• Board of Trustees Website - https://trustees.wwu.edu
  o Past Board meeting agendas and minutes - https://trustees.wwu.edu/archives
• President’s Website - http://www.wwu.edu/president/
• Western Washington University FactBook (data on enrollment, faculty, courses and degree production) - https://oie.wwu.edu/factbook/
  o Academic Key Performance Indicators Dashboard - https://oie.wwu.edu/2019/01/04/key-performance-dashboard/
• Strategic Plan 2018 – 2025 Overall Metrics - https://provost.wwu.edu/overall-metrics
• WWU Office of Budget and Financial Planning - https://bfp.wwu.edu/
• WWU Course Catalog - http://catalog.wwu.edu/index.php
• Campus Directory - http://www.wwu.edu/directory/
• Ethical Standards for Washington State Employees; see http://www.ethics.wa.gov/TRAINING/Training.htm to use the on-line Ethics Challenge

Updated 1/25/21
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

FAQs FOR NEW TRUSTEES

Q: How many times a year does the Board meet?
A: The Board has six regular meetings per year and one annual Board Retreat. The regular meetings are held in Bellingham on Thursday and Friday, beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and adjourning at 12:00 Noon on Friday. Special Meetings are called as needed. The board holds one or more of its regular meetings outside of Whatcom County.

Q: How do I receive materials for the Board of Trustee Meeting?
A: The President’s Office is certified as a Sustainable Office at the platinum level. As such, our Board of Trustees meetings are paperless. Board meeting materials are available on the Board of Trustees webpage. The campus community and the Trustees have the ability to print and/or download the documents onto their computers. Trustees should bring their own technology in order to access the materials during the meeting. If you require technology on loan for the meeting, please let us know.

Q: Will I have the opportunity to review and ask questions regarding the Board meeting agenda items prior to the meeting?
A: An agenda review with the President is scheduled two or three days prior to each board meeting. The reviews are done via a conference call. Because a quorum cannot be present, two calls are scheduled with four Trustees participating during each call.

Q: Does the WWU Board of Trustees have subcommittees? How do subcommittees interact with the full Board?
A: The Board of Trustees has two subcommittees, the Finance, Audit and Enterprise Risk Management Committee and the Student Success Committee. Both committees meet prior to the regular board meeting and the committee chair reports on activities of their meetings during the full board meeting.

Q: Are Trustees required to participate in Commencement Ceremonies?
A: It is not a requirement, but Trustees are invited to participate in Western’s commencement ceremonies. A calendar of future ceremonies is sent out and Trustees are asked to commit to participating in any ceremony that fits their personal schedule.

Q: Who provides Commencement Regalia?
A: Commencement regalia (robes, hoods, and mortarboards/tams) is provided by Western.

Q: Are Trustees paid for service on the WWU Board of Trustees?
A: Trustees are not paid to serve on the board. They are not employees of Western. However, Trustees traveling from out of town are reimbursed mileage, lodging, and some meals at the state allowable rate. Click here for more information on per diem reimbursement rates.

Q: Where do I park when I come to campus?
A: Each Trustee is provided courtesy parking valid for their entire term on the Board by providing the make/model/license plate number of their vehicle to the President’s Office staff. Trustee Reserved
Parking is available in Lot 8G, behind the Old Main building. However, the parking permit is valid for any non-reserved spot on campus.

Q: What is the relationship with the WWU Foundation and the Board of Trustees?
A: The Western Washington University Foundation is the fund-raising arm of the institution. An agreement was entered into with Western and the Foundation empowering the Foundation to solicit and receive contributions, grants, gifts, and property in the name and on behalf of the University.

Q: Are Trustees required to donate financially to WWU?
A: Giving financially to the institution is not a requirement of service as a Trustee. Annual and campaign gifts are welcome to the extent a Trustee is able and interested. Trustees are encouraged to make connections and build ties with community members as appropriate.

Q: Do Trustees periodically have opportunities to meet with faculty and students?
A: The Faculty Senate President, who represents the faculty, and the Associated Students President, who represents the students, are members of President’s Cabinet and regularly attend board meetings. Faculty and students are often presenters at the meetings.

Q: What should an individual trustee do if contacted directly by the media?
A: The Board of Trustees Chair is the spokesperson for the Board. All media questions should be directed to the Chair.
John M. Meyer, Board Chair

On October 21, 2015, Governor Jay Inslee appointed John M. Meyer to Western’s Board of Trustees to fill a six year term through September 30, 2021.

