Purpose of Submittal:

In this interactive session, President Randhawa and Provosts Johnson and Carbajal will introduce the possibility that Western would plan for an expanded operation and presence on the Peninsulas. The Administration is interested to learn what the Trustees envision with respect to Western’s role in this underserved part of the state.

Background:

WWU currently offers a number of degree programs in several locations on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas in partnership with Olympic College and Peninsula College that are collectively referred to as the “Western on the Peninsulas” programs. Despite these existing 2+2-year degree programs, a 2019 Feasibility Study funded by the State Legislature made it clear that a more established four-year university presence and additional degree program and professional development options are required in order to better serve the regional needs. Indeed, by many measures the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula region is currently one of the most underserved regions of the state when it comes to access to four-year and master's-level degree programs.

Strategic Questions:

1. How would the Trustees see such an initiative aligning with goals and objectives of Western’s strategic plan?

2. What information or data would the Trustees be interested in seeing with respect to this idea?

3. What do the Trustees think an expanded operation and presence on the Peninsulas would actually look like?