



# WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

## Friday, August 15, 2025

Location: Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, Board Room, Old Main 340  
Audiocast: <https://wp.wvu.edu/live/>  
Time: 8:00 a.m.

**1. Call to Order**

8:00 – 8:01

**2. Executive Session**

8:01-8:20

- Authorized by RCW 41.30.120(1)(g); The purpose is to review the performance of a public employee.

**3. BREAK**

8:20-8:30

**4. RECONVENE**

8:30-8:31

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

8:31-8:35

- a. Board Regular Meeting Minutes from June 13, 2025

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

8:35-8:45

**7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

8:45 – 9:05

- a. RESOLUTION 2025-03: Welcoming Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot
- b. RESOLUTION 2025-04: Recognizing The Service of Trustee Chase Franklin

**8. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT**

9:05 - 9:15

**9. FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

9:15 - 9:25

- Presentation: Erika McPhee-Shaw, President, Faculty Senate

**10. BOARD FINANCE, AUDIT, AND ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

9:25 - 9:35

- Presentation: Trustee Chase Franklin, Chair, Finance, Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee

**11. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

9:35 - 9:45

- Presentation: Trustee Mo West, Chair, Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

**ACTION ITEMS**

**12. APPROVAL OF PRESIDENT'S CONTRACT REVISION**

9:45 - 9:50

- Presentation: Trustee Faith Pettis, Board Chair

**13. APPROVAL OF 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST**

9:50 - 9:55

- Presentation:
  - Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
  - Traci Brewer-Rogstad, Associate Vice President for Facilities, Development and Operations

#### **14. APPROVAL OF 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING BUDGET REQUEST**

9:55 – 10:00

- Presentation:
  - Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
  - Faye Gallant, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget

#### **15. APPROVAL OF BOARD OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026**

10:00 - 10:05

- Presentation: Trustee Faith Pettis, Board Chair

#### **16. APPROVAL OF SUMMER QUARTER DEGREES**

10:10 - 10:15

- Presentation: Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

### **INFORMATION ITEMS**

#### **17. WRITTEN REPORTS**

10:15 - 10:20

- a. Enrollment Management Summary
- b. University Advancement Report
- c. Capital Program Report
- d. Annual Grant Report

#### **18. TRUSTEE REMARKS**

10:20 - 10:25

#### **19. DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

- October 16-17, 2025, in Bellingham, WA

#### **20. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

10:25-10:45

- Authorized by RCW 42.30.110 provides a basis, as follows: The purpose is to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions.

**21. ADJOURN**

10:45

**22. BREAK**

10:45-11:30

**23. RECONVENE FOR BOARD WORK SESSION**

11:30-3:00

- LAKEWOOD: 2401 Lake Whatcom Boulevard, Bellingham, WA 98229

**24. ADJOURN**

3:00pm

## **01 CALL TO ORDER**

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Sabah Randhawa, President

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Executive Session

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

President Randhawa will lead the Trustees in an executive session as authorized by RCW 41.30.120(1)(g); The purpose is to review the performance of a public employee.

## **03 Break**

## **04 RECONVENE**

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Action Items

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the Minutes

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes.

**Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the president, approve the following minutes:

- a. Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, June 13, 2025

# WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

## Friday, June 13, 2025

Location: Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, Board Room, Old Main 340  
Audiocast: <https://wp.wvu.edu/live/>  
Time: 8:30 a.m.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Faith Pettis called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 8:30am on Friday, June 13, 2025, in the Board of Trustees Conference room, Old Main 340, at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

#### Attendance:

Faith Pettis, Chair  
Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair  
Ash Awad, Trustee  
Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee, Trustee  
Chase Franklin, Trustee  
John Meyer, Trustee  
Maria Siguenza, Trustee  
Mo West, Trustee  
Sabah Randhawa, President  
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President  
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs  
Melynda Huskey, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Kim Hill, Vice President for Advancement, Executive Director of the Foundation for WWU and Alumni  
Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer and Executive Director of the Office of Equity  
Jim Sterk, Athletics Director  
Becca Kenna-Schenk, President's Office Chief of Staff  
Kerena Higgins, AAG  
Jen Marion, AAG  
Michael Slouber, Faculty Senate President  
Liam Pratt, Associated Students of Western Washington University President  
Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees  
Elissa Hicks, Policy Coordinator for Government Relations and the Board of Trustees

## 2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Pettis called a 20-minute Executive Session, beginning at 8:30am and ending at 8:50am.

The Executive Session was authorized by RCW 42.30.110(i)(ii) and RCW 42.30.110(i)(iii).

The purpose of the executive session was to discuss litigation that the agency reasonably believes may be commenced by or against the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity; and to discuss litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

At 8:50am, a five-minute extension was called, to end at 8:55am.

The Executive Session ended at 8:55am.

## 3. RECONVENE

The meeting was reconvened at 9:00am.

## 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Regular Meeting: April 10-11, 2025
- b. Special Meeting: April 23, 2025

The Board reviewed the minutes from its previous meeting.

- MOTION 6-1-2025: Trustee Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the president, approve the following minutes:
- a. Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, April 10-11, 2025
  - b. Board of Trustees Special Meeting, April 23, 2025

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion and it passed 8-0.

## 5. APPROVAL OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN UNITED FACULTY OF WESTERN WASHINGTON AND WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, thanked members of UFWW bargaining team and the administration for working together on the Memorandum Of Understanding that was proposed for ratification by the Board of Trustees.

Matthew Roelofs and Vicki Hsueh each shared their thoughts on the process and the agreement.

MOTION 6-2-2025: Trustee Ash Awad **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Western Washington University and the United Faculty of Western Washington for the Compensation section of the collective bargaining agreement for the period September 16, 2025, through September 15, 2027.

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion and the motion passed 8-0.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Segaar, WWU Men's Club Hockey Head Coach, and Jackson Wojcicki, a player on the team, shared the successes of the club team and advocated for in-state tuition for players within our region who live in British Columbia. They saw in-state tuition as a means of recruiting players to the team, as well as benefiting the university's overall enrollment.

Chair Pettis shared that she was pleased to hear from the coach and player and congratulated them on the successes of the Club Hockey Team. She requested a copy of the 1982 agreement that was referenced. Vice Chair Witherspoon also recognized the strength of the program and thanked the coach and player for coming to the meeting.

Timothy Fitzpatrick spoke next as Chair of the Music Department and Chair of the DRAC committee. He acknowledged and thanked the administrators, advisors and students who were part of the S&A Fee Distribution Process. He was pleased to see how the committee deliberated and came to difficult decisions.

## 7. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Trustees Mo West and Maria Siguenza, along with Chair Pettis, attended the reception honoring Presidential Scholars from each college. Chair Pettis commented on the excellent academic caliber of our graduates.

Chair Pettis acknowledged the number of emails that she and other Trustees received from people who supported voluntary recognition of Operational Student Employees. She thanked President Randhawa and his leadership team for working to support the needs of OSEs.

Western Washington University student athletes were showcased in a Seattle Sports Commission promotional video alongside other outstanding student and professional athletes in the region. Chair Pettis thanked Vice Chair Witherspoon for being part of that group and bringing it to the Board's attention.

Chair Pettis commented on the success of the Ultimate Frisbee club team from Western at the college national tournament. The men finished 18<sup>th</sup> and made a fantastic showing.

At the last Board meeting, the Trustees heard about Scholars Week. Trustee Mo West attended the poster presentations on campus and she spoke about the impressive range of scholarship pursued by graduating students.

Chair Pettis recently spoke to a journalism student who sought to understand more about how the Board operates and how it makes decisions.

Chair Pettis announced that the new Socially Responsible Investing website had been launched. Information on the university's investments and a form for requesting review of a university investment can be found there.

Chair Pettis recently sent a letter to the Faculty Senate regarding the approval process for the Faculty Handbook. In the letter, she shared how the Board's Delegation of Authority does not include the Faculty Handbook under its reserved authority. The Collective Bargaining Agreement is reserved to the Board, but the Handbook is delegated to the President. She also communicated that this procedural explanation in no way compromises the Board's commitment to shared governance.

Chair Pettis thanked Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee and the committee that interviewed candidates for the Student Trustee position. The committee's recommendation was submitted and we look forward to the Governor's appointment to the 2025-2026 Student Trustee position.

Chair Pettis noted that the Board is exploring using a consent agenda in the Fall for routine and regularly occurring items.

To conclude, Kim Hill was invited to introduce two members of the Advancement staff: Jonathan Higgins and Zeck Koa. They talked about the ways employees show commitment and passion for Western. Zeck Koua presented President Randhawa with a 3D printed

topographic map of Western's campus. He then explained his creative process and thanked President Randhawa for his leadership.

**a. RESOLUTION 2025-01: RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TINA EKHTERAEE-SANAEE**

(Note that this item was taken out of the published order and was taken up by the Board after item 7b.)

Chair Pettis thanked Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee for her strong leadership skills and for her many contributions to the Board this past year. Trustee John Meyer commented on her ability to balance her role a Trustee while also raising student issues effectively. He commended her for getting to the heart of issues, challenging premises and asking good questions. Vice Chair Witherspoon thanked her for her curiosity. Trustee Mo West thanked her for her impactful contributions to the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee. All of the Trustees wished her well after graduation.

Trustee Mo West read the Resolution.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TRUSTEE  
Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee**

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee of Edmonds, WA began her one-year term on the Western Washington University Board of Trustees on July 1, 2024 and will end her service on June 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee contributed to setting the future direction of the institution and to mission fulfillment through insightful and articulate engagement in policy discussions and decisions affecting the University, both in meetings of the full Board and as a member of the Board's Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee; and

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee prepared carefully and offered valuable perspectives as a student and as a fiduciary for the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee engaged in the state budget process and was an effective advocate for higher education in Olympia; and

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee, in addition to her service as a Trustee, has shown leadership and built community through her involvement with student activities and work to increase access and provide pathways to higher education with Compass to Campus; and

WHEREAS, Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee has also been successful in the classroom and is graduating from Western Washington University with a bachelor's degree with a major in Psychology, and a double minor in Theatre and Honors; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University that Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee is hereby honored for outstanding service and dedication to the University and is extended the gratitude and best wishes of the entire University community.

MOTION 6-3-2025: Trustee Mo West **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University honor the service of Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee by approving Resolution 2025-01.

Trustee John Meyer seconded the motion, and the motion passed 6-0. Trustee Ash Awad was not present, and Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee abstained.

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee thanked the Trustees for their support and for helping her learn more about leadership and public service.

**b. RESOLUTION 2025-02: RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF RALPH MUNRO**

(Note that this item was taken out of the published order and preceded 7a.)

Trustee Chase Franklin read the Resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF  
Ralph Munro

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro graduated from Western Washington University in 1966, and while at Western, he served as the student body President, where his leadership and advocacy for student rights and campus engagement laid the groundwork for generations of civic-minded student leaders; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro was recognized by the University as a Distinguished Alumnus and later received an Honorary Doctoral Degree, honors that reflect his extraordinary contributions to public life and his deep and abiding connection to the Western community; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro had family roots at Western Washington University, as his Scottish-born grandfather was a stonemason who helped build Old Main, which opened in 1896; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro was appointed by Governor Christine Gregoire as a Trustee in 2009 and served on the Board of Trustees until 2015, during which time he was a vocal proponent of access, equity, and excellence in higher education and worked tirelessly to ensure Western's continued growth and prominence; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro championed the liberal arts and civic engagement, frequently returning to campus to speak with students, guest lecture in classrooms, and provide mentorship and guidance to emerging leaders; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro played a pivotal role in establishing and supporting the Ralph Munro Institute for Civic Education at Western Washington University, which serves as a living legacy to his belief in the power of informed citizenship and democratic participation, and promotes the civil exchange of ideas, encouraging students to understand and engage with differing political viewpoints as a vital part of a healthy democracy; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro's lifelong commitment to public service, environmental stewardship, and the rights of individuals with disabilities reflected the values he helped instill in the University's culture and curriculum; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro strengthened the University's reputation and relationships at the state and national levels, often serving as an informal ambassador for Western and demonstrating how alumni can shape public life with integrity and purpose; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro played a vital role in garnering legislative support for expanding Western's presence on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, helping to increase access to higher education for place-bound and underserved students, and advancing the University's commitment to regional engagement and educational equity; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Munro will be remembered not only as Washington's longest-serving Secretary of State, but as a statesman of uncommon humility, generosity, and devotion to the public good—an exemplar of the kind of leadership Western strives to cultivate in all of its students; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University that the life, service, and enduring legacy of Ralph Munro are hereby honored, with profound appreciation for his immeasurable contributions to the University, the state of Washington, and the cause of civic engagement and education.

MOTION 6-4-2025: Trustee Chase Franklin **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University honor Ralph Munro by approving Resolution 2025-02.

Trustee Chase Franklin shared that he served with Ralph Munro as a Trustee for a short time and remembers his genial personality and commitment to Western.

Trustee John Meyer seconded the motion, which passed 7-0. Trustee Ash Awad was not present.

## 8. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT

President Randhawa began by thanking Zeck Koa for the gift.

He then acknowledged the competing priorities at the June meeting, a balance between celebrating graduates and making difficult budget decisions.

He noted that the Board received a report on students who have earned prestigious scholarships. He also gave examples of innovative research and scholarship by Faculty across colleges. He noted that the Annual Celebration of Excellence to recognize Faculty and Staff, and the Alumni Awards Ceremony, were both held in May and recognized a variety of outstanding contributions to the university. He thanked Trustee Awad for inviting President Randhawa and Kim Hill to the annual Climate Solutions Gala.

He noted that the end of the year is a time of transition into new roles, including the Student Trustee, Faculty Senate President and Associated Students of Western Washington University President. He thanked the current representatives for their leadership.

President Randhawa recently met with regional community college partners to articulate direct admissions policies and strengthen transfer pathways.

He then reported that Western's Give Day was successful; he shared that a donor gave a gift in support of the Healing Garden and thanked Trustee West and Uzma Randhawa for their work on that project.

He concluded by reporting that Western received an inquiry from the Department of Justice related to free speech, antisemitism, and the response to the student encampment in Spring 2024. He is working with the AAGs on a response.

## 9. FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Chair Pettis thanked Michael Slouber for taking on a challenging role and engaging with the Board on important topics over the past year.

Michael Slouber, Faculty Senate President, began by pointing the Trustees' attention to accomplishments of the Faculty Senate over the past year. Highlights included passing a Resolution for sustainable funding for Library collections; working with the Provost and Deans on a process for merging and eliminating academic units; completing the revision of the qualitative questions on course evaluation forms. To continue with accomplishments, he noted that the Faculty Handbook was reviewed holistically; that they worked with Jacqueline Hughes on the 'Building Community Through Difficult Conversations' series; and that they also had many discussions about the university budget. The centralized harassment reporting has been implemented to support Faculty. And recently, Michael Slouber has been keeping Faculty abreast of federal actions and their implications.

His report also acknowledged and summarized the work of the standing committees and subcommittees.

Erica McPhee-Shaw will assume leadership and represent the Faculty Senate at future meetings.

## **10. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY REPORT**

Chair Pettis thanked Liam Pratt, Associated Students of Western Washington University President, for stepping into the role.

