RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Recognizing the Western Washington University Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation Relations

WHEREAS, Western Washington University exists on the ancestral territory of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed, from time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Western’s strategic plan articulates a commitment to pursuing justice and equity in its policies, practices and impacts, and to advancing a deeper understanding of, and engagement with, place; and

WHEREAS, Western is committed to building and sustaining stronger ties of partnership with the Coast Salish Peoples, the twenty-nine federally recognized tribes and sovereign Indian nations in Washington State, and First Nations governments throughout the Salish Sea basin, and in particular our closest neighboring sovereign nations, the Lummi, Nooksack, Swinomish, Stillaguamish, Sauk-Suiattle, Tulalip, Upper Skagit and Samish, applying Western’s strengths to serve the current and future needs of these communities, and valuing their partnership in the sustainable stewardship of our shared home and its natural resources; and

WHEREAS, Western is committed to advancing the academic, personal, and professional success of its indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and to creating a more inclusive campus that supports increased cross-cultural experiences and ways of knowing of Native individuals and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University affirms and formally recognizes the historic importance of the creation of the Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation Relations, and extends a warm welcome to LAURAL BALLEW as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office and Tribal Liaison to the President.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on April 5, 2019.

ATTEST:

Earl W. Overstreet II, Chair

John Meyer, Secretary