

John Meisel, NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative & School of Business Professor
Transcript of Interview for History of SIUE 50th Anniversary Project
Interviewed by Ellen Nordhouser
March 7th, 2006

Ellen Nore [EN]: I'm interviewing John Meisel for the 50th Anniversary History of SIUE, it's Monday, March 7th, 2006. And I'm interested in the whole issue of leadership. And what I've come to realize, and I think this should be part of faculty orientation, is the role of the business school [EN softly laughs] in putting the whole place together. And making it into such an excellent place. I mean, as as it is, is becoming more and more polished the rock.

John Meisel [JM]: Yeah.

EN: But um, anyway, I guess one, we could start with the role of athletics, and I know you've been very interested in that for years.

JR: Right. Right.

EN: And, um...

JR: Ah, I think um, yeah, okay. Athletics is, I've been Faculty Athletics Representative for the NCAA [National College Athletic Association] since 1988, or '89. Earl Lazerson and asked me to do that, do that job. And um, it really wasn't a very well-defined job at the time, but it was a faculty member that serves as a liaison with the NCAA and also kind of watches over the academic progress of the student-athletes. Think during the '80s, there was a sense that the athletic program wasn't really as academically oriented as it should be. And there were some problems with a tennis program and, and maybe the men's basketball program and, and that's when Cindy Jones, actually she started, she became the athletic director, we're looking for a change, and Barbara DeLong sat on the task force where they wrote a philosophy...

EN: Yes.

JM: ...over the role of athletics, that that was a really important building block, I think, for the athletic program where it is today. Ah, but *my* role is really just been to look at kind of what our student-athletes look like and make sure they are making progress towards degree and that they behave themselves in ways that represent the university well.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And we've hired a lot of good people over the years; I've been on almost every search committee for coaches. And right now, I think we're really in good shape. And we're actually discussing, as a task force, whether we should move to Division One, which is kind of a larger financial commitment of the university toward athletics, whether that makes sense for the university. So it really has evolved not from an athletic perspective, there was a lot more winnings of championships back in the '70s, and the 80s. And there have been since, say, '88, or '89. But I think we run a program much more in compliance with the NCAA, and also, ah, with

what the university faculty would want us to do. So, I'm proud of the athletic program we have and the student-athletes that we have.

EN: That's what I think should be emphasized in faculty orientation. The scholar-athlete idea here.

JM: Yeah, we really got, buy into that though, right now, Division Two has this balanced concept where you balance academics and athletics. And ah, we really do push that, and all of our coaches do really too. I mean, it's, it's different than at the Division One level. And that's something we're really discussing now, whether the Division One athletes are really just more focused on the athletic side, not so much the academic side. But ah, if we do make the move to Division One, I don't think we're going to compromise our values. And we just have too many people that believe in what we're doing today. It doesn't mean we don't have problems occasionally with student-athletes. We do. But ah, they're pretty minimal, and and coaches act the right way, when we do have a problem, in terms of a student-athlete, perhaps going to class, or just not behaving the way we want them to behave. But we really put it pretty. We watch 'em, and we monitor 'em, and we spend dollars on advisors and tutors and stuff. So they should do well, because we've invested in them. Because they are representing the university. I travel with the teams quite frequently.

EN: Do you?

JM: And they they represent us well in, in, in the country. I was with the softball team at Phoenix just a couple weeks ago. I was very pleased with the way they behave and represent the university and at hotels, restaurants, with other teams, with fans, and stuff. That's, it's really nice to see your student-athletes represent your university well.

EN: I know the students are always interested in football.

JM: Yeah.

EN: And I, you know, I read something from David Werner where he said \$10 million to establish a million dollars a year and keep it going.

JM: Right? Yeah. Dave Werner actually asked me to chair a task force on whether we should add football back in '80, '99, or 2000, right around there. And we looked at it real seriously, and that's about what the numbers were, to kind of get all the infrastructure you needed was going to cost 10 or \$12 million. That's just one-time expenditures. But then, on an annual basis, football is a very expensive sport. And yeah, the students talk about it. But, I just don't think it makes a lot of sense for us. Most schools that, that are adding football at this point are private schools that are trying to get 100 more male students, and we're not, our problems not enrollment. So we, you know, it doesn't have that financial attraction that it would at a private school, or, or an admissions numbers we don't, we just don't have a problem with that. And if we did add a million dollars on the mens side, we'd have that a million dollars on the womens side, because of gender equity...

EN: Yeah.