Meyer, currently splitting time between Mount Vernon and Langley, WA, served as a Skagit County Superior Court Judge from 1997 until 2015. He also served as a District Court judge in Skagit County from 1995 to 1997. He was in private practice and partner in the Gilbert and Meyer Law Firm from 1975 to 1994. Prior to that he served as a staff attorney with the Federal Power Commission in Washington, D.C.

Meyer has extensive community and civic involvement by serving as a member on numerous boards, including the Board of Judicial Administration, the Sentencing Guidelines Commission Board, the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association Board, and Skagit Valley College Board; serving as chair of the Board of Judicial Administrations Court Education Committee, the Skagit County Law and Justice Board, and the Skagit Homeless Youth Task Force; serving as dean of the Washington State Judicial College; serving as treasurer of the Superior Court Judges’ Association; and serving as president of the University of Washington Alumni Association Board, the Skagit County Bar Association, the Skagit Valley College Foundation, Mount Vernon Kiwanis, and the Skagit Valley Family YMCA.

During his career Meyer has received many honors, including 2009 Judge of the Year, Washington State Association for Justice; and as an honoree in the Skagit Valley College Hall of Fame.

Meyer earned his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Washington and his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

John and his wife, the former Susan Johnson, have been married 50 years. They have two married daughters and four granddaughters.
Chase Franklin, Vice Chair

On June 2, 2014, Governor Jay Inslee appointed Chase Franklin to Western’s Board of Trustees to fill a six year term through September 30, 2019 and was reappointed by Governor Jay Inslee for a term ending September 30, 2025.

Franklin, a resident of Seattle, is currently a startup advisor, investor and management consultant. Previously he was CEO of Daptiv Inc.; chief of Strategy for Content and Media at Amdocs Ltd., and co-founder and CEO of Qpass Inc. Prior to founding Qpass in 1997, Franklin spent more than a decade at Microsoft Corp. in key product development and management positions. He played a notable role in Microsoft’s transition from standalone productivity applications to the Microsoft Office suite. He was part of the original design team for Word for Windows before taking on the integration and interoperation of the elements of Microsoft Office. He later spearheaded some of Microsoft’s early interactive TV initiatives, as well as e-commerce and business development within MSN and early internet platform products.

Franklin is the recipient of multiple patents relating to the design of Microsoft and Qpass technologies in the areas of commerce, secure payments, business process automation and customer management in highly scaled network operating environments.

Franklin and his wife, Teri, endowed the WWU College of Business and Economics’ Allette and Cayden Franklin Excellence in Teaching Award, named for the Franklins’ two children. In 2016 they expanded their investment in Western by making a 5-year commitment to the Teacher Education as Human Service Project Enhancement fund which supports Woodring College of Education by providing funding for pilot programs within this project. Initial funding supported the design and hosting of the 2016 Teacher Education as Human Service Summer Institute. He also serves as a member of the Advisory Board of the WWU College of Business and Economics’ Center for Excellence in Management Education.

Franklin earned his bachelor's degree from Western Washington University in Mathematics and Economics in 1986.
Sue Sharpe, Secretary

On October 1, 2012, Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Susan K. Sharpe to Western’s Board of Trustees to a term through September 30, 2018 and reappointed by Governor Jay Inslee for a term ending September 30, 2024.

Sharpe, a Bellingham resident, is the former Executive Director of Chuckanut Health Foundation. Her professional experience also includes owner of Sue Sharpe Consulting and as a health care planner and hospital manager and executive.

Sharpe has a strong commitment to the community. She serves on the Board of the Northwest Economic Development Council and as a member and former President of the Bellingham Bay Rotary. She has also served on the Whatcom Community Foundation, the Health Policy Committee of Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA). The WAHA “Transforming Healthcare in Whatcom County” Steering Committee and co-chaired the successful Bellingham School District bond and levy campaign to rebuild Bellingham High School. In 2004 Sharpe was inducted into the Northwest Women’s Hall of Fame.

Sharpe has served the State of Washington as a member of the Washington State Health Insurance Partnership Board, as co-chair of the Office of Insurance Commission Healthcare Reform Realization Committee and as past chair of Community Connect, a statewide association of community-based health care collaborative.

