

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
December 8, 2011**

**1. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Dennis Madsen called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:00 p.m., December 8, 2011, in OM 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

Betti Fujikado, Secretary  
Karen Lee (via conference phone)  
Dennis Madsen, Chair  
Ralph Munro, Vice Chair  
Phil Sharpe  
Dick Thompson  
Jacob Whitish

**Western Washington University**

Bruce Shepard, President  
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General  
Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications  
Paul Dunn, Sr. Executive Assistant to the President  
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services  
Paula Gilman, Exec. Director, University Planning & Budgeting  
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

**2. SPECIAL REPORTS**

**A. WESTERN'S TOWN-COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS**

• **Western Window TV**

Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations, presented ***Western in the Community***, describing programs that Western is currently involved with to build partnerships, improve quality of life, assist nonprofits, and promote volunteerism off campus. The programs include Compass 2 Campus, Center for Economic Vitality, Shannon Point Marine Center, and the Border Policy Research Institute. Also contributing to community relations are the College of Fine and Performing Arts, Woodring College of Education, and the Departments of Psychology and PEHR. He noted that Western students volunteer thousands of hours through such programs as the Center for Service Learning and

Washington Campus Compact. Swan said that Western is committed to being a “good neighbor” with the people that live in our community.

Swan noted that Western is regularly engaged with the Bellingham City Council, the Port of Bellingham, and in neighborhood meetings, etc., Western’s faculty and staff also sit on many community not-for-profit boards.

As a part of our efforts to connect Western with the community, we are creating **The Western Window TV Show**. This project is completely student intern driven and the first show is scheduled for January 2012. Swan demonstrated with a show on Western’s Audiology Clinic.

Swan reported that we are also creating a webpage titled “*The Difference that Western Makes*” showcasing Western’s awards, recognitions, etc.

- **Successful Partnerships with Regional School Districts in Science & Math Education**

Pinky Nelson, Director of SMATE; Shannon Warren, CRISP&SPECK-8 Project Director; and Scott Ellis, Principal of Blaine High School reported on the progress made in science & math education in the regional school districts.

Nelson said they have been engaged in Science Education activities such as preparation of the highest quality K-12 science teachers, development of innovative science education curricula, development of partnerships with community college and K-12, focusing on the improvement of K-16 science teaching, research and faculty grants, etc.

Nelson said there are many challenges in integrating science at all school levels. He noted that Washington ranks 46<sup>th</sup> among the states in the amount of science taught in elementary schools.

Shannon Warren, explained the CRISP and SPECK- 8 grant project partnerships between SMATE and six school districts. The projects include Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to improve science content and knowledge, and teacher instruction. During the school year teachers attend monthly PLC meetings, peer observation groups, and during the summer months several workshops are offered.

Nelson presented graphs showing improvement in students’ science scores; a result of these partnerships.

At 3:50 p.m. Chair Madsen announced at 10 minute break. The meeting reconvened at 4:00 p.m. Chair Madsen and President Shepard welcomed members of the Western Foundation Board to the meeting.

## **B. STUDENT DEBT, SCHOLARSHIP CONSULTANT, INTERNSHIPS**

Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services opened the discussion by stating that throughout the country there is a growing concern about the affordability of

higher education. She noted that Western students graduate with less debt than the state or national average. However, because of the current economy and less state support, the debt load is increasing for our students and their families. Coughlin said that scholarships are available for qualified students, and Western is looking at ways that we can be more strategic and effective in our approach to Need Based Financial Aid so that more can benefit from a higher education.

Coughlin reported that research suggests that Internships, paid or unpaid, increase the students likelihood of employment and a higher job salary. Strategic planning efforts are underway to bring more internship and job placement opportunities to our students. Western now has the ***Viking Career Link*** that provides information about internships or career opportunities that match the student's profile. More need to be added to the system.

Coughlin asked how Western, the Board of Trustees, the Western Foundation, Alumni, parents, etc., can partner to provide internship opportunities, scholarships, and career placement to Western students? Discussion followed with the Trustees and members of the Western Foundation Board. There were several suggestions made to increase internships, including offering stipends to the students, marketing to potential employers, etc. Also discussed was the repackaging of unrestricted and recruitment scholarship packages, and making scholarships available to students for the four years they are enrolled at Western.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:55 p.m. Chair Madsen announced the Board would convene into Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel and legal issues as authorized in RCW 42.30.110.

The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:30 p.m. No action was taken.

The meeting recessed at 5:32 p.m.