JM: ...and we've always been strong on gender equity. And it really not a lot of things that we don't offer that women would want to do. I mean, we'd be creating sports that just like crew or lacrosse or something that women do play, but I'm not sure it's really a regional sport. So that, there was several problems. But Dave Werner did say, you know, maybe it makes more sense to look at Division One then if you're going to add to your athletic program. And that's really what Vaughn's [Vandergrift] doing today he's saying, "Okay, Dave Werner said five or six years ago, we should kind of get our act together, see if we can become more competitive in Division Two." and then look at Division One more seriously down the road." And that's exactly what we're doing now.

EN: Right. Okay. Okay, well. I knew you had a big role in the athletic program. I didn't realize that you accompanied the teams.

JM: Well, I do it just because I was a student-athlete in high school and in college, at a Division Three school where you know, the focus isn't big time at all. But so, I've always enjoyed athletics. And it was a perfect opportunity for me when Earl [Lazerson] asked me to be the faculty rep to kind of get involved more in athletics, but also maintain teaching and research and service, which I enjoyed doing as much.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: So was really, it's a perfect thing for me to do; I really appreciated the opportunity to do that.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And now I've actually been involved with the NCAA a little bit more. Just recently, I got selected to be on kind of the over what they call the management counsel at the NCAA, which is 25 people that kind of overlook all of Division Two, so I'm really getting a lot more involved in the NCAA than I've ever been before. I've been involved in athletics at the university. And then, in '94, when we got into a conference, I got involved in that. But now I'm even more involved with the NCAA and how they kind of govern the entire athletic programs.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: So it's a lot of time. [JR and EN laugh]

EN: Yeah, right.

JM: Not sure I'm willing to spend, but it's a four-year commitment.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: So, if that's what it is, that's what I'll do.

EN: Well, what would you, what would you...Do you have anything else to say about athletics?

JM: Not really, no.

EN: I see.

JM: I'm sure as I'm sure you know, you talked to Cindy [Jones]; I was on a search committee that selected Cindy. You know, one of the things in my life at SIUE is the search committees have been on and the people we've selected. That's probably the most pride I've had selecting somebody like Nancy Belck or Cindy Jones; you know, I'm just Phil Meade in the Pharmacy School. You bring good people, and good things happen.

EN: Right.

JM: So, Cindy Jones, you know, she did a lot to turn the program around and get going. And now Brad Hewitt's really doing a good job. Continuing with what she laid down as the foundation. So you get good people...

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: ...and good things are gonna happen.

EN: You know, she said that Brad Hewitt is really great in development.

JM: Yeah.

EN: And has time for development. And that wasn't her strength. And he has time for it. She was just so great. [EN laughs]

JM: Yeah. Yeah, she, she was a great manager of the budget. And making sure, you know, we stayed within our budget because that was a problem back in the '80s. We were overspending, and um, she also, you know, went to the student government and got additional support for our gender equity initiatives.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And we're very proud of the fact that we do treat women equally to men at this university. That's not true at all athletic programs around the country.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And I'll tell you if you look at our women athletes and their, their great role models for the university and very good students in general and very competitive on the field. So I mean that was a great foundation she laid for Brad, and Brad has gone out, and we've had major improvements in our facilities and baseball and softball.

EN: Yes.

JM: And really the thing that we need now is a new basketball facility because the Vadalabene Gym [Sam M. Vadalabene Center] is getting old, and the bleachers are breaking down and and something needs...

EN: We just won the conference?

JM: Pardon me?

EN: We just won the conference?

JM: Ah, well, we tied for first in our division. Yeah. And we just played in a conference tournament this weekend lost in the semi-finals, but our basketball team on the men's side to get a bid to the NCAA tournament for the second year in a row. And that's the first time that's happened since the '80s. So, our coach, you know we had really good coach; we just hired a really good person, Marty Simmons. And he's done a great job with the program.

EN: Yeah. Okay, well, I, I am interested in leadership. And um, I know about Nancy Belck. People have come up to me at conventions like American Historical. People say you're from SIUE, and they're from UNO [University of Nebraska at Omaha], and they'll come over and say, Oh, thank you for giving us Nancy Belck. [EN and JM laugh] They read over all those years, like in 10, 10, 10 years, she's lasted, you know, she still has great faculty.

JM: Yeah.

EN: You know how faculty can get.

JM: Yeah. Yeah, I guess, you know, if I looked at, I've been here for, I guess, maybe five presidents or Chancellors...