Liam began his report by summarizing recent actions in student government. It passed a resolution supporting the students who work at the recycling center and legal support pilot program has been funded and launched. A resolution for expansion of hours of service for the Library was passed and student government adopted the AAUP statement on free speech in higher education. The ASWWU is currently developing a code of ethics.

He noted appreciation that the SRI website is active and shared that he is pleased with the process and resulting policy. He expressed hope that the Board will give continued close attention to responsible investing as the newly created SRI policy is implemented.

He reported on the work of the S&A Fee committee, which he chaired. He thanked committee members and the advisors for navigating a difficult conversation and decision-making process. This year, he encouraged committee members to acknowledge and prioritize the success of the programs that support students across campus, not just the constituencies each committee member represented. He encouraged careful analysis of the process as improvements are made.

The legal support pilot program is meant to provide legal resources to students for landlord/tenant issues, immigration questions and other legal questions. \$20,000, which pays for about 80 hours of legal support, has been committed to getting the pilot off the ground.

He then announced the student election results and thanked ASWWU and candidates for being part of the campaign and election process. He reported that 7% of the student body voted, which is an increase from last spring. President-elect Aspen Cates-Doglio will represent ASWWU at future Board meetings.

In closing, he thanked the student leaders he worked with at Western and extended thanks to President Randhawa and administrators for working alongside students to accomplish positive changes at Western.

Chair Pettis acknowledged Liam's responsible, balanced, and passionate leadership.

## 11. BOARD FINANCE, AUDIT, AND ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Chase Franklin, Chair, Finance, Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee, noted that much of the committee's work this past year has been reviewing the operating budget and discussing operational impacts of funding cuts, something the Board is poised to take action on later in the meeting.

He reported on the last two meetings. The first was on April 23 and committee members discussed the legislative session and the items Western continued to monitor as the budget was finalized. The Board also received reports from the Executive Director for Internal Audit.

The June 4 meeting was primarily dedicated to analyzing the final state budget allocation and committee members discussed scenarios to address budget gaps. The 5-Year Athletics Budget options were presented and the annual budget and multi-year budget plan are both before the Board today. The committee also reviewed capital budget possibilities.

## 12. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Mo West, Chair, Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, reported on the May 22 meeting. The committee concluded its 'Dialog with a Dean' series with a conversation with Teena Gabrielson, Dean for the College of the Environment.

The group also reviewed the S&A fee distributions for 2025-2026. Vice President Huskey outlined plans for process improvements that will increase transparency and inclusivity. The S&A fee distribution is an action item on today's agenda and the process changes will be considered by the President and Board at a future meeting.

the committee also engaged with a budget update and discussed recruitment and enrollment strategies that could help our enrollment trajectory and help fill budget gaps. The committee was also briefed on the Faculty Handbook process.

Committee Chair West thanked Trustee Awad for joining the AASSC meeting in Board Chair Faith Pettis' absence.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

### 13. END OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Nora Selander, Director of Government Relations, provided the Board with a summary of the results of the legislative session. The conference budget was made public and included \$400 million in cuts in higher education spending. Another item of particular concerns is the 51/49 roll-back of the fund-split. She noted that funding for the WA College Grant was

preserved and that a capital investment, including money for the Environmental Studies building, was included. However, the Poulsbo project was not funded. The Climate Commitment Act funds assisted in the funding of part of our heating conversion project.

The new revenue forecast is expected on June 27 and Director Selander tempered expectations for the supplemental session. FY26 was the worst fiscal year in the outlook, however projections are not promising in the near-term. Federal funding cuts and increased pressure on the state budget are unknown factors at this time.

A positive outcome of the session was that the conversation about per-student funding is gaining momentum and is something we will continue to educate legislators about.

Trustee Chase Franklin inquired about how Western is leading the conversation about balancing investments with the enrollment cliff, specifically related to funding for the building in Poulsbo and expanding access in a new geographic area. Enrollment growth remains both a commitment of Western's and a challenge.

Trustee Ash Awad observed that legislators were not focused on higher education, given the budget deficit and competing priorities. Nora Selander shared why it's difficult to get the attention of legislators because higher education is considered discretionary spending. She said that Western and the other 4-year universities need to build a broader coalition of higher education champions. Trustee Awad asked how Nora Selander foresees federal cuts impacting the state budget and she noted that there is uncertainty about the effects of federal actions.

Chair Pettis asked how effective the conversations were with legislators regarding the per-student funding model and how Western is funded at a lower level than the other 4-year institutions in Washington. Nora Selander noted that she is hopeful that Western will gain momentum on both the fund-split and per-student funding. Once this sessions' funding cuts are restored, those two items are Western's top priorities.

#### **14. OVERVIEW OF 2025-2026 ANNUAL STATE OPERATING BUDGET**

President Randhawa introduced a broad overview of the 2025-2026 university operating budget, which is before the Board for action. The net deficit is about \$23 million and will require cuts to move toward a balanced budget.

Faye Gallant, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget, thanked the Trustees for their continued partnership on budget planning and recapped the budget plans for 2025-2026.

Flat enrollment is expected alongside the tuition increases that were approved by the Board in October 2024. The impact of reduced state appropriations are the result of a roll-back on the fund-split and in across-the-board cuts to higher education. Carry-over funding for the Native American Repatriation Act compliance and for the student health insurance plan

were considered when building the base budget for 2025-2026. Compensation and benefit increases for general and bargained wage increases are also funded.

Savings were realized from pension and rate changes. She also covered the recurring savings resulting from reorganizations and scheduling changes in Academic Affairs, as well as other reductions in other areas. She outlined the one-time funding for specific projects from the State, and calculated the revenue we collected from property sales. A retirement incentive program was funded and will be offered to Faculty at Western. Positions that can be held vacant for 6 months or a year are also being identified, and the process of vacancy recapture has been in place. She noted that this has been a hardship for some departments.

Maintaining reserves remains a priority, knowing the Board has a policy to maintain 10% in reserve. Some savings and cuts will not be realized until FY27.

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, shared the process for planning cuts and structural changes in Academic Affairs. Many ideas and strategies are being considered to address immediate and future savings. There have been conversations within colleges and departments about how each Dean is approaching cuts at their college. Protecting the academic core and other areas of strategic importance remain institution-wide priorities.

President Randhawa shared that an analysis is being done about our locations off the main campus and how we can offer those services in the most cost-effective way.

Trustee Awad observed that the economy in WA State remains strong, but we are still facing a state budget deficit and making cuts. He also noted that university staff is doing difficult work and commended them for thoughtfully addressing problems with compassion and strategic thinking.

Trustee John Meyer asked whether a weakening economy could push the fund-split further out of our favor. Director Nora Selander noted that this 51/49 split is considered maintenance level and is at an all-time low. She speculated that across-the-board cuts would be more likely than further roll-back on the fund split.

Chair Pettis reminded the group that the Board policy requires that 10% of the budget be kept in reserve. The long-term budget plan needs to continue to keep that ceiling in mind.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon observed that we are being asked to do more with less. He asked about IT infrastructure and how we can modernize and make systems and processes more efficient.

## 15. OVERVIEW OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS BUDGET FOR 2025-2026 AND FUTURE YEARS

Faye Gallant, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget, reminded the Board that each year it is asked to approve an annual Athletics budget. Since Athletics is running a structural deficit, a multi-year plan is also required by statute. Both the annual budget and multi-year plan are on the agenda for Board action today.

Faye Gallant shared two options for addressing the Athletics budget gap. The first would assume no growth or revenue and would require moving two sports to club status. The second option assumes additional revenue from a student fee dedicated to Athletics and would move one program to club status. Staff changes are also being made to address the deficit. Additionally, the Foundation is working on diversifying private support for Athletics.

President Randhawa noted that the pandemic years had a large impact on Athletics, partly because S&A fees collection was lower when enrollment was lower.

Jim Sterk, Director of Athletics, noted that there are recruitment and retention advantages, and community connections that are made through Athletics. He noted that Viking Night was reinstated this year and attendees showed great support for western Athletics.

President Randhawa expects a decision on which multi-year budget approach will be pursued by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

Trustee Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee suggested reaching out to more community members and K-12 athletes to increase engagement with WWU Athletics. She also inquired about the process that will be used to evaluate a potential Athletics fee. That process will include both at-large and student athletes and would look similar to other mandatory student fee processes, which goes to the students for authorization by student referendum.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon expressed appreciation for identifying options early and encouraged communication throughout the process.

## ACTION ITEMS

### 16. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 ANNUAL STATE OPERATING BUDGET

The Board heard and asked questions about the budget earlier in the meeting, but Chair Pettis invited additional questions from Trustees. Trustee John Meyer shared the sentiment that the decision before the Board is a difficult, but necessary action and he wishes circumstances were different.

MOTION 6-5-2025: Trustee John Meyer **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the 2025-2026 annual state operating expenditure budget of

\$234,738,423, to be supported by projected revenues of \$231,435,543 and use of reserves or further one-time strategies of \$3,302,880.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

## 17. APPROVAL OF 2025-2027 CAPITAL BUDGET

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, reviewed Western's capital requests from this last session, and noted the level at which the legislature committed funds for each project.

Trustee Franklin inquired about the strategy for making the initial request and how we would prioritize projects and position ourselves for future capital funding.

MOTION 6-6-2025: Trustee Ash Awad **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the President, accept the 2025-2027 Capital Budget totaling \$65,208,000 in appropriations and up to \$3,000,000 in certificate of participation financing and approve the distribution in accordance with Link A (below).

Trustee Chase Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

## 18. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS BUDGET

Chair Pettis invited additional questions or comments from Trustees.

MOTION 6-7-2025: Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the 2025-2026 intercollegiate athletics operating budget of \$5,561,361 supported by tuition, S&A fees, and other auxiliary revenues in the amount of \$5,060,872.

Trustee Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee seconded the motion, which passed 8-0.

## 19. APPROVAL OF MULTI-YEAR INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS BUDGET PLAN

Chair Pettis clarified that the Board was being asked to approve both multi-year strategies that were presented, and the final path forward is dependent on the administration's analysis.

MOTION 6-8-2025: Trustee Chase Franklin **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the attached financial recovery plan to resolve the outstanding deficit in Athletics operations.

Trustee Ash Awad seconded the motion, which passed 8-0.

## 20. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 STUDENT & ACTIVITIES FEE DISTRIBUTIONS

Chair Pettis noted that the Board heard information on the distribution and the proposed process changes in this meeting and in prior committee meetings. Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Student Affairs, then shared the challenges in this year's process and that the committee's leadership lent itself to reasonable compromises included in the package proposed to the Board.

Chair Pettis asked if Vice President Huskey would outline the process changes for next year. Those proposed changes will be brought to the Board for approval in August. Vice President Huskey shared that additional support and training will be provided for committee members, more at-large students will be included on the committee, they will work on finding the balance between sustained support for existing groups and funding for new groups, and they will create a standardized application forms to request funding.

MOTION 6-9-2025: Trustee Maria Siguenza **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President and of the Services and Activities Fee Committee, approve the distribution of the Services and Activities Fee as follows for the 2025-2026 academic year, including Summer Quarter of 2025.

For the academic year 2025-2026:

- Associated Students, \$2,629,171
- The Centers for Student Access, Community and Intercultural Engagement, \$508,200
- Athletics, \$2,278,063
- Campus Recreation, \$502,998
- Departmentally-Related Activities, \$1,229,488

For Summer 2025:

- Associated Students, \$197,750
- The Centers for Student Access, Community and Intercultural Engagement, \$11,317
- Campus Recreation, \$15,000
- Departmentally-Related Activities, \$90,000

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

## 21. APPROVAL OF SPRING QUARTER DEGREES

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, proudly announced that 1,1640 undergraduate degrees, 139 graduate degrees and 14 professional doctorate degrees are being awarded to graduates this quarter.

MOTION 6-10-2025: Trustee Mo West **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, on recommendation of the faculty and subject to the completion of any unmet requirements, approves awarding undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates listed in the files of the Registrar and Graduate Dean, for Spring Quarter 2025, effective June 13, 2025.

Trustee Maria Siguenza seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0, with Trustee Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee abstaining.

## INFORMATION ITEMS

### 22. WRITTEN REPORTS

- Enrollment Management Summary
- University Advancement Report
- Capital Program Report
- Student Affairs Report
- Office of Equity Report
- Fellowship and Scholarship Report
- Report on Declared Majors
- Emeritus Status Report
- Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Report
- 2025 Affirmative Action Programs Annual Report

Chair Pettis invited Trustees to comment on or ask questions about the reports. The Enrollment Report, the story about the staff member who donates to the Foundation, and the Fellowship and Scholarship Reports were acknowledged.

### **23. TRUSTEE REMARKS**

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon thanked Sabah, the Cabinet and the staff for their work during a challenging time.

Trustee John Meyer thanked Liam Pratt and ASWWU for taking leadership for creating the legal assistance program from students. Trustee Meyer also recognized Michael Slouber in his role. He concluded by sharing thoughts on Ralph Munro.

### **24. DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for August 14-15, 2025, in Bellingham, WA.

### **25. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:12pm.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Faith Pettis, Chair, Board of Trustees

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Public Comment

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

RCW 28B.35.110 requires that the governing boards of regional universities provide for public comment at meetings and follow procedures for open public meetings in the Open Public Meetings Act.

Individuals interested in participating in the public comment period may register by contacting Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees, at [hanse65@wwu.edu](mailto:hanse65@wwu.edu). Alternatively, they may sign up on the morning of the Board meeting between 7:45 AM and 7:58 AM using the sign-up sheet located outside the meeting room. The sign-up sheet will be provided to the Board Chair at 7:59 AM.

Public comments may be made in person only, except for individuals requiring a disability accommodation, which must be requested in advance. Each speaker may be allotted up to two minutes, depending on the number of participants, with priority given to those who register in advance.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Faith Li Pettis, Chair, Board of Trustees  
**DATE:** August 15, 2025  
**PURPOSE:** Information Item  
**SUBJECT:** Board Chair Report

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Board Chair Faith Pettis will report to members of the Board and President Randhawa and his staff on topics related to the Board of Trustees.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**WELCOMING TRUSTEE**

***Ashlynn Tibbot***

**WHEREAS**, beginning on July 25, 2024, Governor Bob Ferguson appointed **Ashlynn Tibbot** of Milton, WA to serve a term ending on June 30, 2026, on the Western Washington University Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ashlynn Tibbot** is a student in good standing at Western Washington University pursuing a bachelor's degree with a double major in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and English with a Creative Writing and Teaching Endorsement; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ashlynn Tibbot** has a record of involvement in campus and community activities including working as a Lead Student Ambassador and serving as a club officer for WWU's Writers Block – Creative Writing Club. She was also a featured speaker at the 2025 Planned Parenthood: Bans Off Our Bodies Event; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ashlynn Tibbot** excelled throughout the Student Trustee application and Associated Students of Western Washington University committee review process; and

**WHEREAS**, **Ashlynn Tibbot** has declared her commitment to serve as a member of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University officially extends a warm welcome to **Ashlynn Tibbot** as she begins her term on the Board.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on August 15, 2025.

