

WWU Board of Trustees

New Trustee Orientation



WWU Board of Trustees



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- The Board of Trustees at Western Washington University consists of eight trustees, including one student trustee. The trustees are appointed by the Governor for a six-year term, with the exception of the student trustee who serves for one calendar year.
- Trustees are volunteers and do not receive compensation for their service to the university.
- The President is the primary representative and spokesperson of the institution and reports directly to the Board of Trustees.
- All faculty, staff, and students communicate through their divisional vice president, who each report to the President.

Board of Trustees Meetings



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- The Board of Trustees gather for six regular meetings annually, and twice a year for Work Sessions.
- Board of Trustees Special Meetings can be held with twenty-four hours notice, given to the Code Revisers Office, in the event of an emergency.



Board of Trustees Meetings



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- Meetings are typically held on the Bellingham main campus, but do occasionally meet at various off-site locations. All regular meetings are subject to the [Open Public Meetings Act](#) and therefore are open for the public to attend.
- In keeping with the Open Public Meetings Act, an opportunity for public comment is a regular meeting agenda item, with sign-up typically before the start of the meeting.





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Board of Trustees Committees

- The Board of Trustees has three sub-committees:
 - ✓ Finance, Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management (FARM) Committee
 - ✓ Student Success Committee
 - ✓ Executive Committee
- The sub-committees typically meeting in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meetings throughout the calendar year. Committees consist of no more than four Trustees, and are strictly advisory to the full board. As such, they are not subject to the Open Public Meetings Act, though the public is welcome to attend their meetings.

Rules of Operation



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- The Board of Trustees derives its authority and responsibilities from [Title 28B](#) and other portions of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW).
- [Link to full WWU Board of Trustees Rules of Operation.](#)

Rules of Operation (continued)



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- Each member of the Board of Trustees is a voting member and they vote on the following authority items:
 - Employ the President
 - Administer the Board of Trustees
 - Adopt administrative rules
 - Approve budgets
 - Structure the university
 - Award degrees
 - Establish certain fees
 - Approve collective bargaining agreements
 - Purchase, acquire, and/or lease real estate
 - Select certain architects and engineers
 - Authorize certain public works contracts
 - Establish self-supporting facilities
 - Authorize bond indebtedness
 - Establish self-supporting facilities
 - Approve the settlement of claims
 - Name buildings and facilities
 - Designate an agent
 - Evaluate the President, per contract

Executive Session



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- Trustees may hold an executive session during any regular or special meeting.
- Executive sessions may be held to discuss legal, real estate or personnel matters as permitted by applicable laws of the State of Washington.
- Trustees, including the student trustee, may recuse themselves due to personal conflict.
- Executive sessions are closed to the public and relevant guests are invited based on the topic being discussed.
- [Link to RCW 42.30.110](#)

Thank You

If you would like additional information or have questions regarding the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, please feel free to contact:

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