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: ...whatever you call 'em at the time. But Ken Shaw, I mean, had a kind of youthful enthusiasm. I thought he was a, really did a good job of relying on people that knew what they were doing. But he wasn't here very long, and moved, you know, to then become the system head and then out of, out of Illinois altogether. But then Earl [Lazerson] came in, and Earl actually did a lot of good things.

EN: Yes.

JM: I know his legacy is not as great as it could have been, because of some of the problems he had. But, when I look at him, I see kind of like two or three things that he did really significant for where we are today. One, when I first got here, it might be true of you Ellen as well, a lot of faculty kept on thinking we're going to add PhD programs, "Well, I was hired here. And you know, I was gonna get a Ph.D. program in this field... and that field, and it's not happening." And

it was kind of a dissatisfaction that they were kind of hired under false pretenses. And, and Earl basically said, Listen, we're not going to have Ph.D. programs. Our first priority is going to be undergraduate education. And we're going to want our faculty teaching our undergraduates, not graduate assistants, or, or whatever instructors, that we do use instructors, but we're going to predominantly focus on undergraduate education. So I think that was really important. Because today, we don't have controversy on this on this campus about well, we should be a more of a research institution. I think people have satisfied with our place in the higher education scheme. So he was responsible for that. Um, because, you know, again, there was just a lot of hostility or disgruntlement about our focus. Second, I think administratively, we had all those different schools. Now in [the College of] Arts and Sciences, and that was a huge, huge, ah, emotional decision on people's parts that have the move to one College of Arts and Sciences wasn't a very popular decision. But I think from an administrative perspective, it made a lot of sense.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And I think we're kind of at a point now, because it's been a while that it's probably working pretty well. And, and the fact that we hired a very good Dean of that school, Sharon Hahs, was really important as well, because that was just, that was probably the most controversial issue that I've seen on this campus, since I've been here. Um, in the Faculty Senate, people were very emotional about it, and letters and Alestle and just comments around a key community. So, and that, so that was important. I think, third, we were as a university, when Earl was Chancellor, he, we were really actually a very high-cost University if you look at our normative costs.

EN: Yes.

JM: And he really had to make some decisions.

EN: 125 or something, one point, Yeah.

JM: Yeah, we're like 25% over the what we should have been, and School of Education was a large reason for that, I think. And he had to make some decisions there. And again, that does not generate a lot of friendliness on the part of people when you're cutting their budgets and stuff, so. So he really did some important things. But the the people when Nancy came in, which followed Earl, was just different because her personality was so different. And she was exactly what we needed at that time to kind of re-reunify ourselves.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: And you and I, you know, you know, we were on that committee.

EN: [EN laughs] That's right.

JM: We really wanted Nancy to be hired.

EN: That's right.

JM: And, and she, you know, she was just wonderful. I just wish she stayed longer.

EN: Yes.

JM: But I guess she had some problems with her boss.

EN: The System. Right.

JM: Yeah. And then, um, you know, David [Werner], was perfect too, to come in.

EN: He was.

JM: Because, you know, he kind of got a little baggage associated with Earl Lazerson because he was the provost for Earl. And once he kind of got out from underneath that, people, I think, had a better respect for kind of the role he could play. And I think he really blossomed in the job. And really...

EN: Yes, he did.

JM: I should say another thing Earl did was the residence halls, which I think are really important at the university, kind of started that. And we're continuing with that today having a new residence hall going up. Our fourth one, I think that's wonderful for the university. It's really changed this university.

EN: Right.

JM: Make it more like a university and not a commuter school.

EN: Yes.

JM: So I'll give him credit for that as well. But David continued with that, Nancy did as well. And so has Vaughn. And [JM clears throat] so we've had we've had good leadership, I think, you know. Earl had his has had his negatives. But he did some things that laid a foundation that are important today.

EN: Right? That's what that's what I think. I think he's really...

JM: I'd like him to be resurrected somehow in terms of us recognizing his contribution.

EN: Yes. That's what I'd like to do too. I thought that I would write... After I've written what I have to say about him, I thought I would send it to him and let him comment on it. Maybe he'd give me an interview. Talk to me about it.

JM: He, he might he would do that. I think, Yeah.

EN: Because I feel, you know, I think he was he was great. He, he had a kind of um, forthright, I think contempt for people who weren't here for the long haul, which is like many faculty, like, that's how I feel I was. [JM and EN laugh] If I had known everything I know now, I think it would have been very different. That's why I'm concerned about the faculty orientation.

JM: Yeah, well got a much better job orientation now than they ever did.