## RESOLUTION NO. 2025-04

### A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

#### RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF TRUSTEE

#### *Chase Franklin*

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** of Seattle, WA was appointed to the Western Washington University Board of Trustees by Governor Inslee on June 2, 2014; and was reappointed to a second term in 2019; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** was instrumental in strategic planning for the future of the university. He consistently considered issues within the context of the mission, vision, values, and goals of the institution and effectively fulfilled his role as a fiduciary; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** thinks creatively, raises germane issues, and challenges assumptions in thoughtful ways. He often posed important questions in committee and full Board meetings that helped shape the University's approach to student achievement, infrastructure planning and risk management; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** demonstrated his leadership by serving as Vice Chair of the Board from 2016-2022. During his tenure on the Board, he served on every committee that existed during his term, including the Executive Committee, Governance Committee, Trustees Committee, Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee and the Finance, Audit and Enterprise Risk Management Committee. He served as Chair of the Finance, Audit and Enterprise Risk Management Committee in 2024-2025; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** chaired the first-ever Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing and led that group to develop a policy on Socially Responsible Investing that was adopted by the Board; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** was a respectful colleague who added both his expertise and vibrant personality to the professional and personal relationships he built on the Board; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin**, and his wife, Teri, are committed to teaching and learning at Western, and through the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni, endowed the WWU College of Business and Economics' Allette and Cayden Franklin Excellence in Teaching Award; and

**WHEREAS, Chase Franklin** is a proud Western Washington University alum, long-time Trustee, and forever friend to Western Washington University; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University that **Chase Franklin** is hereby honored for outstanding service and dedication to the University and is extended the gratitude and best wishes of the entire University community.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on August 15, 2025.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Sabah Randhawa, President

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** University President Report

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

President Randhawa will present brief reflections on issues of interest to the Board.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees  
FROM: Erika McPhee-Shaw, Faculty Senate President  
DATE: August 15, 2025  
PURPOSE: Information Item  
SUBJECT: Faculty Senate Report

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Faculty Senate President Erika McPhee-Shaw will present brief reflections on faculty issues of interest to the Board.

Attachment: Faculty Senate Report

For my first report as Faculty Senate President, let me say how honored I am to represent the Western faculty. The Senate gathers a group of brilliant and dedicated professors, and working with them over the past year as Vice President has been one of the highlights of my career.

Our primary goal this year will be prioritizing the practice of shared governance of the university. Shared governance is necessary to confront threats to financial management and academic freedom of universities nationwide. With you, the Board of Trustees, we all must build together trust that both groups have a shared sense of the academy; trust that, despite the extreme external stressors we are undergoing at this time, we can work together toward a shared concept of what a successful state university will be in the future; and, trust that we will work to ensure that the university will endure. One of my main goals this year is to get the Board and faculty to better know each other, and I welcome ideas for how we can help make this happen.

### **Faculty Handbook**

I am pleased to report that President Randhawa approved the updated Faculty Handbook on August 1. This action marks the final step in a two-year process to revise this cornerstone faculty and shared governance document. In addition to updating various processes and procedures, the final version contains important changes that strengthen the Faculty Code of Ethics and support communication, transparency, and accountability on shared governance matters. One such example is the revised section outlining the process for merger and elimination of schools, colleges, academic departments, or degree programs.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Trustees, President Randhawa, Provost Johnson, Handbook Committee Chair Brandon Dupont, and the entire Handbook Committee and Faculty Senate for their attention and dedication to this effort.

For the first time, a web-based version of the Handbook is posted to the [Faculty Senate website](#), in the hope of creating a living, visible, intuitive, and actively used document.

### **AAUP Demands Support Task Force**

Much of the summer quarter is devoted to onboarding for the new Senate President and planning for the upcoming academic year. It is a comparatively quieter time for faculty governance because most faculty are off-contract.

Due to emergent issues surrounding federal policies and academic freedom, there is a notable exception to this practice. As the Board may recall from former Senate President's last report to the Board, the Senate at its last meeting of the spring quarter authorized Senate Executive Council to create a charge for and convene an ad hoc committee or task force to support the AAUP demands resolution passed by the Senate on May 5. This resolution:

- Called on members of the WWU community to refuse anticipatory obedience, to defend academic freedom, and to protect non-citizens in our community;
- Recognized Western Washington University's obligation to protect academic freedom and follow disciplinary procedures as required by contractual agreement;
- Recognized Western Washington University's obligation to comply with Washington state law in not cooperating with federal immigration authorities; and,
- Called on Western Washington University to support and comply with the endorsed AAUP demands

The [Task Force charge](#) approved by Senate Executive Council stipulated that work would begin in summer quarter, with any summer work being off-contract and strictly voluntary. Despite the call to service going out extremely late in the academic year, we had an overwhelming response and have filled all faculty positions on the Task Force. The group has been meeting weekly under the leadership of co-chairs Catherine Wineinger (CHSS-Political Science) and Tamara Spira (Fairhaven). The immediate focus of the Task Force's work is:

- Ensuring legally permissible transparency and building better communications channels regarding federal actions that impact faculty, staff, and students,
- Creating a temporary policy to allow flexibility in instructional modality for faculty who experience emergency safety issues that would impede their ability to be on campus; and,
- Working with administration to put in place an appropriate funding mechanism for legal support for faculty and staff who are impacted by federal policies.

I am grateful to the co-chairs and the Task Force for their dedication to the principles laid out in the AAUP demands and to the President and Provost for their continued engagement with the Task Force during this critical time.

### **Improving Access to Key Governance and Curricular Policies and Processes**

The Faculty Senate office has been busy over the summer quarter to implement continued improvements to the Faculty Senate website as part of its ongoing commitment to

transparency, accountability, and ease of use for faculty and the broader Western community. Two highlights are:

- A [web-based version of the Faculty Handbook](#)
- A web-based version of the [ACC Curricular Review Toolkit](#), to make the curricular review process more efficient for Senate and college curriculum committees and to provide an easily accessible guide for faculty as they develop and submit course proposals and revisions.

I thank Becky Johnston and Jamie Lawson for this work.

### **Looking Ahead**

Looking to Fall Quarter, the Senate Executive Council and the full Senate have a mix of returning and new members, which will provide a balance of continuity and fresh perspectives. I look forward to working with new Executive Council members James Ray (CFPA-Music) as Vice President/President-Elect, W. James Cooper (CSE-Biology) as Secretary, Gabe Gossett (Libraries) as Appointments and Elections Officer, and Theresa Warburton (CHSS-English) as UFWW President. I also am pleased that the following faculty will continue to serve on Senate Executive Council: Sondra Cuban (WCE-Adult and Higher Education) as At-Large Representative, Bidisha Biswas (CHSS-Political Science) as Faculty Legislative Representative, and Tesla Monson (CHSS-Anthropology) as Faculty Senate Budget Representative. Michael Slouber (CHSS-Global Humanities and Religions), whom we thank immensely for his service as Senate President, will continue to provide valuable perspective on Executive Council as Past President.

Additionally, I am pleased to report that increased efforts to improve outreach and the value of serving in faculty governance has been paying off. For AY 2025-26, the Senate has no vacancies, underscoring the renewed interest in shared governance and the pressing issues facing faculty members campuswide.

Beginning with the first Senate meeting of the Fall Quarter, we will be working on numerous collective challenges, including Academic Affairs budget reductions and reorganization and federal policies that threaten academic freedom and institutional autonomy. We hope to spend time this year focusing on the significant challenges and opportunities posed by AI and considering a vision of higher education of the future.

As I begin my term, I want to underscore the importance of – and my commitment to – shared governance, transparency, and communication. I am confident that the Senate is ready to continue to work on the challenges facing WWU, and I look forward to building on last year’s accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erika McPhee-Shaw

WWU 2025-2026 Faculty Senate President

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Chase Franklin, Chair, Board Finance, Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Board FARM Committee Report

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Committee Chair Franklin will report to members of the Board of Trustees and the university president, and his staff topics related to the Board FARM Committee.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Mo West, Chair, Board Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Board Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee Report

**Purpose of Submittal:**

Committee Chair West will report to members of the Board of Trustees and the university president, and his staff topics related to the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Faith Pettis, Chair, Board of Trustees  
**DATE:** August 15, 2025  
**PURPOSE:** Action Item  
**SUBJECT:** Amendment to the President's Employment Contract

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

The Board of Trustees conducted its annual performance review of the president, and, pursuant to WWU Board of Trustees Bylaws Section 2b, is ready to act on a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase in the President's salary.

**Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED** that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the Board Chair, approve a 2.5% cost of living increase in the President's salary, retroactively effective July 1, 2025.

## **WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of  
Vice President Joyce Lopes, Business and Financial Affairs

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Action Item

**SUBJECT:** Approval of 2026 Supplemental Capital Budget Request

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### **Purpose of Submittal:**

Western Washington University (Western) is proposing to submit the following in the 2026 Supplemental Capital Budget Request (Request):

1. Minor Works – Preservation (\$250,000 – Local Funds, \$3,750,000 – Bonds)
2. Poulsbo Instructional Facility (\$7,305,000 – Bonds)
3. Preventative Maintenance and Facility Repair (\$500,000 – Local Funds)

With the Board’s approval, Western will submit the Request to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) in September 2025 for consideration in the 2026 Supplemental Capital Budget.

### **Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the President, approve the 2026 Supplemental Capital Budget Request totaling \$11,805,000 for: Minor Works – Preservation (\$4,000,000), Poulsbo Instructional Facility (\$7,305,000 million), and Preventative Maintenance and Facility Repair (\$500,000).

### **Supporting Information:**

In September 2024, Western submitted a state capital budget request totaling \$287,714,000 in new appropriations, excluding certificate of participation financing. The 2025-2027 Capital Budget, Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5195 (ESSB 5195), appropriated \$65,208,000 in funding for several projects aimed at modernizing, preserving, and improving Western’s existing assets. The request for the biennial

session prioritizes the most urgent projects that either did not receive funding or were partially funded in the 2025 session.

## **Request Synopsizes:**

### Minor Works - Preservation

Western received \$6 million of the \$10 million originally requested. The funding appropriated will address the most urgent renewal needs, including replacement of underground utilities, critical chillers, a deionized pure water system, and the roof most at risk of failure. However, much of Western's infrastructure is aging, with most assets averaging over 50 years old. Many building systems, components, and utilities have exceeded their expected lifespans, are difficult to maintain, and are increasingly vulnerable to failure. These systems also operate inefficiently, both in energy use and daily performance.

Additional investment is essential to support the following critical improvements:

- Upgrading stormwater and sewage utilities, particularly aging underground pipes at high risk of failure;
- Replacing roofs and enhancing building envelopes to prevent water intrusion and protect academic spaces; and
- Replacing deteriorating supply and return fans to maintain reliable operations and indoor air quality.

### Poulsbo Instructional Facility

This critical project did not receive any funding in the 2025–27 capital budget. The facility is vital to Western's efforts to expand access to higher education on the Kitsap and Olympic peninsulas and to support Cyber Range Poulsbo - Washington's only educational cyber range and a growing hub for cybersecurity education and innovation. Western requested \$7.305 million, an amount consistent with the Governor's proposal (\$7.213 million), adjusted slightly for inflation in accordance with the State's C100 guidelines. Securing this funding is essential for Western to meet its commitments and deliver the facility on the timeline needed to support these important programs.

### Preventative Maintenance and Facility Repairs

The age and condition of our facilities have increased the need for greater investment in our overall maintenance. The \$3.614 million appropriated in the capital budget has remained unchanged for the past two decades, despite growing demands. This level of funding no longer meets the scope of work required to adequately maintain Western's physical assets. An additional \$500,000 is requested in order for Western to maintain its facilities at a standard that extends the lifespan of existing systems, reduces the frequency and cost of system replacements, and helps prevent the deferral of essential maintenance.

Collectively, these projects align with the intent of State capital appropriations by preserving and enhancing the University's physical assets. They will also stimulate both the regional and State economy through the engagement of multiple contractors, suppliers, and consultants. Additionally, projects funded through bond proceeds will be tied to assets with a useful life exceeding 25 years, ensuring compliance with debt issuance requirements.

**Supporting Information Link:**

[2025-27 Capital Budget | Facilities Development & Operations | Western Washington University](#). *This includes project proposals, 2025-25 Capital Plan, and the 2025-27 Capital Budget Comparison worksheet.*

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa by:  
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs  
Faye Gallant, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Action Item

**SUBJECT:** Approval of 2026-2027 Supplemental Operating Budget Request

**Purpose of Submittal:**

Board approval is required for Western's 2026-2027 Supplemental Operating Budget Request for submission to the Governor's Office of Financial Management.

**Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the 2026-2027 Supplemental Operating Budget Request of \$3.12 million recurring per year, plus a state-mandated non-cash technical adjustment of \$5.37 million. With concurrence of the Board Chair, the President may make adjustments to the approved budget request in response to subsequent instructions from the Office of Financial Management, to advance consistency among the submissions of Washington's six public baccalaureate institutions, or other adjustments as appropriate.

**Overview:**

State agencies have the opportunity to submit requests for supplemental funding from the state in the off-years of the biennial budget cycle, to reflect emergent needs or underfunded priorities. State guidance limits these requests and discourages new programs in the supplemental cycle. Requests are due to the state in early September for consideration in the development of the Governor's budget proposal to the legislature, released each December.

The proposals pending approval by the Board of Trustees to be submitted to the Office of Financial Management (OFM) for the 2026-2027 Supplemental Operating request are:

1. Restore Fund Split
2. Academic Access and Outreach
3. OFM Classification Changes
4. Technical Correction to Agency Financial Reporting System (AFRS)

These proposals were identified as the top policy proposals to advance given the state's current financial outlook and the limited resources available, in consultation with university leadership and government relations. Two technical adjustments are included based on discussions with the state's Office of Financial Management.

### **Policy Level Requests:**

#### Policy Request #1 – Restore Fund Split - \$2.5 million

In the 2025-2027 Biennial Session, the state reduced WWU's fund split for compensation from 70%/30% to 51%/49%, despite a decision package requesting the State reinstate full funding for compensation and central service increases. WWU is now asking the state to restore the fund split to 70%/30% in an effort to avoid further erosion of the base budget. A 70%/30% fund split would restore \$3.5 million to our base budget for the biennium, or \$2.5 million in FY27.

#### Policy Request #2 – Academic Access and Outreach - \$400,000

In the 2024 Supplemental Session, the state provided one-time, nonrecurring funding of \$400,000 for our Academic Access & Outreach proposal. This request seeks to make that funding recurring. Western excels at supporting prospective and admitted students once they have been identified. For example, through dedicated efforts to support admitted students, 84% of Western's 2023 entering class completed the FAFSA. However, further capacity is needed to identify prospective students and cultivate their interest in and access to higher education. To best serve surrounding communities and foster a college-going culture among first-generation and low-income students, Western intends to expand outreach capacity and bolster the long-running Compass 2 Campus program. To combat declines in postsecondary enrollment and increase the availability of credentialed workers in Washington state, outreach initiatives are critical to cultivating student interest in higher education, specifically for first-generation and low-income students.

### **Maintenance Level Requests:**

#### Maintenance Request #1 – OFM Classification Changes - \$223,575 recurring

Late in June, OFM sent out classification changes to approximately 200 positions. These changes will increase the grade and pay for several positions at WWU. WWU is required to adopt these changes per the state's negotiations with WFSE and PSE and is

requesting the state fund these classification changes in the amount of \$223,575 as a technical adjustment.

