

The Board of Regents did a lot of reading last year about the winds of change whirling around higher education in this country which made them much more prepared to discuss the future of Augsburg College with staff, faculty, and students in two major summits during the year.

Out of those campus-wide conversations, we honed Augsburg 2019, which is part of President Pribbenow's State of the College address.

Those winds of change came to roost on the Augsburg campus last year with light enrollment and the steps that needed to be taken to keep Augsburg strong and nimble. The Regents were proud of the response of the Augsburg community, under the leadership of President Pribbenow, to the financial issues. We also appreciate the personal impact of the steps that were taken on staff and faculty members. We also appreciate how that response came on top of the "TFAPs" work and the regular work of teaching and learning that goes on all the time.

This year, we are all breathing a little easier. But those winds of change are still there, and the Regents will continue to expect a sense of urgency around the steps necessary to keep Augsburg strong and nimble in this fiercely competitive environment.

A lot of great work was done, especially over the summer, to develop an implementation plan for Augsburg 2019. The Board now hands that over to President Pribbenow to lead on campus while we stay focused on the one area that still needs our attention – the Augsburg governance structure.

I'm so proud to be associated with Augsburg College. I can't tell you how many times I run into people in my work at Lutheran Social Service who went to Augsburg or whose kids went to Augsburg or who are doing extraordinary work of service in the community, making wonder if they went to Augsburg when they say, "Oh, and I went to Augsburg College!" Of course they did!

Thank you.