EN: It makes me feel dumb. Yeah.

JM: When I came here, there was no orientation.

EN: Yeah.

JM: And now at least they have several weeks.

EN: Yes, right [EN chuckles].

JM: So yeah.

EN: Yeah.

JM: I keep on thinking there are things that I'd like to tell new faculty about this place, so they better understand it.

EN: I'd like to have them, to tell people about the professional schools, people in CAS [College of Arts and Sciences] about the professional schools and their role. That really needs to be stressed.

JM: Now, let me talk a little bit about that, I guess, because I just actually being on this 50th anniversary, I went back and looked at why they created this university. And what was the demand by the communities for the university? And I read a, an analysis, I think, Howard See, I think his name.

EN: Harold See.

JM: Actually ended up writing it, but there was a consultant that kind of put his name on it.

EN: Yes.

JM: But he was he was the guy that advised it. It's really interesting back in the '50s, this school, or this university, came about because of the demand, or the perceived demand, by individuals for professional education.

EN: Yes.

JM: And there was nursing was what they talked about, business, engineering a little bit at the time, education.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: So, I mean, this school was, or the university was created in response to the fact that people wanted to have those opportunities to get into those professions. And in those days, you know, that was like middle-class, that got you into the middle-class. And there was some, you know, this wasn't necessarily the highest income area, and or fluid neighborhoods and stuff, and it gave... And they wanted low cost. Would give kids a chance to kind of maybe...

EN: Yes.

JM: ...do better than their parents in terms of their careers. And so, yeah, I think professional education was part of the reason why we generated the school, not everybody that's in professional schools recognizes the importance of general education.

EN: Yes, I think they do.

JM: And you know, what we call the College of Arts and Sciences today. I mean everybody knows that's important. But, you know, really, the students that we have, have always been career-oriented. What can I do when I get out of here, it's not so much I'm going to go out and get a master's degree or a Ph.D. A lot of first-generation kids don't think that way.

EN: No.

JM: So having a business school, having education school, nursing school. Nursing was always been an area that they wanted in this area.

EN: That's right.

JM: So, I think that was real important. Now, the business school, when I came here in '77, was I don't think that great terms of the faculty, but they had young faculty like Gil [Gilbert Lionel] Rutman.

EN: Dave Werner was the Dean.

JM: Dave Werner had just taken over, he was a young, very young Dean. And they just made some really smart decisions. That I think are the reason why the business school and the rest of the university I think are, you know, I think they're a lot better quality-wise than they were when I first got here.

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: One was they went to this merit system to evaluate people each year.

EN: Oh, that's interesting.

JM: Where they evaluate every faculty member every year in teaching, research, and service. And then your, your raises were based on your evaluation. So you know, the if the money was 5% salary increase, didn't mean everybody got 5%. Some people in those days got zero because they just weren't doing very much in those areas. So that system put a...

EN: Mm-hmm.

JM: ...incentives into place to encourage people to be more productive and some, even some, I remember some faculty members in economics that weren't all doing that much, maybe in the scholarship area. Once they saw that models had the capability of doing things, and started to publish, so it was that was important then, of course, hiring, all the hiring decisions that were made. When you present that kind of model, the young faculty, a lot of them see that as attractive because they can get pretty good salary increases with that kind of model. And there's never a sense that the senior faculty, we're going to get the bulk of the salary increases or always teach the best classes, we never created things that way. So, Dave Werner was responsible for that, Gil Rutman, some other people put that system into play. We still have it today. We've tinkered with it now and then.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: But, what had happened was that people that really weren't very good, or weren't dedicated to the university left or retired. And we replaced them with good people. And nowadays, there's nobody that's, you know, not productive in those areas, you know? Well, we don't probably have 45 faculty members or 50 faculty members, and you know, they're all doing. The younger faculty I'm really impressed with. I'd serve on the Personnel Committee, and see these people on three-year reviews and tenure promotion, look what they're doing. I'm just impressed with their especially their focus on educate, on educating students. They do a lot of interesting things, the interaction they have with students and...

EN: Yeah, they've won awards too.

JM: Yeah, win awards. And you know, I'm it's just wow, I mean, I've seen that. [EN laughs] You know, throughout the university, I've served in the Teaching Excellence Committee, and man, I was like this, what these people do in principles, the amount of time they spend to try to get students to understand chemistry, or biology, or anthropology, I'm like, wow, I mean, that's just really impressive. So I think the School of Business has been a positive, and there's been people in the School of Business that have always been interested in not just the school but the university.