Maintenance Request #2 – Technical Correction to AFRS - \$5,373,964

In FY 2015, cash was drawn from the State's General Fund Account (001) and deposited in Accounts 08A and 149, but the expenditure was erroneously not recorded in the state's accounting system (AFRS) that year. As a result, Western Washington University (380) has a \$5,373,964 balance in AFRS that needs to be corrected. This one-time budget adjustment will provide expenditure authority only, not cash, and will clear the accounting transaction error from FY 2015. This adjustment is being entered now at the direction of OFM. The budget provided through this decision package will not increase WWU's state operating budget in FY 2026, though it will appear as a one-time increase to our General Fund expenditure authority.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Faith Pettis Board Chair

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Action Item

**SUBJECT:** Election of Board of Trustees Officers

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Chair Pettis will hear discussion and nominate Board officers pursuant to the WWU Board of Trustees Bylaws, Article II, Section 3: Officers of the Board.

**Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University elect the following Trustees to one-year terms as Board officers, beginning July 1, 2025, end ending June 30, 2026.

- Faith Pettis, Chair
- Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Provost and Executive Vice  
President Brad Johnson

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Action Item

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Summer Quarter Degrees

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Board of Trustees responsibility to approve awarding of degrees

**Proposed Motion:**

**MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, on recommendation of the faculty and subject to the completion of any unmet requirements, approves awarding undergraduate and graduate degrees to the candidates listed in the files of the Registrar and Graduate Dean, for Summer Quarter 2025, effective August 15, 2025.

**Supporting Information:**

Lists on file with the Registrar and Graduate Dean.

<b><i>Students</i></b>	<b><i>August 2025</i></b>	<b><i>Comparison: August 2024</i></b>
<i>Undergraduates</i>	395	387
<i>Masters</i>	50	38

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Various Written Reports

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

President Randhawa respectfully presents the following written reports for the Board's information from various divisions and offices around campus.

- A. Enrollment Management Summary
- B. University Advancement Report
- C. Capital Program Report
- D. Annual Grant Report

## WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Provost and Executive Vice President Brad Johnson

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Enrollment Management Summary

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### I. Enrollment

#### **Summer 2025 Enrollment**

We have 3,417 students enrolled in summer courses—a 3.7% decrease from this time in the registration process for Summer 2024 when we had 3,549 students enrolled and down slightly from 3,450 at the same time in Summer 2023. Though we are in the seventh week of summer term, census day has not yet passed. It falls on Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> this year.

#### **Fall 2025 Enrollment**

At the time of the writing of the June board report, our enrollment of continuing students for fall quarter classes was up 6.2% from the same time in the prior year. The following paragraph from the June report to the Board of Trustees relied on that fact:

As we have explained before, we seek to make projections about the size of the Fall 2025 new first-year cohort by looking to our past experience. Unfortunately, last year's first-year cohort was significantly impacted by the FAFSA challenges and is less useful as a measure for this year. It is also true that since the pandemic, we have been moving at such a rapid rate of change each year that precedent is tough to identify. Such is the competitive nature of higher education recruitment work. We were projecting a yield closer to that of two and three years ago. However, with the information that we have from the May 1 confirmation date, we now anticipate that our new first-year student enrollment will be down more significantly than anticipated. With the increase in retention and best projections on transfer enrollments, graduate enrollment, and enrollment at the other locations (and taking into account a variety of additional factors), we anticipate that our overall enrollment in Fall 2025 will be down by about 100 students.

Since mid-June, the unfortunate reality is that registration activity among continuing students has flattened. Also, since the end of the spring term and with all of the upheaval of recent weeks, the extra efforts to yield and enroll our new first-year and new transfer students have not been as fruitful as they would have been in a more stable environment.

Registration for continuing students was closed on July 15<sup>th</sup> to allow for A&R to take place for new students. That means that continuing student enrollment numbers for fall are locked until we reopen registration on August 26<sup>th</sup>. The early gains that we were reporting in continuing student enrollment for fall slumped in the month prior to the closing of registration for that population of students. As of the date that we closed registration for continuing students, continuing student enrollment was up by only .7% from the same time in the prior year.

We are now deep into the process of getting new students through Advising & Registration, with the sessions for transfer and post-bacc students completed as of Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>. We are now in the second week of A&R for new students, and our Advising colleagues are getting new students registered by the hundreds each day. Unfortunately, the number of new first-year students expected to register is still lagging, but we are continuing to pull them in daily.

At this point, enrollment is likely to be down more significantly than was anticipated as the spring quarter concluded. We will be heavily dependent on efforts beginning August 26<sup>th</sup> to get continuing students who are sitting on the sidelines to take action. We now anticipate that overall enrollment for Fall 2025 will be down from Fall 2024 by about 150 students.

### **Fall 2025 Enrollment Outlook—New Students**

Our first-year application numbers for Fall 2025 have been consistently down since October—between 10% and 15% down from last year depending on the week. That drop in application volume carries through the entire funnel and puts the team into a position of deficit for the entire year. Application numbers impact the number of admitted students, as we continue to admit all students who exhibit the capacity to succeed at Western. The total number of admitted new first-year students is down—not quite to the same degree as the applicant pool, which means that our admit rate is slightly higher than last year (at just under 94%). However, extra efforts on yield this year have mitigated the impact on confirmations, as the total number of confirmations is down by less than the applicant and admit numbers.

Still, in the last few years, we have experienced application submission rates and success in enrolling new first-year students that puts us in a far different (and enviable) position from most of our peers. In a highly competitive landscape, we are in a more fortunate position than many of our competitors because of our post-pandemic success in admissions and recruitment work. Specifically, we anticipate that our new first-year student count will be down about 12% from our pre-pandemic (2018) numbers. While information we have gathered from several other public baccalaureates in the state suggests that their count of new first-year students will still be down 20-30% compared to their 2018 enrollment levels. In fact, several of our in-state competitors have not seen a significant change in their enrollment of new first-year students since the pandemic (Fall 2020).

Totals as of August 6, 2025 (and compared to totals from the same week in prior cycles):

*New first-year students—Bellingham*

	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
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<b>2025</b>	12,279	11,506	2,887
<b>2024</b>	14,107	13,154	3,260
<b>2023</b>	14,238	13,001	3,395
<b>2022</b>	11,858	10,992	3,443
<b>2021</b>	10,574	10,172	3,052
<b>2020</b>	10,206	9,543	2,817

*New transfers—Bellingham*

	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>2025</b>	1,812	1,420	864
<b>2024</b>	1,856	1,459	917
<b>2023</b>	1,954	1,515	945
<b>2022</b>	2,078	1,606	992
<b>2021</b>	1,973	1,647	1,087
<b>2020</b>	2,034	1,664	1,041

*New transfers—other locations*

	<b>Applied</b>	<b>Admitted</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>2025</b>	113	95	85
<b>2024</b>	96	80	73
<b>2023</b>	86	76	66
<b>2022</b>	125	100	86
<b>2021</b>	226	155	135
<b>2020</b>	249	159	153

As we look more closely at the data, we see that our largest drop in application volume were in students from low-income households. Of those students who submitted a FAFSA, in our lowest Student Aid Index (SAI) bands we had 723 fewer applicants than last year. This percentage change is inconsistent with previous years and shows that students from low-income households are self-selecting out of college at a higher rate.

When looking at our ability to convert these students, we see that our admit rate and confirmation rate have been consistent with prior years. More of these students, however, are opting out after submitting confirmation of intent to enroll (an increase in melt from 4.8% to 6.4%). The decline of application submissions from this group and higher melt rates highlight the growing lack of faith in the return on investment of higher education and greater sensitivity to financial considerations.

Crossing these SAI rating bands with IPEDS classification shows that these drops in applications came from predominately white and Asian populations. While it is encouraging that our application volume among other students of color saw a smaller impact, white and Asian students comprise a large percentage of our student body and the drops in their application submissions contributed to our lower enrollment this year.

*Application Volume by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating*

Volume of Fall 2024 Applications by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating

IPEDS Classification	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	No FAFSA	Grand Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	30	30	2	1	2		1		2	34	102
Asian	331	293	121	62	30	19	23	16	36	422	1353
Black or African American	255	98	17	8	5	3	1		1	174	562
Hispanic of any race	780	422	112	52	29	11	7	3	14	609	2039
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	20	18	1							29	68
Nonresident Alien	73	15	1	3						209	301
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	33	42	23	5	6	2	2		3	77	193
Two or more races	264	337	164	52	36	26	21	5	27	326	1258
White or Caucasian	1317	2177	1035	467	265	153	97	70	189	2460	8230
<b>Fall 2024 Application Volume</b>	<b>3103</b>	<b>3432</b>	<b>1476</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>4340</b>	<b>14106</b>

Volume of Fall 2025 Applications by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating

IPEDS Classification	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	No FAFSA	Grand Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	37	16	8	2	2				2	1	31
Asian	266	279	108	67	30	19	12	9	33	305	1128
Black or African American	231	95	27	11	3	2	2	1		146	518
Hispanic of any race	725	440	125	54	21	21	4	9	26	444	1869
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	22	21	3	1						17	64
Nonresident Alien	55	9	5	2	1	1				245	318
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	42	41	35	10	8	5	2	2	10	75	230
Two or more races	225	286	143	75	28	20	19	14	26	245	1081
White or Caucasian	1098	1924	993	421	239	173	109	66	192	1756	6971
<b>Fall 2025 Application Volume</b>	<b>2701</b>	<b>3111</b>	<b>1447</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>3264</b>	<b>12278</b>

Application Volume by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating

Change in First-year Submitted Application Volume by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating

IPEDS Classification	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	No FAFSA	Grand Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	7	-14	6	1	0	0	-1	2	-1	-3	-3
Asian	-65	-14	-13	5	0	0	-11	-7	-3	-117	-225
Black or African American	-24	-3	10	3	-2	-1	1	1	-1	-28	-44
Hispanic of any race	-55	18	13	2	-8	10	-3	6	12	-165	-170
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	2	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	-12	-4
Nonresident Alien	-18	-6	4	-1	1	1	0	0	0	36	17
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	9	-1	12	5	2	3	0	2	7	-2	37
Two or more races	-39	-51	-21	23	-8	-6	-2	9	-1	-81	-177
White or Caucasian	-219	-253	-42	-46	-26	20	12	-4	3	-704	-1259
<b>Fall 2025 Total Change in App Volume</b>	<b>-402</b>	<b>-321</b>	<b>-29</b>	<b>-7</b>	<b>-41</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>-1076</b>	<b>-1828</b>

Percent Change in First-year Submitted Application Volume by IPEDS Classification and SAI Rating

IPEDS Classification	-1	-0.5	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	No FAFSA	Grand Total
American Indian or Alaska Native	23%	-47%	300%	100%	0%		-100%		-50%	-9%	-3%
Asian	-20%	-5%	-11%	8%	0%	0%	-48%	-44%	-8%	-28%	-17%
Black or African American	-9%	-3%	59%	38%	-40%	-33%	100%		-100%	-16%	-8%
Hispanic of any race	-7%	4%	12%	4%	-28%	91%	-43%	200%	86%	-27%	-8%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	10%	17%	200%							-41%	-6%
Nonresident Alien	-25%	-40%	400%	-33%						17%	6%
Race/Ethnicity Unknown	27%	-2%	52%	100%	33%	150%	0%		233%	-3%	19%
Two or more races	-15%	-15%	-13%	44%	-22%	-23%	-10%	180%	-4%	-25%	-14%
White or Caucasian	-17%	-12%	-4%	-10%	-10%	13%	12%	-6%	2%	-29%	-15%
<b>Fall 2025 Average Percent Change in App Volu</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-13%</b>

From Admissions data as of July 30, 2025, we can see some additional detail as to admit rate, confirmation rate, and melt rate. Note that Fall 2023 was the first year that we were on the Common App.

*New First-Year Students - Bellingham*

	Applied	Admitted	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Cumm.)	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Active)	Melt (%)
Fall 2025	12,278	11,506	93.7%	3,073	26.7%	2,897	5.7%
Fall 2024	14,106	13,154	93.3%	3,451	26.2%	3,267	5.3%
Fall 2023	14,235	12,998	91.3%	3,624	27.9%	3,398	6.2%
Fall 2022	11,856	10,990	92.7%	3,645	33.2%	3,454	5.2%
Fall 2021	10,569	10,152	96.1%	3,305	32.6%	3,091	6.5%

*New Transfer Students - Bellingham*

	Applied	Admitted	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Cumm.)	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Active)	Melt (%)
Fall 2025	1,810	1,418	78.3%	962	67.8%	868	9.8%
Fall 2024	1,855	1,458	78.6%	976	66.9%	917	6.0%
Fall 2023	1,955	1,515	77.5%	1,017	67.1%	945	7.1%
Fall 2022	2,076	1,600	77.1%	1,089	68.1%	985	9.6%
Fall 2021	1,992	1,635	82.1%	1,161	71.0%	1,094	5.8%

*New Transfer Students - Other Locations*

	Applied	Admitted	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Cumm.)	Rate (%)	Confirmed (Active)	Melt (%)
Fall 2025	113	94	83.2%	89	94.7%	86	3.4%
Fall 2024	88	73	83.0%	70	95.9%	67	4.3%
Fall 2023	83	71	85.5%	66	93.0%	64	3.0%
Fall 2022	123	98	79.7%	93	94.9%	87	6.5%
Fall 2021	179	116	64.8%	104	89.7%	84	19.2%

Throughout the enrollment cycle, our approach has remained consistent: at each stage—from initial outreach through confirmation—we actively evaluate the effectiveness of our efforts and pivot where needed. The combination of in-person events, targeted digital campaigns, personal follow-up, and family engagement reflects our commitment to meeting students where they are, reducing barriers, and guiding them through the process.

**II. Recruitment and Outreach**

**Fall 2026 Recruitment**

As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, Western Washington University officially launched its application for Fall 2026 admission. Our admissions team has been actively engaging with prospective applicants through a comprehensive outreach strategy. This includes campus tours, information sessions, email communications offering college search guidance, direct mail campaigns featuring viewbooks, and targeted invitations encouraging hundreds of thousands of high school seniors to begin their application process.

As we move into the Fall 2026 recruitment cycle, the Office of Admissions will continue core outreach strategies (including high school visits and participation in a wide variety of college fairs and events featuring college exploration) while also introducing and expanding new

initiatives aimed at strengthening access, engagement, and academic alignment for prospective students. Several of these key initiatives are highlighted below.

### *Quick Start to College: Early Access and Mentorship for Rising Juniors*

Recruitment for Fall 2026 began earlier than ever this year. In late June, WWU welcomed to campus 40 rising seniors (primarily from local high schools) for QuickStart to College—a three-day immersive college access program centered on mentorship, community building, and early exposure to college life.

The program, offered in strong partnership with FuturesNW, Whatcom Community College, and other local college partners, provides a supportive and engaging environment for students who are often the first in their families to consider higher education. Students live in the residence halls, eat in the dining commons, explore campus and downtown Bellingham, and participate in workshops on college applications, financial aid, and academics. Each student is paired with a WWU student mentor (or near peer) who helps guide them through the experience, reinforcing a sense of belonging and confidence in navigating the college journey. Activities also include team building at Lakewood, campus scavenger hunts, and small group reflection—all designed to foster meaningful relationships and demystify the path to college.

