President Caboni – 1st week of class

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This week marks a lot of firsts for more than 31-hundred freshmen starting their first semester at WKU.

The same can be said of WKU’s new President Dr. Tim Caboni as Amy Bingham tells us in this week’s View from the Hill.

That’s right. Dr. Caboni says hey this is my freshman year too. He has been assuring the students they will get through this together. On the job since July first, he’s been anxiously awaiting the excitement and energy students and faculty bring to campus.

 “No, no, no…”

Just don’t make the mistake of wearing gear from another university!

“a presidential shirt swap, this is what I want to see. “

 “You can be a fan of whatever you want but don’t wear that shirt on my campus.”

That message was loud and clear on the first full day of class as Dr. Caboni spent time greeting students.

 “Symbolically it’s important for me to be in their space in a way that says we care about you. We want you to be a success.”

As the tenth president of WKU, Caboni often articulates this vision for where the university can go together.

 “Great universities in my mind actually do three things, they inspire innovation, elevate the communities in which they’re located and change lives they transform and change lives.”

Addressing faculty and staff at convocation, Caboni announced he will appoint a steering committee and four to six working groups to work on the university’s strategic plan.

 “I guarantee August 2018 will be different than August 2017. The process we will go through during the next nine months as an institution will be challenging but also inspiring I hope.”

He says a big focus will be retaining students from the first year to the second and has big plans for a Freshman village at the bottom of the hill as three residence halls are replaced.

 “I’m going to nudge and cajole folks to think differently about those projects. It’s really about creating a community where students, faculty and staff live work and learn and play together.”

The Caboni Era is underway and he’s already calling it a remarkable experience.

 “Are the hours long-sure. Do you have to meet lots of people-yeah. Are there tough calls – yes. But here’s the deal. There’s no better place to do this than my home and my alma mater.”

“Happy first day of class.”

Dr. Caboni received his masters degree from WKU in 1994. He was hired back in January to replace Dr. Gary Ransdell.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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