EN: Yes, that's right. Yes.

JM: Like Don Elliot, for example.

EN: Yes.

JM: You know, he's always contributed a lot to...

EN: Thank you. I'm just wrote to him for an interview too.

JM: He's retiring this year. The problem all these names is, are all these people retired.

EN: [Both laugh] I know. Well, it looks like you have a good, I I just read Bob Carver did these spectacular reports for the school, you know, these glossy?

JM: Yeah, I know he did every year.

EN: They're packed with information for a historian.

JM: Yeah. Yeah.

EN: So it looks like you, your Personnel Committee has really done a great job, like they're good people coming up. And...

JM: I think so. I mean I really, I'm not, that's not just the School of Business either. Just the young faculty I've met on campus.

EN: Yeah.

JM: I mean, it's just, I'm just really impressed with what SIUE is going to look like...

EN: Right.

JM: ...you know, at their 100th anniversary.

EN: I know.

JM: Really, I am. I'm, I'm just, you know, I'm just really positive on on what's going to happen to this place in the future. I think there's gonna be more residence halls, I think it's going to be better, you know, recognized more as an independent institution and not have that Carbondale.

EN: Yes.

JM: And and how many places you've gone to, and if you say, you know, Southern Illinois, they always think your from Carbondale.

EN: That's right. They think you're from Carbondale.

JM: But that's alright Carbondale has been around a long time, and we haven't, so that's natural.

EN: Yeah, so. Well, ah, you know, anything else about? Um, do you have? Do you have any students that you suggest that I could interview that you can?

JM: Now, how would they help you, in terms?

EN: No? Well, I just would like to ask about their experiences. And their, I haven't, I have interviewed some students who are from big families that have graduated from the university.

JM: Right.

EN: And that and that's a real important thing. I think these family dynasties...

JM: I do too.

EN: ...of graduates. But, but no, sometimes you just like to interview someone, and they remember their professors and they remember...

JM: How about just...

EN: ...the new buildings.

JM: ...in terms of people that work at this university...

EN: Yeah.

JM: ...that were students that I had, or...

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: ...like Eric Hess. Oh, you might, he might be interested to talk.

EN: Oh, okay.

JM: He, I mean, he's a Sports Information Director, and he, he was in our master's program or undergraduate program, I don't recall.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: But he, you know, he's been here a long time.

EN: Okay. Good.

JM: So he would, he would remember some people.

EN: Yeah, oh, that's good.

JM: We have ah, student-athletes that are, ah, families were...

EN: Yes. I've gone through the archives online and written down a lot of names. But...

JM: Yeah, well, if there's any that you see that you would like to talk to let me know, and I'll contact them.

EN: Okay.

JM: Or I'll get somebody who knows him well.

EN: Okay.

JM: But we have a woman who's a softball player, she's a senior, this year. Her name is Alicia DeShasier. She's the third woman of her family that's played intercollegiate athletics at SIUE in the last 10 or 12 years.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: So I mean, you see that, you know.

EN: Yes.

JM: And they're very impressive women. They're all very impressive women. And you know, good students. Now, you know, one of them is a teacher at Edwardsville in Speech Pathology and other ones doing something in Carrollton, which is where they're from. And Alicia is gonna, a senior this year, and she's a real leader on her team and also in the athletic department. So I mean, there are people, yeah, I mean, there's a lot of families that come here and they're brothers or sisters have. We have a guy in our soccer team, Jeff, Pete Cacciatore; he just, he's graduating this year. His father played soccer at SIUE in the '70s.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: His uncle played on a national championship team at SIUE in '79. So I mean, it's just like, he see that to his father, son, or father, daughter or whatever.

EN: Right.

JM: You know, 20 years apart, or 30 years apart.

EN: That's right.

JM: And that's, I love that when that happens, you know.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: Parents played here, or your uncle played here or whatever.

EN: Yeah, that's important, I think in building the long-range. Not only development but also choices of good students, to make us a choice for good students, if you have these family traditions.

JM: You know, last year, we had our first Hall of Fame for athletics, never had a Hall of Fame. And we ended up, we had a nice dinner, presentations, in October. And that was wonderful. I mean, I wasn't involved in the athletic program when a lot of these people got it, you know, or I wasn't even at SIU in the early '70s and stuff. And see them come back and talk about the way it was then. And they'll talk about their coaches or something. And it was just wonderful. And you could see that they really felt really good about coming back to the university and feeling real positive about that. Course they're being honored [EN laughs].

EN: No.