### *On-the-Spot Admissions*

This fall, we will launch an updated model of On-the-Spot Admissions and scale up from last year's pilot program, shifting the focus to immediate application submission rather than same-day decisions. Students will begin or complete their applications in a computer lab setting or classroom, with transcripts provided by their high school counselor during the event. Upon completion, students will receive a certificate acknowledging their admissibility, with admit packets to follow by mail. Events will be categorized by academic readiness:

- **Admissions Counselor–Only Events:** for students with a 3.0+ GPA and no more than 2 CADR's missing. These will be offered at high schools across the state of Washington.
- **Administrator + Admissions Counselor Events:** for students with a 2.5+ GPA and no more than 3 CADR's missing. These will be offered at high schools in Whatcom and Skagit counties.

### *Classroom Visits for Tour Guests*

We are in the process of designing a classroom visit option to pair with our daily campus tours. This effort is designed to give students a firsthand look at academic life at Western and deepen their connection to the university during the decision-making process.

### *Parent and Family Engagement Campaign*

In early September, we will launch a new statewide parent engagement campaign, leveraging data made available through Senate Bill 5593. Central to this campaign is the creation of a dedicated resource hub for families and supporters: [admissions.wvu.edu/family-resources](https://admissions.wvu.edu/family-resources). This initiative aims to provide practical guidance for navigating the college search process while reinforcing the message that "College is Possible," particularly for families with students in the early years of high school.

### *Direct-to-Major Admission*

We have initiated the first phase of our Direct-to-Major admission model for Fall 2026 applicants. This program offers prospective students (first-year and transfer) the opportunity to gain direct admission into one of 29 majors or concentrations at the time they are admitted to Western. This approach responds to increasing demand from students and families for clarity and confidence in academic pathways and assurance of program access, while also positioning Western more competitively among our peers.

### **Transfer Recruitment**

#### *Transfer Admissions and Partnerships*

Our network of Guaranteed Transfer Admission partnerships with regional community colleges continues to expand. These agreements provide earlier and more structured engagement with transfer-bound students. Systems staff are currently collaborating with partner institutions to ensure that student data—expected in October—is received in a format that supports tailored, segmented communication plans.

#### *Launch of Automatic Transcript Evaluation Tool*

We are preparing to launch our new Automatic Transcript Evaluation tool ahead of fall quarter. In partnership with DegreeSight, this tool allows prospective transfer students to upload unofficial transcripts or input coursework and test scores to receive an instant, personalized credit transfer evaluation. In addition to enhancing the applicant experience, the platform functions as a lead generation system, capturing prospective student data that previously went unrecorded. Western is the first institution in Washington state to deploy this tool, and we are confident it will be a competitive edge for next year. The next phase will involve integrating transfer coursework directly into Degree Works, our degree audit system, further streamlining the degree planning process for incoming students.

### **Acknowledgement of Anticipated Challenges and Risks**

#### *Staffing*

Our team of admissions counselors is proportionally smaller than those of many of our competitors, and we continue to have vacancies. That combined with the reduction in marketing and communication staff dedicated to supporting admissions work means the office has additional challenges in reaching its lofty goals for recruitment and programming. This year's expanded efforts both on and off campus require additional planning, training, and coordination. Without sufficient staffing, we risk reduced coverage and the potential for missed opportunities to engage with prospective students and families.

#### *Scholarships and Funding*

Affordability continues to be the most significant barrier for prospective students. The most common piece of feedback we receive from students who choose not to enroll is that, while they were genuinely interested in attending WWU, they ultimately could not afford the cost of living and studying in Bellingham and financial considerations made another school more attractive. Additionally, our Net Price Calculator – based on last year's scholarship awards – may raise affordability concerns at various points in a student's college decision process.

#### *National Context*

Financial pressures are mounting nationwide. Federal borrowing limits for students and parents have been reduced; funding cuts have impacted community-based organizations

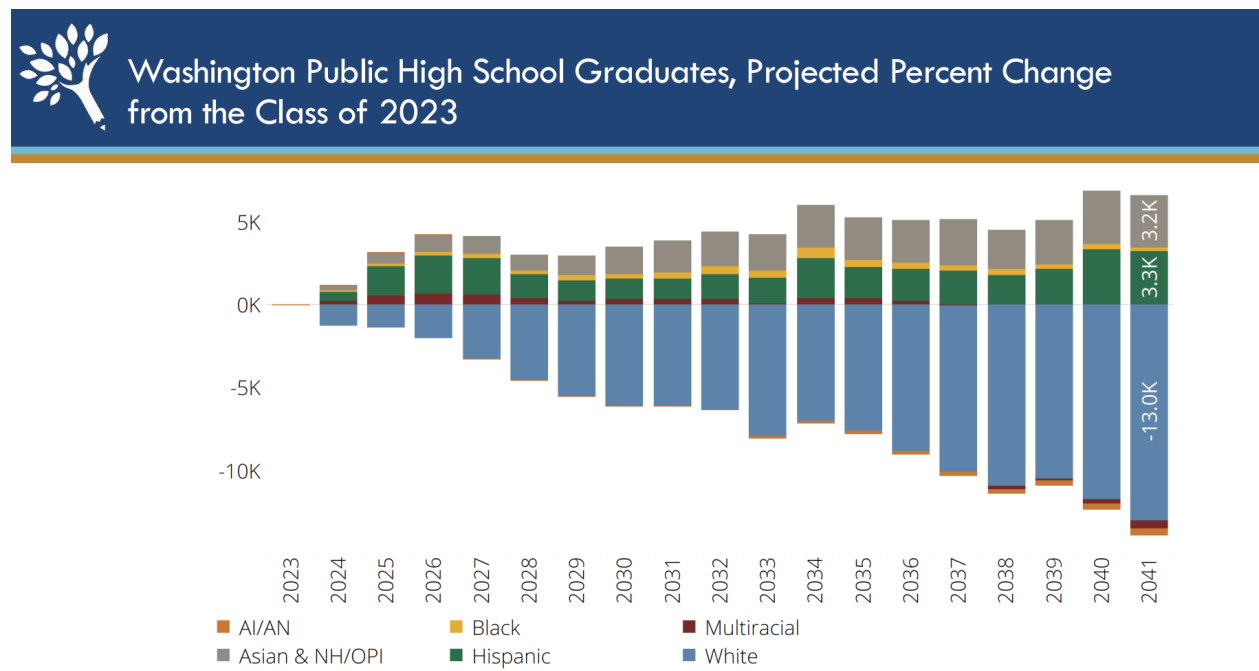
such as FuturesNW and the College Success Foundation; staffing reductions at the U.S. Department of Education have introduced uncertainty, and many families continue to face economic instability. Between the divisive political landscape and the growing lack of faith among families in the return on investment of higher education, recruiting new students is ever more challenging.

*Perception of Layoffs at Western*

Recent layoffs at Western have raised public concern about the university’s long-term commitment to student support. In particular, reductions to Career Services staffing have drawn concern, as students and families increasingly seek a clear connection between their investment in higher education and post-graduation outcomes.

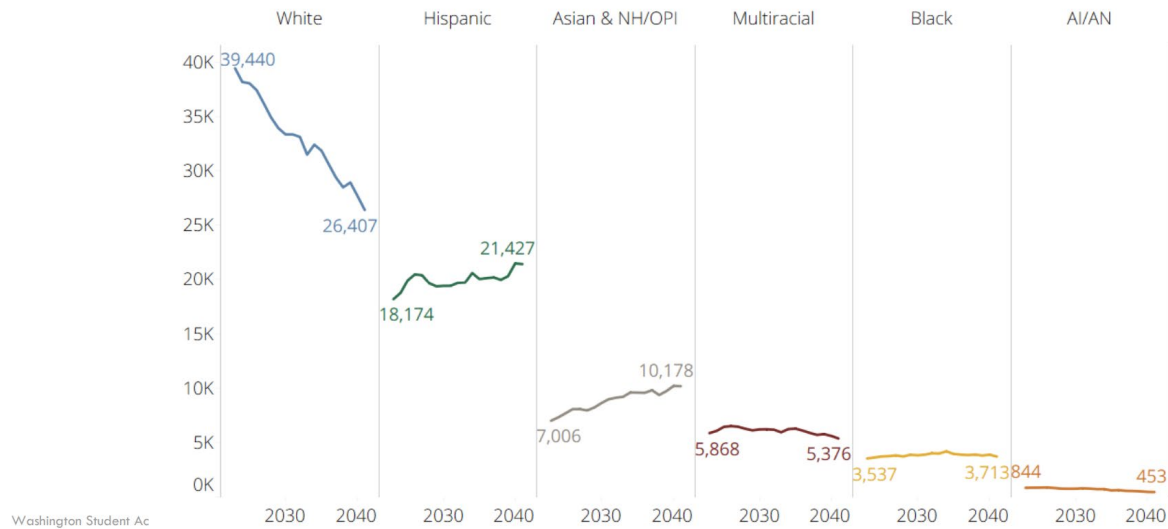
*Increased Competition in Higher Education Market*

Data from Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) projects that senior class enrollment will peak next year and then decline. This projection shows that across the next three years Washington State will see a drop of approximately 3,000 total enrolled seniors at public high schools. This is likely to cause increased competition in recruitment of Washington state students. While next year would appear to be a good year for recruitment of Washington students, the drop is uneven across demographic groups. The following two tables illustrate the demographic breakdown. They were developed by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) and were used by WSAC in a recent presentation.





## Washington High School Graduate Projections



You will see that the Hispanic and Asian populations are projected to grow, while the white population will show large losses. When you factor in the demographics of our student body, it is immediately apparent that our enrollment will be most impacted by the changes in the number of white students graduating from Washington high schools. This highlights the importance of positioning Western as an attractive option for students of color and providing supports for them that will help to ensure their success.

### III. Student Aid

#### **Final Reconciliation Bill – “One Big Beautiful Bill” Passed**

On July 4<sup>th</sup>, President Trump signed into law the “One Big Beautiful Bill” Act (OBBA), which includes significant impacts to financial aid. Although we are relieved that the final version of this bill eliminated many of the troubling provisions proposed by the House, there are still several changes that will impact WWU students. Most of these changes will go into effect July 1, 2026, impacting the 2026-27 academic year. The bill does include some legacy provisions that will allow current students to remain under current regulations and limits for a period. Below is an overview of some of these changes.

#### Changes to Federal Direct Loan Programs

- Elimination of the Graduate Student Plus loan program. ***For the 2024-25 academic year we had approximately 30 graduate students who borrowed Graduate Plus Loans.***
- Annual loan limits remain at \$20,500 for graduate students but introduces a new aggregate limit that is capped at \$100,000 for graduate students (does not include amounts borrowed as an undergraduate).
- New limits for Parent Plus loans. All parents may borrow \$20,000 per year per dependent student and a \$65,000 aggregate limit per dependent student (without regard to amounts forgiven, repaid, canceled, or discharged). ***For the 2024-25***

**academic year, over 700 Parent Plus loans were disbursed. Of those, over half exceeded \$20,000.**

- The OBBB reduces the amount of a loan that a student may borrow for an academic year if the student is enrolled in a program of study on less than a full-time basis during that academic year. This reduction in the annual loan limit will be made in direct proportion to the degree to which the student is not enrolled full-time, rounded to the nearest percentage point. **For Fall 2024, nearly 300 students had loans disbursed while enrolled less than full time.**

#### Changes to Pell Grant Eligibility

- Students who receive grants or scholarships from non-federal sources covering their entire cost of attendance (COA) are ineligible to receive a Pell Grant, even if otherwise eligible for the program.
- Prevents students from receiving Pell Grants if their Student Aid Index (SAI) exceeds twice the maximum Pell Grant award. **For the 2024-25 academic year, we had over 50 students who would have been impacted by this change.**

#### Changes to Need Analysis Formula

- Reinstates the exemptions of family farm and family-owned small business assets from the SAI calculation and expands asset exemptions to family-owned commercial fisheries.
- Requires that foreign income be included in the AGI used to calculate Pell Grant eligibility

#### New Institutional Accountability

- Creates a new accountability measure that will cause a program to lose Direct Loan eligibility if it fails the “low earnings outcomes” measure 2 out of 3 years.

#### Changes to loan repayment options

- Repayment Plan options for New Borrowers—Borrowers with new loans made on or after July 1, 2026 can be repaid using only two plans: a new standard repayment plan with fixed monthly payments and fixed terms ranging from 10 to 25 years based on the amount borrowed or the new income-based repayment plan, RAP
- Repayment Plan options for Current Borrowers—Borrowers with no new loans made on or after July 1, 2026 can continue to be eligible to enroll in the current Standard, current Income-Based (IBR), Graduated, and Extended repayment plans, and could also opt in to the new RAP. Current borrowers enrolled in ICR, PAYE, or SAVE plans must transition to a new repayment plan by July 1, 2028. If no selection is made by that date, they will be moved into RAP.
- Economic Hardship Deferment and Unemployment Deferment—The law eliminates the Economic Hardship Deferment and Unemployment Deferment for borrowers, with an effective date for borrowers who received a loan on or after July 1, 2027.

#### **2025-26 Awarding Update**

In the first week of August, the Financial Aid Team sent out the first batch of award notifications to continuing students, with over 5,500 students being packaged. The team will continue to package and provide aid offers to students as they complete the

FAFSA/WASFA. Additional Outreach is being conducted for those students who need to take additional steps.

Additionally, with the elimination of the WA Bridge Grant, effective for the 2025-26 academic year, the WWU Financial Aid Team updated financial aid packages for over 300 incoming students. As directed by WSAC, the WA Bridge Grant awards were included in initial financial aid packages in early spring for incoming students. To minimize the impact on the students that were previously offered this award, the Financial Aid team has replaced the WA Bridge Grant with institutional grant funding.

### **Scholarship Portal Updates**

Many people have contributed to the transition to the new WWU Scholarship Portal, which required months of extensive work to review scholarship criteria, a significant commitment to reconfigure systems, meetings with departments across campus to collect information and application materials, and hours of trainings and follow up with users across campus. The work to fully transition has continued into the summer.

Western launched the WWU Scholarship Portal in April 2025, transitioning to a centralized scholarship process allowing students to submit a single scholarship application to be considered for all Western scholarships. This new centralized application uses existing student data (GPA, major, minor, etc.) along with questions and essays to streamline the scholarship process for students. The first “General” scholarship application closed on May 4<sup>th</sup> with 2,458 students submitting an application. To date, 1,241 awards have been processed through the Portal to over 800 continuing Western students. In addition, scholarships awarded by Admissions to our new, incoming students are being integrated into the Portal. All scholarship communication is managed by the Scholarship Center, and awarded students are able to accept scholarships and complete the required “Thank You Letter” seamlessly in the Portal.

### **Delinquent Borrower Outreach**

In May 2025, the U.S. Department of Education issued an Electronic Announcement (EA) which reminded institutions that the repayment pause on student loans ended in October 2023, and CDRs published in 2026 will include borrowers who entered repayment in 2023 and defaulted in 2023, 2024, or 2025. The Department further reminded institutions that those borrowers whose delinquency or default status was reset in September 2024 could enter technical default status / be delinquent on their loans for more than 270 days beginning in June and default this summer. As such, the Department of Education strongly urged all institutions to conduct outreach to former students who are delinquent or in default on their loans to ensure that such institutions will not face high CDRs next year.

