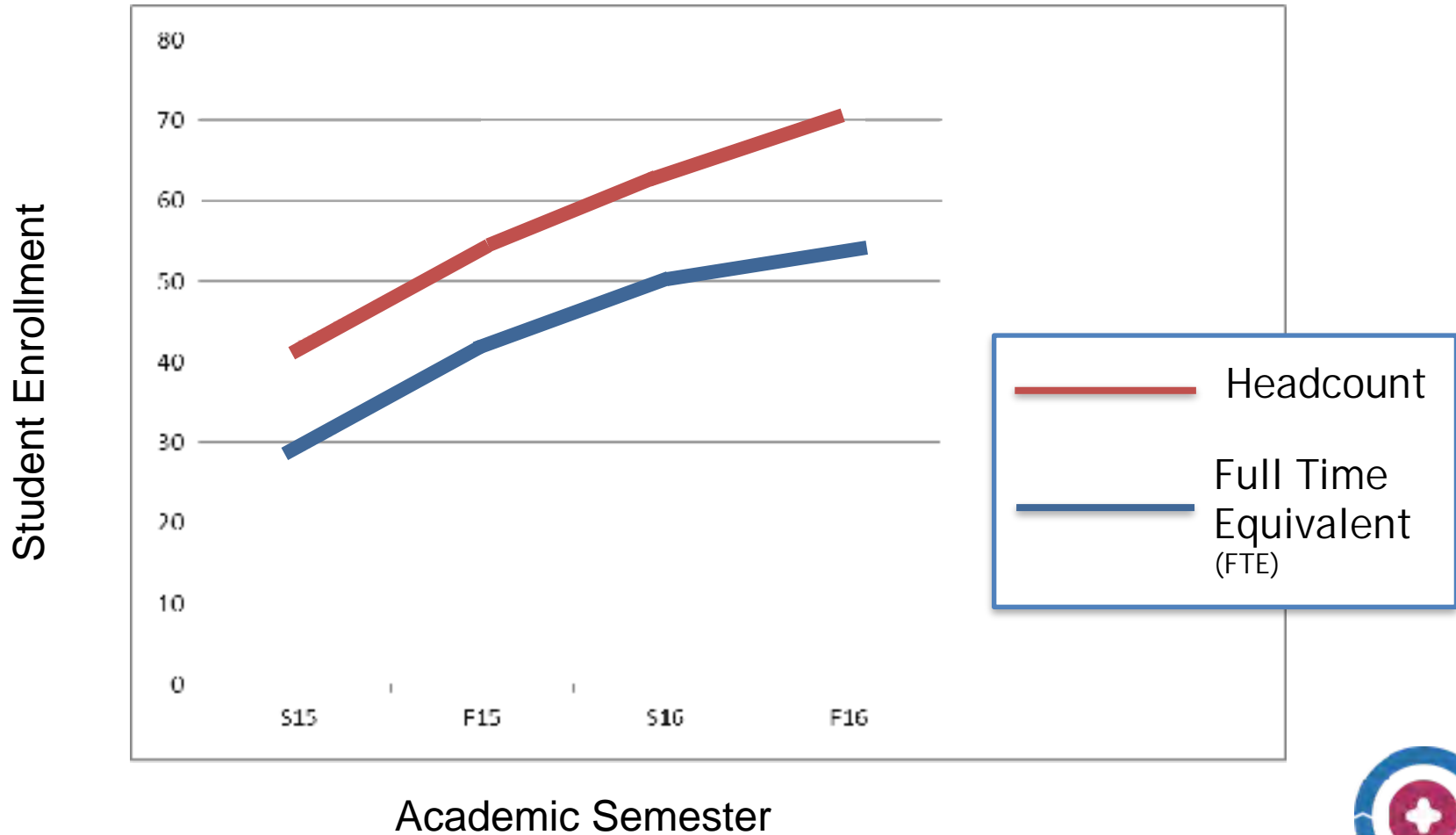


2. Enrollment

- Increased enrollment in the Masters programs:
 - Fall Semester, 2015 – 15 new students, FTE of 30.75
 - Spring 2016 semester – 23 new students, FTE of 42.4
 - Fall semester, 2016 – 28 new students, FTE of 56.4



Enrollment in Masters Programs Since Spring 2015



3. Maryland Instructional Site

- Outreach and long-range planning
 - Logos Christian College of Washington, D.C., provides UTS with opportunity to expand its interfaith identity & bridge religious / cultural divides
 - Total You Integrative Medical Center provides UTS with opportunity to develop professional internships, licensures, and career connections



4. Development of Distance Learning

- UTS sees its future as an online institution with a limited and highly focused number of urban instructional sites
- The Barrytown Campus is presently only used for graduation and four or five weeks a year for doctoral and master's students
- Nevertheless, the costs to maintain Barrytown are about one-third of the total annual UTS budget





5. Barrytown Campus

A. Facility Cost

– 2011-12	\$678,354
– 2012-13	\$1,342,868 (undergrad costs)
– 2013-14	\$755,561
– 2014-15	\$706,045
– 2015-16	\$718,422



Barrytown Property Expenses FY 2015-2016

• Maintenance	\$96,303
• Utilities	\$122,342
• Depreciation	\$159,151
• Capital Expenses	\$178,770
• Maintenance / hospitality Payroll	\$161,855
• Total	\$718,422



Criteria for evaluating Barrytown proposals

The Board has been actively seeking offers and /or partnership proposals that allow UTS to meet the following criteria:

- Support the educational mission of UTS
- Retain a presence for UTS on the campus
- Maintain public access to the historical and providential trails and landmarks
- Develop sustainable options to offset maintenance expenses



BARRYTOWN CAMPUS



260 acres



D.F. WHEELER ENGINEERS, P.C.	
ENGINEERING PLAN	
D.F. WHEELER ENGINEERS, P.C.	
2000 North 1st Street, Suite 100	
Barrytown, WI 53003	
Tel: 262.461.1111	
Fax: 262.461.1112	
www.dfwe.com	





Offers to Purchase

- UTS solicited a professional appraisal of the facilities and grounds, which set its value at \$17.7 million for commercial use
- Multiple parties have expressed interest in the property
- The Seminary rejected a verbal offer for commercial development that would make the campus unrecognizable
- Recently UTS rejected a \$10.1 million offer which would have preserved the property's historic character, open space and Father's/Mother's Trail but required that UTS eventually relinquish ownership





Property Options

- Working with FFWPU as a partner in the long-term development of the property
- Establishment of a Barrytown retreat and conference center, renting offices and meeting rooms to a variety of groups, and creation of International Peace Education Center (IPEC East)
- Solicitation of a professional feasibility study for branding, marketing and hospitality
- An easement that would permanently restrict development of open space areas





6. Alumni/ae Support

- Improved Alumni Outreach: alumni meetings, newsletter and redesigned website
- Giving to the 40/40 Campaign
 - Fiscal Year 2015-2016 \$ 26,850
 - July-Sept. 2016 \$ 6,290
- Additional alumni donations \$10,020
- Alumni support is needed for UTS to pursue its goals over the next five years. We would like to set a goal of up to 1000 alumni giving \$40 (or more) per month



Next Alumni Meeting



Will be broadcast online
on Saturday January 7 at 3:00 pm EST