JM: As a Hall of Famer, but still that's, that, that's so important. That's part, that builds that community...

EN: That's right.

JM: ...that we're kind of talking about that goes from one generation to the next. And I think I SIU is doing that, you know, again, we're so young. People complain about, well, we don't get enough publicity. And so I said, well, we're like a baby in higher education.

EN: That's right.

JM: You know, we don't pay a lot of attention. Harvard's been around for 300 years, we've been here for 50, you know.

EN: Right.

JM: So it just takes a while.

EN: I agree.

JM: If you put, you put, if you do good, if you hire good people, and if you have administrators that do the right thing,...

EN: Yes.

JM: ...you will get recognized, you know. You're not, Vaughn always says we're, "We're a tremendous secret." Well, maybe we are. But you know, one of his things is to try to publicize us. So we need that too.

EN: Yes.

JM: We really never been big on publicizing ourselves.

EN: We have this biggest campaign I've ever seen going now don't we? With the 'e.'

JM: I think so. That's the first time we've really done that, is we're trying to tell the world, Listen, listen, we're pretty good. We've spent 50 years in this area. We've done a lot. We had a lot of successful graduates. We have good faculty. You know, here's what we've done, kind of brag about herself. So that, he had that, that was really important to have to have him kind of have that position.

EN: Yeah. Yeah. I know that a lot of parents just are swept away by the beauty of the campus.

JM: Yeah.

EN: That was David Werner too- this whole re-landscaping. I mean, he has leadership to re-landscape...

JM: The trees down the middle. I love that.

EN: Cleaning out the lakes and fixing it up again.

JM: Uh-huh. I know. You know and I, I'm sure we drive here, we kind of over. I don't look at it campus anymore. You know, I. [JM laughs]

EN: Well, I ride the bus every morning. So, I have a long, pretty long time to look.

JM: Look around and see.

EN: And I also walk quite a few times. But...

JM: Yeah, I guess I you know, I just know it is. I tell people when we have candidates. They said, "Wow, what a beautiful campus."

EN: Yeah.

JM: I say, "Yeah, you're really right." [EN laughs] You know, I look out here and now it looks a little drab. But boy, in May, it's gonna look pretty, and...

EN: Yeah. Yeah, but I just think we, I just think there's something, I think we are, we are really pulling ahead in public education in Illinois.

JM: Oh, no, the budget.

EN: And there's a question of how doing it with I mean, our leadership, I think has been extraordinary. Not...

JM: No, if you look at our state appropriation, I just saw these numbers the other day, and I haven't paid attention to them. But we're getting about the same state dollars we had five years ago here.

EN: Oh dear.

JM: I mean, it's like \$62 million or something. But what happened was that our enrollments continue to go up.

EN: Uh-huh.

JM: And I think that's because people are recognizing that this is a pretty good place. We're relatively inexpensive.

EN: Yes.

JM: Quality education with all the different professional opportunities, as well as the College of Arts and Sciences. Got that Pharmacy School, I tell you, you won't believe the quality of the candidates applying to the Pharmacy School.

EN: Oh, yes.

JM: I mean, it's only 75 people that we're gonna admit, but I'll tell you, it's very, in fact, one of the associate Dean's was telling me the other day said, "If I applied to pharmacy school today, I wouldn't get in." [both laugh] He said, "I couldn't get into this place." And it's just very impressive. So we just got that increase in enrollment, and that student fee increased dollars from tuition helped us weather that budgetary problem that a lot of other universities in the state didn't have that cushion. But you're right, the states really...

EN: Well, we've had such careful planning. I think the fact that Earl Lazarson was a budget person was really important.

JM: Dave, Dave Werner was too.

EN: And Dave Werner. And then Dave Werner provided such great continuity. We had a continuity at this certain level of leadership. We weren't constantly switching like a lot of places.

JM: Right. Right.

EN: Dropping and switching.

JM: I know, I know. He tells me, you know, he right now he's at Mansfield University. And you know about this?

EN: I read about that.

JM: And he called me the other day, and he was asking some questions about athletics. And he said, I said, "Well, why don't you ask them?" So, he was asking me something about, I was asking them how they're funded. He said, "Well, I don't really know how they're funded," the athletic program.

EN: Oh, I know.

JM: I said, "Well, how would you? How would, how about your Vice-Chancellor?" He said, "There's no Vice-Chancellor that has been here longer than two years." I mean, can you imagine what that must be like? You know, it's just nobody has any institutional memory and...

EN: Yes.

JM: Wow!