In response to the EA, the WWU Financial Aid Office sent out communications to over 300 borrowers who were reported as being delinquent in repayment. Communications reminded students of their responsibility to repay and provided them with additional information to assist with repayment options. The Financial Aid office is continuing discussions on further outreach efforts to support former students through the loan repayment process.

## IV. Orientation & Transition

### **Orientation, Advising, and Registration (OAR) Programs for New Students**

The 2025 Fall Advising & Registration (A&R) Sessions for new first-year, transfer, and post-baccalaureate students kicked off in July. Over the course of four virtual sessions, 712 new transfers and post-baccs attended, completing small group academic advising, departmental/major advising, and a 30-minute individual appointment with an advisor to complete course registration for Fall quarter classes. While attending an A&R Session is not required for new transfer or post-bacc students, over 79% of transfers and 70% of post-baccs (current confirmed students) completed a session.

Fall A&R Sessions for new First-Year/Running Start students began on July 29<sup>th</sup>, with a run of 16 virtual sessions planned into August and a final 17<sup>th</sup> session the Monday before classes begin in the fall. Reservations for the sessions are solid with (at the time of this report) over 87% of confirmed first-year students already holding a session reservation. The first 12+ sessions are nearly all full, and sessions are built to accommodate all students plus extra spaces for late additions or reschedules along the way.

Orientation Mailers are being assembled and mailed to every new student. The mailers include orientation-related resources for new students, as well as supplemental family/supporter orientation information added to every first-year student packet. All students also receive Western swag (window decals) as well as a copy of the latest (and past award-winning) WWU Family Calendar, which is robust in content (from a campus resource directory to important dates and deadlines), as well as prominent campus events (such as Career Fairs) that support connection and personal development. The first round of mailers will be prepared to go out at the end of July/first part of August.

### **Western Welcome**

Planning for the 2025 Fall Western Welcome events has also started. Last year, over 90 events were planned by departments across campus to welcome, orient, and connect students in their new community. Western Welcome covers approximately the first six weeks of fall quarter and features a wide array of events, student activities, connections and meet-ups, and several signature campus events. Some events for the Fall, notably the Fall Info Fair and Convocation, will shift slightly with both happening on Monday before classes begin in order to accommodate the observation of Rosh Hashanah on Tuesday. Some smaller events may overlap on Tuesday, but the larger signature events during the day will move to Monday to accommodate the observance.

Planning for events will continue well into Fall Quarter, but initial Western Welcome online schedules will be completed by early September for students and families to view. Currently, some departments are reassessing their capacity to replicate events from prior years due to personnel and budget cuts. The calendar will continue to develop over the coming weeks, and the Orientation office will provide additional communications and social media outreach to actively promote events throughout the opening of the quarter and beyond as the schedule gets solidified.

**Western Washington University  
Item Submitted to the Board of Trustees**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of Kim Hill, Vice President for University Advancement

**DATE:** August 5, 2025

**SUBJECT:** University Advancement Report

**PURPOSE:** Discussion Item

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

University Advancement written report.

# **UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

## **REPORT FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **AUGUST 2025**

#### **FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT**

The summer quarter has brought high-impact events, meaningful outreach, and continued progress toward building a modern advancement model focused on connection, visibility, and lifelong opportunity.

Fundraising efforts remain strong and University Advancement closed out a successful fiscal year at the end of June. Total donor count in FY25 was 8,175, an increase of 18% over FY23 and 29% over FY24, reflecting continued interest and trust in the institution's mission and direction. Fundraising revenue in FY25 totaled \$24.7 million, surpassing our goal of \$18.5 million. As of July 31, University Advancement had raised \$248,438 from 164 donors.

The Career Services Center has formally joined University Advancement as of this summer. Previously housed in the Student Affairs division, this move positions the unit to deepen its connections with alumni relations, employer partnerships, and philanthropic networks. The goal is to continue supporting students' career exploration, internships, and post-graduation outcomes, and to strengthen the bridge between student success and lifelong alumni engagement.

Engagement activities continued through the summer, with events like WWU Summer Sendoffs and the President's Barbecue creating meaningful points of contact with students, families, alumni, and friends of the university. Planning is underway for a slate of fall milestone events, including Fall Family Weekend, that will build on this energy, including expanded welcome week experiences and more visible campus programming designed to create a sense of belonging and momentum for students from the first week of classes.

We are also actively analyzing results from the university-wide alumni and donor survey, which was sent to over 100,000 WWU community members this spring. Early insights are informing our evolving engagement strategy and will be shared in more detail in the coming months.

University Communications and Marketing continues to ramp up its impact following this spring's reorganization. The team is executing integrated campaigns that support admissions for the Academic Year 2026 cycle, university milestones, and advancement priorities. National media coverage, strengthened digital performance, and collaboration across divisions are contributing to increased visibility for Western

across the region and beyond. This unit is also supporting the reimagination of welcome week and fall engagement, helping to set the tone for the year with greater creativity and presence.

This summer also featured a division-wide Advancement retreat centered on our "One Team, Our Team" culture and mindset. With participation from across all units, the retreat focused on deeper alignment, shared values, and forward strategy. Guided by insights from our EAB partners, we explored national trends in enrollment and higher education, identified systematic opportunities to better leverage data, expand reach, and connect our work across teams.

Together, these efforts reflect a unified Advancement team focused on building trust, deepening relationships, and driving long-term impact for Western. From transformative gifts to authentic engagement, from high-visibility storytelling to stronger career connections, University Advancement is creating the momentum and infrastructure needed to support WWU’s mission, now and into the future.

**DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

**FUNDRAISING:**

- FY25 total funds raised was \$24.7 million against a goal of \$18.5 million
- We are forecasting \$27.5 million for FY26

**ANNUAL GIVING:**

Despite a year of transition, the Western community came through, supporting students and programs.

- Creating a closer partnership with communications and marketing team has already led to a successful WWU Give Day and a strong FY26 plan features more storytelling, personalized asks, and stronger cultivation.
- First year of Engagement Center investment resulted in \$230,000 of revenue from nearly 10,000 conversations, deepening affinity and engagement to strengthen donor pipeline.
- Revitalization of President’s Society and Annual Scholarship programs to inspire donors, encourage upgrades and improve loyal giving.
- After much reflection, WWU Give Day will be moving to mid-February in 2027 to align with the Alumni team's existing 'I ♥ WWU' day the week before Valentine's Day.

FY25			YoY
Goal	Actual	% of Goal	
\$ 3,650,000	\$ 3,944,383	108.1%	11.6%
8,000	9,900	123.8%	27.8%

## **NOTABLE GIFTS:**

- Nancy Hoff, a WWU alumna who returned to Bellingham after years of teaching in Japan, has been giving to the Woodring College of Education Dean's Fund for Excellence since 2007. This year, she and her husband have chosen to create a new endowed scholarship - the Nancy and Carter Hoff Early Childhood Education Scholarship - to tackle a critical teacher shortage in early childhood education. The scholarship will support one qualified student each year. Preference will be given to applicants who have a declared major in Early Childhood Education, are interested in studying or teaching abroad, and have an upcoming enrollment in a student teaching internship. Nancy and her husband are creating a scholarship for his alma mater in South Dakota at the same time, modeling a way couples can engage in philanthropy together.

## **ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

- In FY25, the Engagement Team planned, hosted and / or directly assisted 229 events with 6,575 unique participants.
- In FY25, the Ask-A-Viking program engaged 769 individuals including 627 alumni, 129 students and 13 staff.
- This summer, we are working with alumni and donors to host 10 summer welcome receptions for new students and their families. Receptions will be held in Denver, Portland, Northern California, Spokane and throughout Western Washington.
- Summer and Fall engagement events have been scheduled for New York City, Spokane, Phoenix, San Diego, Portland and throughout the I-5 corridor.
- The Summer President's BBQs will welcome more than 300 guests to the events in Bellingham and Woodinville.
- Staff is working closely with Career Services to integrate them into the Engagement Team.

## **UNIVERSITY MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

University Communications and Marketing continues to grow its impact and capacity following the March reorganization. Key units, including University Communications, Admissions- and Advancement Marketing, Digital Engagement, WebTech, Visual Media, and Athletics Communications, are now fully integrated and aligned under University Advancement, while supporting the broader institution.

Summer efforts included national media coverage of WWU research and faculty in NBC News, NPR, the Seattle Times, and others, raising visibility of Western's academic excellence. Integrated social media and digital campaigns supporting Fall 2025 enrollment and began ramping for the next admissions cycle, with plans to engage parents, families, and alumni more directly.

The team is in the process of launching new tools to improve admissions support (including chatbots), alumni insights, web accessibility, and faculty content services. Visual Media is now operating at full capacity and supporting high-priority events and storytelling efforts across platforms.

Planning is underway to support Welcome Week, fall milestones, and Advancement events, with a continued focus on creative, coordinated engagement that builds connections and community, introduces the new Vice Provost of Student Affairs, and navigates organization changes constructively as we begin the new academic year.

## UNIVERSITY MARKETING AND BRAND STRATEGY

University Marketing brings together Western's externally facing marketing functions into a unified team that advances the university's goals around enrollment, engagement, and reputation. Through thoughtful strategy, compelling creative, and consistent brand expression, the team ensures Western's voice is clear, authentic, and aligned across platforms.

The department includes five areas of focus:

- **Admissions Marketing**  
Develops and manages strategic campaigns that inspire prospective students to explore, apply, and enroll at Western. This includes content strategy, digital advertising, email communications, and coordinated storytelling tailored to both first-year and transfer audiences.
- **Advancement Marketing**  
Supports alumni relations and fundraising through purpose-driven content and creative work. The team produces print and digital materials, event collateral, and campaigns that build pride, celebrate impact, and invite philanthropic engagement.
- **Digital Engagement**  
Leads Western's presence across social and digital platforms to foster community, elevate visibility, and connect with audiences in real time. This team manages both organic and paid strategies to amplify institutional priorities and share Western's story.
- **Creative Services**  
Delivers high-quality design assets that reflect and strengthen Western's visual identity. The team supports university-wide initiatives with creative work that is both effective and distinctly Western.
- **Marketing Operations**  
Drives the planning, coordination, and systems that keep marketing efforts running smoothly. This team oversees project workflows, intake processes, timelines, and tools, ensuring resources are aligned and work is delivered with clarity and consistency.

## ADMISSIONS MARKETING

### DIGITAL MARKETING



*WWU's summer lead gen campaign highlights our unique strength in providing undergraduates with meaningful research opportunities.*

From June through July, our paid digital marketing efforts centered on two primary objectives: reinforcing anti-melt communications for the incoming Fall 2025 class and accelerating lead generation for Fall 2026. These campaigns were designed to complement ongoing organic outreach and will inform targeting, creative, and platform strategies as we move into the peak recruitment and engagement cycles for late summer and fall.

### JUNE – JULY DIGITAL ADVERTISING PERFORMANCE

Strategy	Impressions	Clicks	Conversions	Conversion Rate
Display	399,291	214	221	2.34%
IP Targeting	100,812	76	N/A	N/A
PPC	40,538	4,981	319	6.41%
Snapchat	526,755	4,639	29	0.63%
TOTAL	1,067,396	9,910	569	0.93%

### SUMMER PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Print

The 2025 First-Year Viewbook is complete, and ~13,000 were delivered to high school seniors in the second half of July. The Transfer Viewbook, Visit Piece, Honors Pub, and other travel recruitment materials are nearing final drafts and will go out to print in early August. Content review and writing are underway for the International Guide and admit packet materials.

## **Web Content and Experience**

The Virtual Tour refresh launched early July, and we are already seeing an increase in visitors, engagement times, and inquiry rate.

We also launched 3 new Admissions pages: [Prepare For Your Visit](#), [Resources for Families and Supporters](#), and [Admission to Majors](#). We are finalizing content for 3 more new pages.

We're also continuing to refresh content on additional pages and will implement a new menu structure before the end of August.

## **Email**

Lead nurturing and lead generation campaigns officially launched on July 8, and we are seeing an uptick in web traffic and new inquiries. We are currently working on content for a parent campaign, specifically for the WA OSPI data.

On August 1, the Fall 2026 application will open, and an email and text message will go out to all high school students to let them know. This will mark the start of the application generation campaign that runs until mid-February.

## **Programs and Platform Support**

Support continues for new enrollment tools and initiatives, including DegreeSight and Direct Admission to Major.

We are working on registration and marketing materials for Fall Preview Days in October – registration will open the week of August 21.

A new event, Fast Track to Western, will also take place in October, so we are preparing registration and marketing materials for that event as well.

We are building out a class visit registration process in Slate and testing communication flows for registrants and faculty to ensure a good end-user experience. Aiming to launch to the public in October.

## **Campus Partners**

Continued support for First-Year Programs, Summer Welcome Receptions, Student Health Center, Housing, Financial Aid, and more to send incoming students reminders and invitations about next steps or special events.

## UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT MARKETING

### 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Despite challenges brought on by organizational changes, the Foundation had a very successful Fiscal Year 2025. Here's a look at the numbers:

- **\$24,903,416.23** secured in philanthropic support of Western Washington University from **9,974** donors
- **21** new deferred gifts booked totaling **\$4,917,000**
- A **\$306,703.09** cash gift and a **\$2M** deferred gift were among our noteworthy gifts this year
- **294** new members welcomed into the President's Society
- **\$1,846,335.82**, the most outright gifts raised by a single college (College of the Environment)
- **3,262** new alumni
- **229** events for alumni and friends
- **6,575** people attended our events
- **12.8%** return on our endowment

### SUMMER WELCOME RECEPTIONS

Once again, the Foundation is hosting a series of Summer Welcome Receptions for incoming students and their families. This year we are hosting 10 events across multiple cities. These events are an opportunity to meet with and welcome new students and families, and to help them to become a part of the WWU community. We have already had successful events in Denver and Spokane; there are several more receptions and we encourage you to attend one near you.

<https://foundation.wwu.edu/summer-welcome-receptions-2025>

### NEW FACES AT THE FOUNDATION



A new director is joining the Foundation Board: Billie Riggs Otto ('89). Billie brings a strong background in business management and leadership. She currently serves as Chief Strategy and Risk Officer at Absher Construction and was previously Controller and CIO at TrueBlue, Inc. Billie will be visiting the campus for onboarding in early August.

Additionally, Bruce Clawson will be rejoining the Foundation Board in 2026. Bruce is a familiar face, having previously served as vice chair and as a member of the Strategic Initiatives Committee. While his new term doesn't officially begin until next year, Bruce will be attending upcoming Foundation events in Bellingham, Seattle, or Portland, near his home in Vancouver, Washington.



## DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

Over the summer, the Digital Engagement team focused on planning and strategic development to strengthen Western's presence across social platforms. Caitlyn Daniels, Assistant Director of Digital Engagement Strategy, is leading the creation of a comprehensive social media strategy that will align institutional, advancement, and admissions channels under a cohesive voice and purpose. This foundational work will guide content planning, audience engagement, and platform optimization heading into the new academic year.

