

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
April 11, 2013**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peggy Zoro called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 2:30 p.m., April 11, 2013, In Old Main 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Board of Trustees

Betti Fujikado, Secretary
Dennis Madsen
Joseph Meyer
Ralph Munro
Sue Sharpe
Dick Thompson
Peggy Zoro, Chair

Western Washington University

Bruce Shepard, President
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President, University Advancement
Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications
Eileen Coughlin, Sr. Vice President & VP for Enrollment & Student Services
Paul Dunn, Sr. Executive Assistant to the President
Ethan Glemaker, President, Associated Students
Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Liz Sipes, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Karen Stout, President, Faculty Senate
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs

2. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. WESTERN AND THE DYNAMIC NEW LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: MOOCS, ONLINE, DEMOGRAPHICS, ETC.

Bruce Shepard, President, stated that today's discussion is the beginning of a larger discussion on innovative methods to pedagogy. Catherine Riordan, Provost, led the discussion by asking the question, "What will Western's role be in 5 or 10 years in the new learning environments?" Riordan noted that with the proliferation of providers and learning opportunities on the web,

there will also be a shift in the diversity in students; they will no longer be the traditional 18-22 year old students.

John Farquhar Manager, Centers for Teaching, Learning & Technology and Justina Brown, Instructional Designer, Multimedia and Faculty Development, proved a presentation on different modalities of offering courses, e.g.. *Blended Courses* and *Flipped Classrooms*. One definition of a Blended Course is a course when an online activity replaces at least 30% of required face-to-face meetings. *Blended learning* is a formal education program in which a student learns at least in part through online delivery of content and instruction with some element of student control over time, path, and/or place. The *Flipped Classroom* is a form of blended learning which encompasses any use of technology to leverage the learning in a classroom, so a teacher can spend more time interacting with students instead of lecturing.

Farquhar and Brown's presentation also included MOOCs. *Massive Online Open Course* (MOOCs) are defined as an online course aiming at large-scale interactive participation and open access via the web. In addition to traditional course materials such as videos, readings, and problem sets, MOOCs provided interactive user forums that help build a community for the students, professors, and TAs. MOOCs are a recent development in distance education.

Johann Neem, History Professor, and History students, Catrina Cuadra and Katie Wiggins, talked about the traditional classroom. Neem raised the question as to what are our expectations of students on online courses compared to what are our expectations of the students coming to the university. Cuadra and Wiggins shared their positive experience of having a traditional university experience. i.e. communicating in a classroom setting, face-to-face teaching and support of professors. These personal experiences are not available through online courses.

Riordan reported that Western offers blended courses and uses a lot of technology but does not offer any MOOCs. She noted that faculty come to Western because they are interested in teaching undergraduates in a face-to-face traditional classroom.

It was noted that MOOC's might be useful in a different situation other than the traditional classroom. For example, MOOCs might be useful to reach out the Bellingham community about the proposed Coal Export Terminal. This would provide opportunity for WWU experts in the relevant fields to participate in an open online discussion about this very important situation in our community and the communities along the coast.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. Chair Zoro announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss personnel, real estate and legal issues as authorized in RCW 42.30.110. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 4:45 p.m. No action was taken.

Meeting recessed at 5:05 p.m.