EN: That's, that's right.

JM: In this place, we've always had that, but it was really, I think, long. The good thing about Vaughn is that he's brought an outside perspective.

EN: Yeah.

JM: So so he, you know, he kind of looks at us and says, "Man, you guys are really impressive. How come we haven't told the world this?" Well, you know, I don't know. We're just doing our job. You know.

EN: Yeah.

JM: But you're right. I mean, it is important to have, you know, Neher been in there for I think Nancy hired Ken [Kenneth] Neher. And no. Ken Neher and Novey [phonetic]

EN: Yes, and Ken Neher and Novey [phonetic] Yeah. [Rosemary] Monaco. Who, who...

JM: Right? Yeah.

EN: Reputation goes up without, depending on who you talk to. I like Rosie.

JM: He's a bright guy.

EN: Oh, he is. I like he and Rosemary. They're really fun...

JM: Yeah. Yeah. He's got that from New York. Yeah, he's so New York. Yeah. He's a bright guy. Very bright guy.

EN: Yeah. Yeah.

JM: You did ask...

EN: I just would like us to have a bigger endowment too. I know I'm gonna, I'm gonna start a scholarship that when I'm done with, I'm going to donate. I'm getting 5,000 to do this. I'm gonna donate that. And, start a scholarship for Patrick. And then I want to start one for Stanley Kimmel because I think that would be, I think people would want to donate to that.

JM: Right. Yeah.

EN: So, well, we need a bigger endowment. Gosh.

JM: Yes. Yeah. But I ah. There's work done.

EN: Yeah.

JM: Development area, the people over there. I think they're on the right track. Takes time.

EN: Yeah.

JM: But you know, in our, in our school, School of Business.

EN: Oh, [Robert] Carver.

JM: Our most successful alumnus. Right now. He's the CEO of Chiquita International. And his name is Fernando Aguirre.

EN: Oh.

JM: And we've just kind of; he played baseball here for a couple of years, so there's a link to the athletic. And he gave significant dollars to help modify the baseball stadium. But I think he's going to give money to the university in general. You know, he's in a very kind of high-paying position. But he's, he graduated in '80.

EN: Yeah.

JM: You know, I mean, and so we don't have that.

EN: That base.

JM: Yeah.

EN: Only 50 years.

JM: Yeah. So it just takes time for that, that that to work out. And I think it'll happen. You know, I think we have a lot of successful people. And I think they will give back to the university. Our

Athletic Hall of Fame is, to some sense, to have these people perhaps if they get into a position at some time in their life to donate back, you know, that that's that's kind of a fundraiser event too.

EN: Yeah.

JM: But you're right. I mean, we need to stop thinking about the state as our budget source, because they just don't seem to be very interested in higher education. [JM laughs]

EN: No they don't.

JM: They got a lot of other things going on, I guess.

EN: All those new fees are coming.

JM: I know.

EN: Those will be millions for, good, good things, I guess. Anyway, is there anything else?

JM: You had a question down here about the MAT?

EN: Yes, the Management Audit Team.

JM: I was actually not a member of the Management Audit Team

EN: Weren't you? Weren't you somewhat after Nancy Belck?

JM: I was, see what happened, Nancy decided that she wanted to continue meeting with the MAT.

EN: Yes.

JM: And this is one of the great things about Nancy Belck is that she said, "Well, you know, I want to find out about this university. I'm new here. These people, this Dennis Hostettler. Don Strickland and Bud Hirsch that were the Management Audit Team. They have a lot of, they just went and audited the entire University." And me, being that I knew Nancy, through the search committee.

EN: Yes.

JM: She said, "Well, maybe you could be on this." I said, "Well I wasn't on it." She, "But why don't you come too? We can have like weekly meetings with them." So she would just bring us in. And we'd have lunch or something an hour or so. And she would just say, "Well, what do you? What what's going on in this area?" And they would have, you know, this insight. And they would say, "Well, that, you know, a lot of people are disgruntled with this person, the way they do things especially." "Well, I'm going to look into that." So she just used that as kind of like a cabinet. I, I looked at kind of like a faculty cab. I thought there's a great idea.

EN: Yes.

JM: I wish to see all presidents did that. Because it wasn't her administrators.

EN: Yes.

JM: It was faculty members.

EN: Yes.