### Overall Performance

- Total organic (earned) impressions per two-month period on all WWU social media continues to exceed 3 million
- Engagement rate (10.8%) continues to outperform peers on the [WWU LinkedIn](#), audience is growing at 113k
- Steady growth on [WWU Instagram](#), followers now at 37.5K
- [WWU Window on LinkedIn](#) has 16.4k subscribers with a 50% email open rate
- [WWU TikTok](#) is seeing steady growth with 8,080 followers
- Continuing to build leadership presence on LinkedIn, [Sabah exceeding 500 connections](#), [Kim growing in overall impressions](#)

### Highlight Posts

- Facebook: [Bellingham Sloth](#), 45K views, 17k accounts reached, 710 interactions, 63 clicks
- LinkedIn: [3 Days Until Commencement](#), 17K impressions, 1,349 engagements
- Instagram: [Off-Campus Classic Homes](#), 58K views (16.9% non-followers), 2,660 engagements

## CREATIVE SERVICES

The Creative Services team provided creative services to the following programs and departments in April and May:

Client / Unit	Projects
Admissions	Viewbook, Campaign Digital Ads, Campus Visit Piece, Apply Guides, Admitted Student Viewbook, Honors Booklet
Colleges	E-newsletter branding
College of Fine and Performing Arts	2025-26 season poster, Sanford Hill postcard, event signage
Community Relations	Northwest Washington Fair ad
Facilities Development & Operations	Campus accessibility maps
Graduate School	Innovations brochure, research-themed posters
Office of Orientation & Transition	WWU Family Calendar
Registrar's Office	Commencement program and digital slides
SEA Discovery Center	Website refresh and rack card
Small Business Development Center	Kitsap Annual Report
Student Publications	<i>Planet Magazine, Jeopardy, Occam's Razor, Klipsun</i>
University Marketing	Campus unit marks system, campus light pole banners, chatbot avatar
WebTech	Drupal theme refresh
Western Gallery	Self-guided tour brochure, art exhibit brochure
Western Libraries	Wayfinding signage

## UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS

The University Communications team is comprised of a director (currently assistant director), a central publications editor, a proactive media relations specialist who will also oversee communications for CHSS and CFPA, and three college communications professionals supporting CENV, CSE, CBE, Woodring, Fairhaven, and the Graduate School.

## INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES

This summer, University Communications staff has worked to showcase the work of student researchers in the field, always one of the key selling points for prospective students. Staff has traveled with students and faculty to do storytelling work regionally but also on farther-flung field expeditions to Oregon (with Geology), Baker Lake (Anthropology) and Neah Bay (Biology/CSE).

## **MEDIA SUPPORT AND ISSUES MANAGEMENT**

Throughout Summer Session, University Communications has fielded and worked with more than a dozen media requests from journalists from both campus outlets and traditional off-campus media, on topics ranging from the impact of budget cuts and state funding drop-offs on teaching and student wellness, as well as impacts that these news items could have on enrollment.

The office also worked with colleagues from Business Continuity and the Office of Student Life for a new revised emergency messaging planning document to coincide with the annual Clery report.

## **EARNED MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Associated Press: [Alaska Native woman, 'everybody's helper,' is Orthodox church's first female North American saint](#)
- Vancouver Sun: [Cascadia's cultural diplomacy could be key legacy of FIFA 2026](#)
- Inside Higher Ed: [Six Models of Financial Literacy Programs](#)
- The Economist: [MAGA: protecting the homeland from Canadian bookworms](#)
- European Space Agency: [Gaia spots odd family of stars desperately to leave home](#)
- BBC: [Science in Action \(features WWU's Marianne Brasil\)](#)
- Forbes: [Canadian Road Trippers Boycotting U.S. Could Mean A \\$4 Billion Economic Loss](#) (features WWU's Laurie Trautman)
- Psychology Today: [The Importance of Loudly Celebrating Others' Strengths](#)
- Cascadia Daily News: Ongoing coverage of WWU; highlights include:
  - [Whatcom County's first full-time archaeologist protects cultural resources, cuts costs](#)
  - [Western fields four teams to compete in Ski to Sea](#)
  - [Western men's basketball adds 6 new players to roster](#)
  - [Scuba-diving WWU student tracks fatal sea star disease in Bellingham](#)
  - [WWU researchers head to Greenland to study glacial melt tied to soot, algae](#)
- Everett Herald: [WWU expands multilingual education program to Everett](#)

## **WWU STORY HIGHLIGHTS:**

- ['The Planet' named best ongoing student magazine in the country](#)
- [WWU Art History students curate exhibit of WPA-era lithographs](#)
- [Garth Amundson and Pierre Gour exhibit 'Not the Whole Picture' at the Whatcom Museum](#)
- [WWU students meet at crossroads of theatre and science with new staging of 'An Enemy of the People'](#)
- [WWU students conduct fish monitoring at Little Squalicum Estuary](#)
- [ONE QUICK QUESTION: The Great Lynden Honeybee Spill](#)
- [Meet WWU's 2025 Outstanding Graduate Students](#)
- [WWU grad student Kelsey Tribble opens up about grief, global catastrophe and her new play, 'The Silent Zoo'](#)

- [WWU's Jay McCarty secures prestigious \\$676,000 CAREER grant from the NSF](#)
- [Western's Greg O'Neil and graduate students invented a bottle adapter that makes researchers safer in the lab](#)
- [One Quick Question: Why has the I-5 Sloth become the symbol of the city?](#)
- [WWU researchers look to space to remotely detect and map snow algae](#)
- *All stories available on [news.wvu.edu](https://news.wvu.edu)*

#### **WWU CHANNEL PERFORMANCE:**

- **WWU News** ([news.wvu.edu](https://news.wvu.edu)): Averaging 5,200 weekly active users and 25,000-30,000+ weekly engagements (article clicks, scrolls, link shares, etc.)
- **Western Today**: Weekly open rates stable at 25-30%, with typically over 1,000 clicks per email.
- **Publications:**
  - **Window magazine** June digital edition sent to 140,552 emails with open rate of 33%. Videos about commencement, Western Wednesday Last Night Out, and engineering students' senior capstone projects were particularly well-received.
  - **Family Connection Newsletter**: Sent to 12,058 parents and family members of WWU students in June, 39.1% opened and 4.9% clicked. Top clicks were Western Wednesday: Last Night Out and logistics regarding moving out of housing and attending commencement.
  - **CBE College Newsletter**: Inaugural edition delivered to 11,394 CBE alumni, donors and other constituents. Nearly 46% opened and 2% clicked on content – the most popular content celebrated retiring CBE faculty.
  - **Community Current Newsletter**: Summer edition sent to 233 government, business, non-profit and community leaders, 47% opened and 6% clicked. Top content included WWU hotel partners and a video celebrating commencement.

## WEB COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

The graduation of students is always a great moment for the university. WebTech said goodbye to a few interns receiving degrees in June. We supported commencement by creating the web version of the program and the registration system we have built to support the student registration process worked well again this year. It is continually refined based on the needs of the commencement team. We also were excited to create the new [Last Night Out event webpage](#) for Community Relations to help promote a fun way to bookend the year for students.

WebTech has worked diligently over the past months to support the transitions throughout the university. Partnering with ATUS, the team has archived over 1,400 WordPress websites that have been created by students and staff over the years. Some of these sites had the potential for risk management issues and are now archived. We have also continued making progress transitioning remaining University departments that use WordPress to Drupal. This consolidation work has led us to begin exploring a potential new offering for labs and faculty websites.

WebTech continues to drive forward the work with Lightcast, a labor market data provider, integrating efforts alongside Advancement and Admissions. Similarly, work continues to bring a chatbot that adheres to privacy and ethical standards to augment the Admissions top-of-funnel recruitment efforts. The developers in WebTech have worked alongside Admissions to provide an updated majors finder tool that highlights the newly available [direct admissions into certain majors](#). Finally, in the Admissions world, we are working closely with the transfer team assisting in the launch of new software, DegreeSight, that will expedite transfer credit evaluation for those interested in learning how their existing credits from other institutions may transfer into Western. In collaboration with University Communications WebTech built an [Inventions and Innovations](#) and [Arts at Western](#) webpage for work supporting the foundation. These pages update automatically when news is released on [news.wvu.edu](#) pertaining to the respective areas.

The team developed an improvement to the Western web theme Ashlar, to support Marketing with the ability to disable certain parts of the header and footer areas. [The Sea Discovery Center](#) is the first to use it. WebTech continues to work alongside CRTC and ATUS to help the University continue improving our digital accessibility and to prepare Western for further work regarding the [DOJ's Final Rule on Web Accessibility](#). For editors of web content, seven new lessons were created for the introduction to Drupal canvas course we maintain. We also deployed an updated version of Editora11y, a tool that helps content editors in Drupal create content that meets user experience and accessibility baseline requirements. WebTech's accessibility experts reviewed 12 software packages working through procurement and provided feedback to the stakeholders regarding accessibility compliance.

Behind the scenes WebTech provided support updating users and content, systems integrations, and training for study abroad, Compass 2 Campus, CBE, Student Affairs, CSE, Woodring, Academy for Lifelong Learning, Academic Advising, Career Center, Testing Center, RCPS, Global Humanities and Religions, Energy Studies, the Office of the Provost, Trustees, and the Office of the President. Our team managed several

Drupal feature updates and two WordPress security updates. We also successfully deployed AI tooling into Drupal websites on campus. We are currently using Azure AI to provide GPT4o-mini to allow supervised alt text generation within select Western websites. Upon further refining we aim to deploy this to all sites who wish to use it. Further research and development are underway to provide tools directly within Drupal for enhanced Search Engine optimization and site building.

### **GENERAL WEB TRAFFIC TRENDS**

Active users across the institutional website and the admissions website increased 20.% compared to the same time period last year. New user numbers increased as well by 26.3% totaling 136,000 users between May 20<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup>. Organic search drove the most traffic up 9.1% YoY bringing in 62,841 users with Organic Social up 132% YoY. Paid search, email, and referral traffic also were significant drivers of users.

Engaged users continue to be a result of focused attention to quality content and solid search engine optimization strategies. Our majors pages during this time period which is prior to the new admissions campaign launching saw a decrease in total views but much stronger engagement by first time visitors. A similar result is on the Visit Bellingham page, about 700 less visitors to the page but great engagement with the Above Bellingham video featured on the page compared to last year.

WebTech has been measuring the traffic from AI chatbots to our webpages. The traffic is still minimal, but it is growing. For comparison, in the last two months or so, looking solely at organic search traffic across all Western sites we have data for, there are 811,234 sessions. AI Search Engines added another 2,599. In two months, the AI search engines have gained .01% of the traffic share. Since January, it has been growing .01% every two months. The top three chat tools driving traffic are ChatGPT, Perplexity, and Gemini.

## VISUAL MEDIA PRODUCTIONS

### CONCLUSION ON POTENTIAL WORKFORCE CHANGES IN VMP

Since the last report, the Visual Media Production team has worked through the potential workforce changes and have ended up remaining as-is, with the Director of Visual Media Production and the sole Visual Journalist.

### SUMMER FIELD WORK – CAPTURE OPPORTUNITIES

The VMP team always attempts to capture captivating and visually interesting research experiences that WWU faculty and students embark on every summer. These are opportunities that usually cannot be afforded during the typical school year due to class schedules, so the experiences sometimes can be unique.

This year, Luke Hollister, Visual Journalist was assigned to capture Bernie Housen's Geology field camp in Oregon. Sean Patrick was assigned to capture Alia Khan's research in Greenland. Both projects will result in multi-pronged projects that have a high ROI for minimized expenditure.

### RECENT VIDEO WORK EXAMPLES – COMPLETE (OR NEARING COMPLETION)

- [External Coverage: NBC King5 \(about WWU Greenland project\)](#)
- [External Coverage: Cascadia Daily News \(about WWU Greenland Project\)](#)
- [North West Washington Fair Video](#)
- [2025 Spring Commencement Event Video Capture](#)
- [2025 Spring Commencement Event Photo Capture](#)
- [Juneteenth Celebration](#)
- [30 Seconds of Innovation \(Engineering\)](#)
- [Chris Templeton & Student \(Bio / Aviary\) Images](#)
- [WWU Last Night Out Event Capture](#)
- Presidential Scholars Awardee Portraits
- Board of Trustees 2025 Official Group Portrait
- [Updated Commencement Video Assets: Ambient Video](#)
- [Updated Commencement Video Assets: Larry Taylor](#)
- [Stories from WWU Peace Corps - Warren Burroughs](#)
- [Alli Nilles: using robots to make paths more accessible](#)

### PROJECTS IN PRODUCTION / PROJECTS CAPTURED

- Prospective Student Ad Campaign Videos
- WWU in Greenland (Field Research Program – Window Digital /Print / research campaign content)
- WWU Geology Field Camp in Oregon
- House of Healing construction capture (for eventual mini-doc)

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

- House of Healing Opening & Mini Doc
- First week of Fall quarter event coverage
- New Student Trustee Portrait
- Jerry Ek / Anthro field project
- Rene Green sculpture dedication

## ATHLETICS

June and July for WWU Athletics provided a time to wrap up a very successful 2024-25 season. WWU's nearly 300 student-athletes had a record-breaking academic year with all 15 programs recording a cumulative GPA over 3.00 and the Vikings recorded their fourth consecutive GNAC All-Sports Trophy. Adding academic and athletic success made for one of the most impactful all-around performances in department history. With Year of the Viking—where all 13 national championship teams were honored in campus events—and Viking Night, which brought in over \$180,000 for scholarships, it was a fantastic year for WWU Athletics.

Here are a few highlights of the all-around success of WWU Athletics in 2024-25, with student-athletes, coaches and staff putting together another great year. All awards and honors were publicized through news releases and social media posts from Athletic Communications.

- GNAC Academic All-Sports Trophy (4<sup>th</sup> year in a row)
- 3rd-place finish in GNAC Academic standings (school record)
- 3.43 Department GPA for 2024-25 season
- 141 GNAC Academic All-Conference honors
- All 15 programs finished with team GPA over 3.00
- Won the NCAA President's Award for Academic Excellence (90% Academic Success Rate)
- 43<sup>rd</sup> in NCAA II Learfield Directors Cup Standings (1<sup>st</sup> in GNAC, 4<sup>th</sup> in West Region)
- 8 GNAC team titles
- 11 teams competed in NCAA Championships
- 17 All-Americans
- 86 All-GNAC Awards
- 141 GNAC All-Academic Honors

## SUMMER CAMPS

Athletic camps conducted by WWU teams brought over 1,000 campers to campus during the summer with men's and women's basketball, volleyball, men's and women's soccer, softball, and track & field conducting

camps for area youth. During a calm time on campus, campers filled the dining halls and were introduced to campus life. University Marketing helped facilitate data intake processes between Admissions and various outreach-focused youth programs, including Athletics summer camps. Admissions Marketing is planning to send a follow-up message to camp participants at the end of the summer.

