

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
August 18, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dennis Madsen called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:04 p.m., August 18, 2011, at Shannon Point Marine Center, Anacortes, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

Betti Fujikado, Secretary  
Karen Lee  
Dennis Madsen, Chair  
Ralph Munro, Vice Chair  
Phil Sharpe  
Dick Thompson  
Jacob Whitish  
Peggy Zoro

**Western Washington University**

Bruce Shepard, President  
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General  
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement  
Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President for University Relations  
Paul Cocks, Director, University Communications  
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services  
Anna Ellermeier, President, Associated Students  
Karen Stout, President, Faculty Senate  
Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Liz Sipes, Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations  
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs  
Bill Lyne, Faculty Associate to the President and Provost

**2. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**a. LEGISLATIVE SESSION DEBRIEF**

President Shepard opened discussion by noting that a lot was accomplished this legislative session. Despite the budget reductions, there were a lot of successes including the Capital Budget and the increase of the State Need Grant. Shepard said he is optimistic for Western's future because key legislators became aware that our quality education was at stake. Western's per student differential funding cut was reduced and legislators know that investment in higher education is important to protect the future of Washington State.

Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President for University Relations and Bill Lyne, Faculty Associate to the President and Provost presented "Western Advocates, Making a Difference in

Olympia.” Burkey said the key part of Western’s success in Olympia was our successful advocacy efforts by our alumni, parent, students and other friends of Western.

Because of a state statute that prohibits state agencies from using state funds for “grass roots” advocacy Lyne said that no state resources were used in Western’s advocacy efforts. This was a collaboration between the Western Foundation and the United Faculty of Washington State. Lyne noted that Western has more collaboration among constituent groups on campus than any other university in the state due to President Shepard’s spirit of cooperation and respect for faculty. Lyne recognized all those involved in the effort including University Relations, Alumni Association, Student Services, Associated Students, Jeff Young (Biology), and the help of the Washington Education Association contributed money and staff time. Lyne specially recognized Burkey for her outstanding work in Olympia.

Lyne said that Western sent 6,678 letters and emails to Olympia in the 2011 legislative session and Western Advocates contacted 42,275 alumni, advisory board members, parents, and students. Every legislator in the state heard from at least 2 or 3 of their constituents about Western.

Lyne demonstrated the Western Advocacy website where there is information on different opportunities to support Western.

Trustees suggested ways to connect with legislators, i.e. letter writing, hosting gatherings in advocates’ homes.

#### **b. WESTERN’S MISSION IN ACTION: COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS**

Catherine Riordan, Provost & VP for Academic Affairs introduced Steve Sulkin, Director of Shannon Point Marine Center. Sulkin said today’s discussions will show how Shannon Point and the Marine Science programs address elements of Western’s new Strategic Plan.

To address the 2<sup>nd</sup> element of the Strategic Goals, “*Expand student access to rigorous and engaging baccalaureate and graduate education*”, Aunama Christmas presented her experiences as a student at Shannon Point Marine Center. In 2010 Aunama, a student from the University of the Virgin Islands, started in the Multicultural Initiative in the Marine Sciences: Undergraduate Participation (MIMSUP) program and is now a graduate student in the Master’s Program at SPMC.

To address the 4<sup>th</sup> element of the Strategic Goals, “*Apply Western’s experience and collaborative approach to scholarship, creativity, and research in ways that strengthen communities beyond the campus,*” SPMC implemented the Shannon Point Marine Center Public Education Initiative. Through federal grants and private donations, two ½ time staff members were hired to implement a program aimed at increasing ocean literacy among the general public and translating what is done at SPMC to a broader audience.

Dr. Jude Apple, a marine scientist in the Center for Ocean Science Education Excellence (COSEE) Pacific Partnership, explained new marine science programs that engage teachers and students at Community Colleges as well as informal audiences outside the classroom.

Denise Crowe, a trainer with MIMSUP, explained how students in the Multicultural Initiative in the Marine Sciences: Undergraduate Participation (MIMSUP) engage in wide-range of activities

with 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students and the in the community. A mobile “Ocean Science Information System” (aquarium) is taken to public education events such as public school science fairs, Kids Are Best Fest, and the Anacortes Waterfront Festival. Crowe noted that collaborative relationships have increased with communities, local Native American Tribes, and different public educational institutions.

In their outreach efforts, Shannon Point Marine Center publicizes that it is part of Western Washington University. Sulkin noted that SPMC is funded for this level of activity to the middle of 2013 but they will need federal funding or additional donations to be able to continue. Sulkin said that because SPMC has world-renowned scientists engaged in research of global significance, competition for NSF funding is mostly at the national level.

Trustee Fujikado said that SPMC is a “hidden gem” that needs to tell their story and suggested that they broaden their outreach efforts to the Seattle area.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:45 p.m. Chair Madsen announced that the Board would meet in Executive Session to discuss personnel, real estate and legal issues as authorized in RCW 42.30.110 for approximately 45 minutes. No action will be taken.

At 5:45 the meeting recessed until Friday, August 19, at 8:00 a.m.