

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2010**

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. in OM 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Board of Trustees

Betti Fujikado
Sarah Ishmael
Howard Lincoln
Dennis Madsen
Ralph Munro (via conference call)
Phil Sharpe, Chair
John Warner
Peggy Zoro

Western Washington University

Bruce Shepard, President
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General
Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President for University Relations
Paul Cocks, Director, University Communications
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services
Paula Gilman, Executive Director of University Planning and Budgeting
Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment Diversity
Scott Pearce, Vice President, Faculty Senate
Nancy Phillips, Assistant to the Vice President, Business and Financial Affairs
Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
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 and Financial Affairs

II. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. Budget Update

President Bruce Shepard provided an overview of the University's budget for 2010-2011, including proposed additional budget reductions by the state. The budget for 2011-2013 is currently under development. Planning assumptions are that budgets for higher education for 2011-2013 will additionally be reduced by the state. President Bruce Shepard noted that the resident undergraduate tuition was raised by 14% for both years of the biennium. Undetermined is a tuition increase in 2010-2011 for non-resident undergraduate, non-resident graduate and resident graduate. Trustee Warner noted that the community and technical college system budgets were cut less than the four year institutions.

Western Washington University will become the premier public comprehensive university in the country through engaged excellence.

B. Tuition Flexibility

President Bruce Shepard discussed the issues surrounding tuition flexibility, including the state's 'one-size-fits-all' approach to tuition for the universities. President Shepard noted that some view tuition flexibility as a panacea. The average annual cost for attendance is now in excess of \$17,000. Paula Gilman, Executive Director for Planning and Budgeting, explained that Washington State's legislature has defined "tuition" as both the tuition operating fee plus the capital building fee; when tuition is increased, both components are increased. Resident undergraduate tuition for 2009-10 is \$4,890 per year – \$4,698 in tuition operating fees plus \$192 for the capital building fee. Tuition for 2010-11 will be \$5,575 per year including around \$219 for the capital building fee portion, and \$5,356 for the operating fee portion. When WWU collects these fees from the students, the net capital building fee portion goes into an account in the state treasury to be appropriated back to the University usually for minor capital projects, and the net tuition operating fee revenue is used for the University's operating budget.

Trustee Warner expressed concern that the State Need Grant would not increase adequately to provide funds for needy students. President Shepard discussed financial issues surrounding potential cuts to the State Need Grant and other sources of state funding, and the impact on Western's students. Vice President Coughlin noted that the Financial Aid Office is actively looking at ways to mitigate the negative financial impact on students.

The need for a greater presence by Western in Olympia with legislators was discussed. Trustee Ishmael expressed appreciation to Western for looking at financial aid options for Western's students, and expressed that the students trust Western's leadership to make sound judgments. Trustee Sharpe expressed his appreciation to the University's leadership, and faculty and staff union partners, for working together as budget planning and difficult decisions are made now and in the coming months.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:43 p.m. Chair Sharpe announced that, as authorized in RCW 42.30.110, the Board convened for Executive Session to discuss legal issues for approximately 10 minutes. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 4.55 p.m.