TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Melynda Huskey

DATE: February 8, 2019

SUBJECT: Admissions and Enrollment Summary

PURPOSE: Information Item

The number of incoming freshman and transfer students will slightly exceed those who enrolled last year. New first-year students for Winter 2019 are estimated to total 45 compared to 37 last year. We will likely enroll 362 transfer students compared to 352 last year.

Fall Quarter 2019

As of the most recent Admissions report, we have received 480 fewer applications for admission for Fall 2019 from first-year students, a 6.4% decrease compared to the same time last year (7,073 vs. 7,553). Measures to mitigate this trend include:

- holding admission application workshops at high schools in Whatcom, Skagit, and King counties
- conducting a four-night Admissions telethon
- doubling the number of visits to high schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties
- hosting nearly 200 students participating in the College Success Foundation’s college prep program
- developing a webpage with resources for undocumented students who are navigating the admissions process
- mailing congratulatory postcards to select first-generation students in the Seattle area
- purchasing 9,000 additional names with the College Board (SAT test-takers)
- enhancing digital advertising messages near the time of the deadline
- expediting the application processing for qualified students

Western continues to be impacted by the decline in the number of high school seniors in the state (from 92,559 to 83,826, a decrease of nearly 10%) as reported by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. In addition, the new voter-approved Seattle Promise scholarship program is in the process of implementation. Funded through general funds and revenue from the Sweetened Beverage Tax, the City of Seattle will provide full coverage of any tuition expenses remaining after scholarships and financial aid have been applied. Public high school graduates from Cleveland, Chief Sealth, Garfield, Ingraham, Rainier Beach and West Seattle high schools will be funded beginning Fall 2019, after which students from all Seattle Public High Schools in the graduating class of 2020 will be funded for the Fall of 2020. Using Fall 2018 enrollment data as a guide, we estimate that full implementation of the Seattle Promise program will prompt approximately 200 resident students who would otherwise enroll at Western to consider attending a community college instead.

Washington community colleges are suffering declines in enrollment as well, which in turn have reduced the number of transfer applications we receive. For Fall 2018, we received 2,210 transfer applications compared to 2,484 for Fall 2017, a decrease of 274 applications. Although it is early in
the admissions cycle for Fall 2019 transfer students, we have received 284 transfer applications so far compared to 330 at the same time last year.

**Impact of Federal Government Shutdown on Financial Aid for Western Students**

Although the U.S. Department of Education is fully funded for the 2019 fiscal year, the partial government shutdown has caused issues for processing of Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSAs) that require specific database matches with other federal departments. The U.S. Department of Education is unable to perform matches with the Treasury, Selective Service System, Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice while the shutdown is in place. Thankfully, Financial aid offices nationwide were given authorization to accept copies of tax returns and written statements of non-filing that would be acceptable for verification purposes in lieu of delayed IRS tax return transcripts and verification of non-filing forms. FAFSAs for which matches could not be made will be reprocessed when the partial shutdown ends. In the meantime, Financial Aid is conducting Selective Service matches manually by accessing the government portal to confirm whether or not the student has registered. We anticipate the true impact to the students to be minimal, though staff are having to do a bit more legwork.