

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
April 2, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Phil Sharpe called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:00 p.m., April 2, 2009 in Old Main 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham.

**Board of Trustees**

Hannah Higgins  
Howard Lincoln  
Dennis Madsen, Secretary  
Phil Sharpe, Chair  
John Warner  
Peggy Zoro, Vice Chair

**Western Washington University**

Bruce Shepard, President  
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General  
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement  
Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications  
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs & Academic Support Services  
Matthew Liao-Troth, President, Faculty Senate  
Erik Lowe, President, Associated Students  
Dennis Murphy, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Paula Gilman, Executive Director for University Planning and Budgeting  
Buff Schoenfeld, Executive Assistant to the President  
Elizabeth Sipes, Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Barbara Stoneberg, Administrative Assistant to the President  
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations  
Kathy Wetherell, Interim Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs

**II. SPECIAL PROJECTS**

A. Discussion of WWU Pipeline Projects

Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services, updated the Board on the current outreach efforts in K-12 at Western Washington University. Although indepth, these programs are typically narrowly defined by a grant or a discipline. Coughlin said that for the future, we know we need a larger "open door portal" that will allow students to feed into the existing programs. The Mentoring initiative offered by Cyndie Shepard, compliments and opens the opportunity to feed student into the existing programs and to grow additional programs, both at Western and throughout the state.

Cyndie Shepard, Associate to the University, reported that she was invited to speak to the Education Committee about *Phuture Phoenix*, the mentoring program she created at the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay. The Education Committee sent a proposal based on the *Phuture Phoenix* program, to the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) and it is currently in the legislature as House Bill 1986. If the bill passes, WWU will become the pilot program for the state.

Shepard described the “Compass 2 Campus” pilot mentoring initiative program for Western. The program is a service learning outreach opportunity to engage college students with underrepresented, low-income, diverse, and/or at risk students, 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. WWU is partnering with Whatcom Community College, Bellingham Technical College, Skagit Valley Community College, and Northwest Indian College in this pilot program.

The expected outcomes of the program for the grade school students will be increased GPA, reduced truancy, and changes in self-image/empowerment. Financial support for the program will be through fundraising efforts in the community. The program is low cost to implement with most of the expenses going to t-shirts and buses. Shepard said the pilot program is currently in the planning stages. She has met with school superintendents, Western’s Deans, faculty, etc. and everyone is on board with the program. Several steering sub-committees are being set up to help develop the program on campus. As part of the program, 500 – 600 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be brought to Western’s campus for a full-day tour of campus in October.

Shepard said that university students benefit from the program by developing communication, leadership and teaching skills. A 3-credit class, to be offered every quarter, is currently being setup. The class will be available campus-wide and each enrolled student will give 45 hours of service to the community. Shepard will volunteer as the class instructor, as no state money is appropriated to the pilot program. House Bill 1986 only authorizes student work study money for student support. It is anticipated that over the next few years, outcome measures will be collected by the education faculty.

The Trustees were invited to the program’s On Campus Tour Day to be held in October, 2009.

## **B. Update on 2009-11 Budgets**

Copies of WWU 2009-11 Biennial Operating Budget Comparisons for the 2009 Legislative Session were distributed. Paula Gilman, Executive Director of University Planning & Budgeting, compared the three budgets -- Governor’s, Senate’s and House -- and their implications for Western. The Senate and House budget comparisons included two versions – with and without the one-time Federal Stimulus Dollars.

Some of the implications for Western related to the proposed budget reductions are no new enrollment or reduction of minimum enrollment, delayed time to graduate and employee position reductions via attrition or lay-offs. It was noted that the proposed budget cuts to Washington Higher Education are the largest in the country among global challenge peer states.

It was noted that WWU is below the national average in resident undergraduate tuition rates, but above the national average in nonresident undergraduate tuition rates. Consequently, WWU will not be increasing tuition for nonresident undergraduates. Shepard noted that recent federal legislation that increases financial aid plus an expanded federal educational tax credit will help offset a 14 percent tuition increase at WWU for middle income families.

Shepard said that because each of the four six-year institutions has different levels of demand, there has been discussion of each institution setting their own tuition increase. Trustee Sharpe said that Boards at each institution will be receiving a letter from their Chair asking them to explore their willingness to support the flexibility to allow each institution to set its own tuition increase. After brief discussion, it was agreed that in the final decision, Western must be able to ensure access to education, while also minimizing time to degree and cuts to quality.

### **C. Budget Planning Update**

Shepard said the budget planning process has been open and transparent. The university conducted a SWOT analysis and sixteen planning units identified several scenarios as to how they could reduce their budgets. 1-1/2 days of budget presentations were held and webcast across campus. The academic areas have targeted reductions of 3.8% and 5% and the non-academic areas have targeted reductions of 5% and 7%. The Vice President will meet with the Deans and draft a university proposal in April. The Vice Presidents and President will meet to finalize the details and the draft will be shared with the campus, allowing opportunities for comment through the website and open forums.

The Board will consider the President's recommended 2009-10 operating budget for final action on June 12. At that time, the Board will also approve recommended tuition increases for the 2009-11 biennium and review a draft 2010-11 operating budget.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.