

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES  
June 7, 2012**

**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., June 7, 2012, in OM 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

Betti Fujikado, Secretary  
Dennis Madsen, Chair  
Ralph Munro, Vice Chair  
Karen Lee  
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 Enrollment and Student Services  
Paul Dunn, Sr. Executive Assistant to the President  
Anna Ellermeier, President, Associated Students  
Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Karen Stout, President, Faculty Senate  
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. DIVERSITY CLIMATE**

In 2010-2011, Western contracted with the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI) at UCLA to conduct their nationally recognized Faculty Survey which measured a broad range of issues impacting faculty and administrators, including diversity climate. A summary of the survey, which highlighted statistically significant differences by race, sexual orientation and gender, was included in the Board packet. Bruce Shepard, President, noted that a similar diversity climate survey was conducted last year with the students. The findings indicated that WWU is average

in comparison with our peers. Shepard said that Western is not satisfied with being average and is leading efforts to effectively address some of the concerns of the HERI survey.

Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, introduced the presentation panel: Sue Guenter-Schlesinger, Vice Provost for Equal Opportunity and Employment Diversity; Francisco Rios, Dean, Woodring College of Education; Willy Hart, Director, University Residences; and Nick Sanchez, Sr. Associate, Human Resources.

The panel presented a brief snapshot of the demographics of the campus; a description of progressive programs being developed in Human Resources, including the Employee Empowerment Diversity Plan and the BFA Protégé Mentorship Program; University Residences successes in hiring for multicultural experience and cross cultural communication skills and their success in retaining these hires; and a summary of what is being done in each of the colleges to address Western's diversity issues. This includes a Diversity Fellows Program, developing an orientation and mentorship program for new faculty, increasing awareness about the importance of diversity in academic programs through a lecture series, a dedicated diversity resident position in the library, cultural performance based programs, partnerships and study abroad programs, and the Center for Educational Equity and Diversity.

Riordan said that the HERI survey results indicate that there is a lack of sensitivity towards diverse groups on campus. Western is developing a culture that is more clearly supportive of diversity, but we still have more work to do.

## **B. USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AT WESTERN**

Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations, said that Western uses many forms of social media to communicate with prospective students, current students, and alumni. Swan introduced Brandon Griffith, WWU student; Nicolas Quinlan, WWU student; Jamin Agosti, WWU alum; Mary Doherty, Communications & Marketing Program Manager, Alumni Office; and Matthew Anderson, New Media Coordinator who showed an interactive presentation on the uses of social media on campus.

## **3. AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES RULES OF OPERATION**

Wendy Bohlke, Legal Counsel, said that in keeping with the amended SHB 2313 requiring boards of trustees and regents of the public institutions of higher education to include public comment periods at regular board meetings, the WWU's Board of Trustees Rules of Operations need to be amended. Suggested revisions have been made to Section 7.10 and 7.11 Meetings of the Board in the Rules of Operation. Bohlke also noted that the legislature is requiring a twenty-one day notification of consideration of any increases to tuition and fees.

MOTION 01- 6-2012

Ralph Munro moved, on recommendation from the President, that the Board of Trustees amends Section 7 of its Rules of Operation to provide for a public comment period at its regular board meetings, as required by Chapter 228, Laws of 2012, in amending RCW 28B.35.110, and referencing an amendment to RCW 28B.15.067 regarding twenty-one day notification of consideration of any increases to tuition and fees.

Seconded by Dick Thompson. Motion carried.

#### **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:35 p.m. Chair Madsen announced that the Board would go into Executive Session for approximately one hour to discuss personnel and legal issues as authorized by RCW 42.30.110. No action will be taken.

At 5:30 p.m. the Board reconvened in Open Session. The meeting recessed at 5:30 p.m.