Sharpe earned her bachelor’s degree from Western Washington State College and a MBA from Western Washington University.
On December 10, 2010, Governor Christine Gregoire appointed Karen Lee to Western’s Board of Trustees to fill a term through September 30, 2016 and reappointed by Governor Jay Inslee for a term ending September 30, 2022

Lee is Chief Executive Officer of Pioneer Human Services, one of the nation’s largest social enterprise organizations. Pioneer is often cited as a national model in providing employment services, job training, treatment, counseling, housing, and re-entry services for people overcoming challenges with chemical dependency, mental illness, and criminal histories. Prior to her recent appointment at Pioneer, Lee served for five years as Commissioner of the Washington State Employment Security Department. Lee also held a variety of positions from 1997 to 2005 at Puget Sound Energy and as an Associate Attorney at Preston Gates Ellis (now K & L Gates).

Lee, a Covington resident, is a member of the Washington State Bar Association, president of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, past president and trustee of the University of Washington Alumni Association, and former member of the Cascade Land Conservancy. Lee was previously named one of the “40 under 40” honorees by the Puget Sound Business Journal.

Lee earned her bachelor’s degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point, majoring in Russian studies, and holds a law degree from the University Of Washington School of Law.
Mo West

On October 21, 2015, Governor Jay Inslee appointed Maureen “Mo” West to Western’s Board of Trustees to fill a six year term through September 30, 2021.

West, a resident of Bellingham, is a currently a member of the faculty at the University of Washington, Bothell School of Nursing and Health Studies. West has worked as a nurse for over 30 years and has served as an instructor in Western’s RN-BSN program and as adjunct faculty in the School of Health Sciences at Seattle Pacific University. She also has eight years of government experience working as a legislative assistant with the U.S. Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Subcommittee on Disability Policy. West was also a professional staff member to former U.S. Sen. Robert Dole where she was responsible for legislation relating to various health, education, disability and social policy programs.

West has served the Whatcom County community in a number of different ways and has been active on many local non-profit boards including Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood, the Bellingham Festival of Music, PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation and the Brigid Collins Family Support Center.

West earned her bachelor’s degree in Nursing from the University of Iowa, a master’s of Science in Nursing from the Catholic University of America and her doctorate in Nursing from the University of Washington.
Hunter Stuehm

Hunter Stuehm from Vancouver, Washington, graduated in June with a Bachelor of Arts and majored in communication sciences and disorders with a minor in linguistics. In his final year of undergrad, Stuehm worked alongside Assistant Professor Douglas Sladen as a research assistant, studying speech perception abilities of adults with single-sided deafness and cochlear implants. Stuehm served as a resident adviser from 2017-2019, and was twice named RA of the Quarter. As an RA, Stuehm served as peer-adviser to residence hall councils and worked to connect student leaders to involvement opportunities on campus. He has received several academic awards, including scholarships from the Vancouver Rotary Foundation, the Evergreen School District PSE Union, the Western Foundation, the WWU Alumni Association, and the Audria M. Edwards Memorial Foundation. He has also served as a member of the Campus Public Safety Advisory Council, RA Advisory Council, University Housing Representation and Advocacy Committee, and is a member of the National Student Speech-Language and Hearing Association. Stuehm plans to begin Western's doctor of audiology program this fall. He is a graduate of the Vancouver School of Arts and Academics and is the son of Trina and Damon Stuehm.
Faith Li Pettis

On October 22, 2018 Governor Jay Inslee appointed Faith Li Pettis to the Western's Board of Trustees to a term through September 20, 2024.

Pettis serves as bond counsel and outside counsel to state and local governments, with a primary focus on housing, education, and nonprofit finance. Her clients range from state agencies and housing authorities to local school districts and include the Washington State Housing Finance Commission, the issuer of nonprofit, multifamily, and single-family bonds and the allocating agency for federal low-income housing tax credits in Washington State. She also represents the Washington State issuer of bonds for private colleges and universities.

Prior to Pacifica, Faith practiced as a public finance attorney for 18 years with Preston Gates & Ellis and its successor firm, K&L Gates.

Faith was appointed in 2015 by the Mayor of Seattle to co-chair the City’s Housing Affordability and Livability task force, which was charged with delivering a ten year plan to address housing affordability in the city. She was also appointed in 2012 by Governor Gregoire and served two terms as chair of the statewide Affordable Housing Advisory Board. Faith served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Bond Lawyers ("NABL") from 2010 to 2011 and from 2012 to 2015, and as a Trustee for College Spark Washington, an education grant-making organization, from 2010 to 2016.

Pettis earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Washington in Russian Language and Russian/East European area studies and her law degree from Harvard Law School.