JM: So, I got to sit in on those meetings. And once a while, I'd have something intelligent to say, but was really those three people that were responsible for giving her the most advice. And we did that the whole time she was here. She just saw, saw that as a really important way to spend an hour every couple weeks or whatever. And, ah, and she was a tough lady too, I'll tell you. You know, she had that southern thing. But then when she decided something had to be done, she was going to get it done, you know, moving somebody out of a position or whatever she, she just made that decision, moved on with it. So I really, that I don't know too much about what they were talking about in terms of the academic and university commute, computing.

EN: Yes. I wondered if you knew anything, I'm interviewing some other people about that. But I just thought if you have any insight...

JM: My only sight, insight on that now is I think, oh, IT [Information Technology] a lot better than it used to be. I mean, I just had a sense, I never wanted to deal with them. And now that we're so electronic, you know...

EN: Yes. Yes.

JM: It's mean it's like if my computer doesn't come on in the morning, I'm like, what am I gonna do today?

EN: [Both laugh] Right.

JM: My connection to the world is gone.

EN: Yeah.

JM: And so if I call them, if I have a problem, they always respond very quickly.

EN: Yes.

JM: So I don't know, whatever they've done over there. I think there might have been a problem at one time in the management, and try to keep people because it's a very high demand area.

EN: Yes. Right. Well, there was something else I was gonna ask...

JM: Uh, another thing I wanted to say about Nancy, was giving names to our buildings was important, I think. She couldn't believe we didn't have names for our buildings. So we came up with kind of these generic names, but hope someday they're named after people that donated some money or something.

EN: Sure.

JM: So that was important. And then Vaughn said, Well, you know, it's great to have names for buildings, but if nobody knows where they are, because you have no signs on campus.

EN: Yes.

JM: So now we're getting all these signs, which, you know, it's all just, we're just maturing as a university in so many different ways, I think. Those are just, you know, simple ways.

EN: That's right.

JM: But the programs we offer the quality of our faculty, our administrative structure, you know, our student life, that still has a long ways to go. My youngest son's a freshman here, and everybody leaves...

EN: I wondering if your sons were in college now.

JM: Yeah, one's at Quincy University, and one's a freshmen here. And he, he lives on campus, he doesn't live at home.

EN: Uh-huh. That's nice.

JM: But he says a lot of people go home on weekends because they say there's nothing to do. There's not a lot of student life.

EN: Uh-huh. There needs to be more. Although on those measures of satisfaction, our, our students, our dorms, I mean, our residence hall students seem to be, seem to be happier than the national average.

JM: Is that right?

EN: Yeah.

JM: Well, I think kids go home on weekends a lot in Illinois. You know, I was a freshman or sophomore, I never went home.

EN: No, I didn't either.

JM: And I was three hours away. First of all, I didn't have a car.

EN: Right.

JM: I wasn't going home.

EN: That's right.

JM: You just stay there. But now the mentality a lot more is to go home. And I don't know, maybe it's freshmen too. He's a freshman. So a lot of his friends may be going back. But maybe they don't go home as much when they get to be sophomores and juniors. But, but I have to say, you know, given that I know some administrators, they'll say to Matt, "Well, what do you want us to do? Well, you tell us what program will attract students and we'll put it on." So they're very open to wanting to do things. So I said, "Hey, you got a lot of power here. You can just tell these people you would like to have something that you can show 20 students are going to show up, they'll do it for you, you know." So, but he's, I think he pretty much he's liked it here. And I, you know, I'm, I'm proud to have him here. You know, it's just like, well, would, "Would you rather have him at Harvard?" Well, yeah, maybe Harvard, but SIU Edwardsville's fine. [EN laughs]

EN: That's right.

JM: He's gonna get a good education here.

EN: He's gonna be able to do a lot of things. Ah, good. Anything else that you're, you think of?

JM: I don't think so.

EN: See, I'll transcribe this. And I'm pretty good at getting every word. I'm a fast typist.

JM: Oh, I know. I've seen you in action, Ellen! [EN laughs] Oh, you're the best I've ever seen in my life.

EN: So, well, so I'll don't expect it for a few weeks, or maybe a month or so, because it takes me quite a while to transcribe it.

JM: Sure.

EN: But I send it back to you and then you can look it over. And if you think of something you, um, you want to change or cross out or if you don't even want to look at it. And you just want to send it back. You can do that too.

JM: No, I'll look at it just to make sure I make didn't make any factual mistakes if I think about things.

EN: So I'll get it to you within, um, um, you know, with it with an envelope to return it and a deed of gift for the library, so we can put it in the archives.

JM: Okay.

EN: Yeah. But, anyway. Thanks a lot.

JM: Okay. [Recording ends]