WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Brent Carbajal, Provost
DATE: December 10, 2021
SUBJECT: A Conversation with Academic Deans
PURPOSE: Discussion Item

Purpose of Submittal:

In this interactive session, four of our academic deans will offer their perspective on the challenges brought on by the pandemic, including their thoughts about successes and lessons learned. The deans will also elaborate on some of their strategic priorities going forward. Deans Brad Johnson (Science and Engineering), Paqui Paredes (Humanities and Social Sciences), Caskey Russell (Fairhaven), and Scott Young (Business and Economics), will make up this panel.

Background:

As the pandemic hopefully wanes and Western moves toward more normal operations, we’re often asked how things have gone during the pandemic, what we’ve learned, and how will we from this juncture take up continued work on our strategic priorities. Three of our panelists have ample experience in their positions and at Western, one is a brand-new dean. We think it’s important that we not only give the Trustees a sense of “where we’re at,” but that we also hear the Board’s questions and thoughts.

Strategic Questions:

1. What do Trustees know about how we’ve operationally navigated the pandemic?

2. Are there any assumptions that might have existed pre-pandemic about which the Trustees might be curious to learn if they’ve been confirmed or refuted?

3. What thoughts do the Trustees have about Western’s strategic priorities post-pandemic?