#### **ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS & PROJECTS:**

- **Media Presence:** Continued great coverage of WWU Athletics in the [Cascadia Daily News](#) through media relations efforts. KPUG has also had coaches, staff and student-athletes as guests. Western Wednesday interviews have also been a consistent theme over the last two months via [YouTube](#).
- **Year of the Viking:** All 13 national championship teams were inducted into the WWU Athletics Hall of Fame.
- **GNAC Network:** New pay-per-view model for live web stream events through a partnership with Hudl and the GNAC.
- **For the Love of the Game:** Proposed athletics campaign centered around WWU's role on campus and status in highly competitive NCAA Division II.
- **2025 Report Day:** Volleyball and men's and women's soccer report to campus August 17 with the first official practices of the 2025-26 year on Monday, August 18.
- **Media Day:** Fall teams will hold media days with photos and videos captured for content and social media.
- **Social Media:** WWU Athletics continues to have a strong presence on social media, sharing digital content and news items on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [X/Twitter](#). Over the last three months (May 1-July 30) IG generated 1,606,573 views and 152,858 accounts reached.
- **Ticket Campaign:** Promote and generate content surrounding free tickets for WWU students closer to the fall quarter. "If it's free, it's for me"
- **Campus Collaboration:** Continue to research and find new ways to include athletics in the campus conversation for energy, activity, access and fun.

## **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER UPDATE**

### **MEASURING CANADIAN IMPACT**

The Whatcom County Border Community Working Group was recently formed to gather data about the economic impact of Canadian visitors and business investment in Whatcom County. Led by Executive Director CJ Seitz, the group includes the WWU Border Policy Research Institute (BPRI), Port of Bellingham, Whatcom Council of Governments, and WWU Center for Economic and Business Research, and WWU SBDC. Drawing from a range of expertise, this coalition will collect and monitor a variety of economic indicator data to share with the public.

While the changing relationship with Canada lends urgency to this research, we look forward to developing a more comprehensive understanding of Canada's role in the local economy that may guide future business, policy, and stakeholder decisions. Findings will be shared on the BPRI website ([bpri.wwu.edu](http://bpri.wwu.edu)) which already hosts a trove of research and recent information about cross-border economics.

### **MICRO-LENDING PREPARATION WORKSHOPS**

In May, Community Business Development Director and Certified Business Advisor Dr. Liliana Deck presented two microloan preparation workshops, El ABC del Crédito (The ABC of Credit). As previously reported, the WWU SBDC collaborated with the Whatcom Community Foundation and First Federal Bank to develop a microloan program to support small business owners in Whatcom County, which began processing initial applications in Q1 and issued the first loan in early June.

While still in the pilot phase, this program was developed to address an unmet need for capital investment among small business owners that struggle to qualify for traditional commercial loans. The microloan preparation workshops gave attendees vital information on how to prepare materials for a successful loan application, regardless of which funding strategy they choose to pursue.

### **SUMMIT BUSINESS FINANCIAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP SERIES**

The WWU Kitsap SBDC team continued to organize the Summit Business Financial Education Workshop Series in partnership with Kitsap Credit Union, the Greater Kitsap Chamber, and the Kitsap Economic Development Alliance (KEDA). In April we hosted a live webinar covering Washington State Labor & Industries business essentials. The May workshop was hosted in-person at Kitsap Credit Union's Harborside Office, featuring Washington State business tax basics, with a focus on business & occupation and sales taxes. This series covers a variety of topics and will continue throughout 2025.

### **TAX WORKSHOPS FOR ENTREPRENEURIAL STUDENTS**

Center Director and Certified Business Advisor Joyce Oswald presented small business tax workshops for students at the Matchstick Lab and Kitsap Community Resources' BE\$T (Business Education Support Training) program. Additionally, she presented an introduction to the Kitsap SBDC and an overview of the small business community to students at Olympic College. Our team looks forward to continuing our outreach and support for students pursuing small business ownership.

## **WWU SBDC 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW**

In Q2 our team (Executive Director CJ Seitz, Dr. Liliana Deck, and Senior CBA Eric Grimstead) presented a summary of our 2024 impacts, projects, and observations to several key stakeholders in Whatcom, including:

- Port of Bellingham Commission
- Whatcom County Council
- Whatcom Community Foundation
- Bellingham City Council

**ECONOMIC IMPACT METRICS**

**Q2 2025 Deliverables: Whatcom**

<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Number of Businesses Advised	179	193	322
SBDC Sponsored Training Participants	14	15	39
Research and Student Projects	2	3	9
Information/Resources Provided	50	85	105

<b>IMPACTS</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Capital Formation	\$1.6M	\$4k	\$3.9M
Business Starts	2	2	15
Jobs Created	10	108*	107

<b>Rolling 12-Month Client Data (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)</b>	
Annualized Sales	\$154.8M
Jobs Supported	1,412

**Q2 2025 Deliverables: Kitsap**

<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Number of Businesses Advised	53	55	119
SBDC Sponsored Training Participants	70	107	125
Research and Student Projects	2	1	6
Information/Resources Provided	26	35	60

<b>IMPACTS</b>	<b>Q2 2025</b>	<b>Q2 2024</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Capital Formation	\$20k	\$0	\$0.4M
Business Starts	2	1	4
Jobs Created	2	1	10

<b>Rolling 12-Month Client Data (7/1/2024 - 6/30/2025)</b>	
Annualized Sales	\$25M
Jobs Supported	340

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025

## Kaiser Borsari Hall (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)

The four-story, 55,000 square foot [Kaiser Borsari Hall](#) offers unique opportunities to students across disciplines with its net-zero energy and carbon design, state-of-the-art labs and experiential learning spaces, active learning classrooms, and collaboration spaces.

- Occupancy: Opened Winter Quarter 2025
- Post Construction Update:
  - Project won a 2025 Wood in Architecture award.
  - Trash enclosure installation is scheduled for October 2025.
  - Educational monitors were installed in small conference rooms. Projection screens are scheduled to be installed in large conference rooms in September 2025.
  - The building started in February with a one-year monitoring for ILFI Zero Energy and energy efficiency.
  - The building is in the Warranty period.

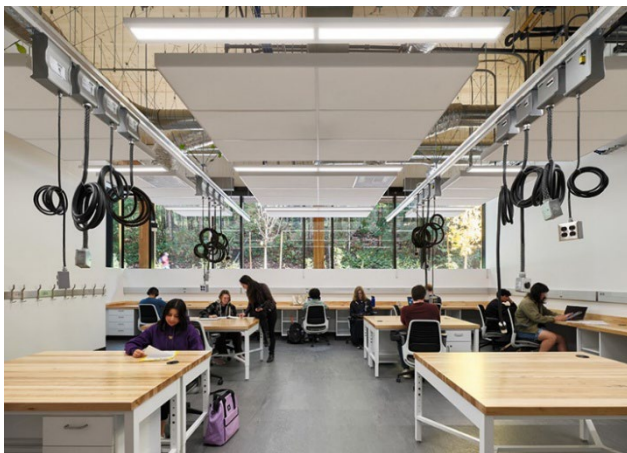


Figure 1: Students working in robotics lab



Figure 2: Collaboration and breakout spaces are located throughout the building



Figure 3: Northeast view in the evening



Figure 4: Southeast view

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025

## Student Development and Success Center

Located on the south end of campus between the Wade King Student Recreation Center and the Academic Instructional Center, the [Student Development and Success Center](#) will be a 29,000 square foot building designed to be physically and culturally accessible. It will combine student support and wellness services, collaboration and meeting spaces, and a welcome center in a single convenient and visible location.

- Design-Build Team: BNBuilders + Miller Hull
- Total Project Budget: \$54,200,000
- Project Procurement: Progressive Design-Build
- Update: The Design-Build team has submitted the Phase 1 Design to 30% and is continuing design refinement workshops with the project Steering Committee and Project Working Groups. The first phased building permit submission, including the Public Facilities Contract (PFC), civil, ground improvements, and foundations, has been submitted to City of Bellingham Building Services for review.
- Project Schedule and Milestones (subject to validation phase amendment):
  - Phase 1, Design: Summer of 2024 through Fall of 2025
    - Validation Phase – August through December 2024 - complete
    - Design to 30% - January to June 2025 - complete
    - Design to 60% - June to November 2025
  - Phase 2, Construction: Fall 2025 through Summer 2027
    - Phased Permitting: June 2025 through October 2026 – first permit package submitted 7/24/25
    - Construction Documents: November 2025 through April 2026
    - Construction: February 2026
    - Substantial Completion: May 2027
    - Occupancy and Move-in: June through September 2027

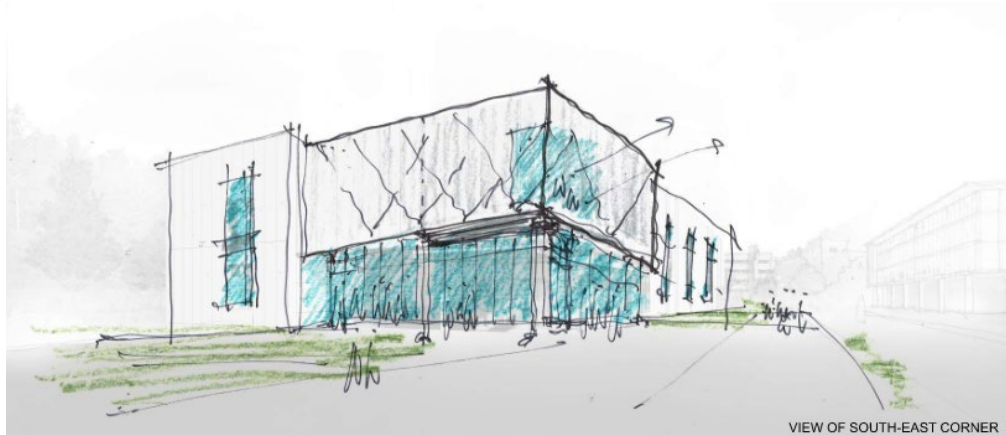


Figure 5: Concept sketch of south entry to the Student Development and Success Center

## House of Healing Coast Salish Longhouse

In partnership and close collaboration with Coast Salish tribal nations, Western Native American Student Union, and City of Bellingham, Western is building a Coast Salish-style longhouse, called the [House of Healing](#). Located in an open meadow at the edge of Sehome Hill Arboretum, the 4,200 square foot facility will include: a welcoming entry featuring Coast Salish carvings on the entry doors; a Gathering Hall / Sacred Space; a Teaching Kitchen supporting health, wellness, healing, and food sovereignty education; a Student Learning Center; and staff and support spaces. Exterior features include a gathering circle for sharing indigenous knowledge, hosting cultural events, and teaching gardens featuring native and traditional plants.

- Design-Build Team: Wellman & Zuck + Rolluda Architects, Inc.
- Total Project Budget: \$5,790,000
- Project Budget Committed: \$5,080,000
- Project Procurement: Progressive Design-Build
- Update: In Resolution #2025-083 on May 30, 2025, the Lummi Indian Business Council officially approved the name Lhaq' temish-ew'xw e tse XwLemi' for the House of Healing. **Lhaq' temish** refers to the 44 original tribes, and **XwLemi'** refers specifically to the Lummi. Therefore, the full name translates to "Lhaq' temish Building of the Lummi who are descendants of one of the 44 original tribes."
- The House of Healing is under construction. Site concrete paving and asphalt paving have been installed. Installation of interior systems continues, and thermal insulation and vapor barrier installation are underway. Lummi Nation carver Felix Solomon and his assistant, Ralph Bennett, continue progress on the carved cedar panels for the main entry doors. Once carved, the artists will apply a layered color wash to accentuate the carving and a sealant finish to protect it. There have been minor delays in the critical path schedule to completion due to issues with controls, electrical, fiber, and negotiations on change order proposals. The teams are successfully working through these issues as quickly as possible.
- Project Schedule and Milestones:
  - Phase 1, Design – Complete
  - Phase 2, Construction: Summer 2024 through Fall 2025
    - Construction Documents: Complete
    - Construction: August 2024 through November 2025
    - Substantial Completion: Delayed until early November 2025
    - Occupancy and Move-in: Late November/early December 2025

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025



Figure 6: Front view of House of Healing



Figure 7: Exterior siding and windows



Figure 8: Construction progress in Teaching Kitchen

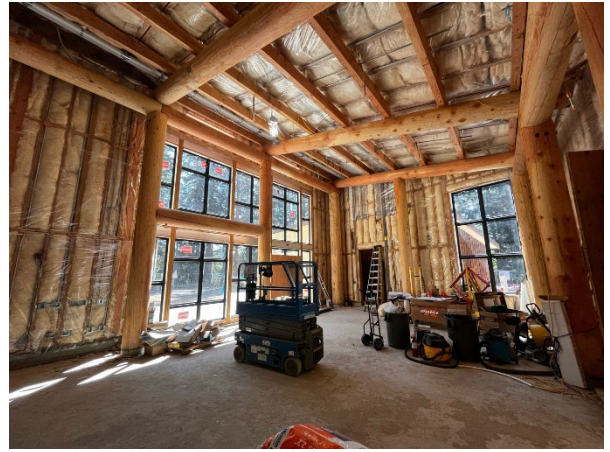


Figure 9: Construction progress in Gathering Hall



Figure 10: Carving cedar door panels for House of Healing

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025

**FACILITIES  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND OPERATIONS**



## Capital Development and Strategic Vision Plan

The consultant team from NAC Architecture has been working with leadership from each of the auxiliaries on a comprehensive study of their facilities across campus, including housing, dining, Viking Union, and Campus Recreation. A student survey was completed in late January 2025 as part of the housing market analysis. This work will update the conclusions and priorities in the 2019 Housing & Dining Development Assessment and the master plan for the Viking Union that was completed in 2018, since both these studies took place just before the COVID-19 pandemic started. NAC's analysis will be incorporated as an addendum or an appendix to the Capital Development & Strategic Vision Plan in the fall of 2025.

## Heating Conversion Project

The state has allocated \$41 million for the first phase of the project in the 2025-2027 capital budget. The Project Review Committee has approved the project for progressive design build, and the project team is currently working with the owner's advisor to procure a design-build consortium that will be responsible for the design and construction of the first portion of the system. The RFQ has been issued, and the first review of interested proposers is underway. Statements of Qualifications from design-build teams were due July 29, 2025, and the team is very pleased with the number of teams submitting formal interest in the project. Final selection of the design build team will conclude in fall 2025, and approval of the phase 1 contract is anticipated as an action item at the December 2025 BOT meeting. As required, a Decarbonization Plan and Community Engagement Plan for this project were submitted to the state.

## Traditional Design-Bid-Build Projects

### Birnam Wood Siding & Bridges (Phase 2)

This project replaced siding and access bridges on stacks 1 and 2 and replaced siding at the laundry building in the Birnam Wood apartments. The general contractor is Dawson Construction, and construction began in June 2024. The bridges and north entrances were complete and ready to accept occupants in September, and the east, west, and south elevations were completed in October 2024. The project reached final construction completion in May 2025.

### Birnam Wood Siding & Bridges (Phase 3)

Dawson Construction was awarded the Phase 3 bid for siding and bridge replacement at stacks 5 and 6 and started work in May, with completion in November 2025. The total project budget for Phase 3 is \$4,000,000. This project will spearhead coordination efforts where the Birnam Wood Parking Lot 27R Repair (Phase 2) work areas will coexist.

### Birnam Wood Parking Lot 27R Repair (Phase 1)

Cascade Engineering Group has prepared a two-phase renewal for the parking lot at Birnam Wood. The Phase 1 general contractor is PELLCO Construction, and construction began in July 2024. Work was substantially complete in September 2024 and finished with the installation of permanent

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025

**FACILITIES  
DEVELOPMENT  
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lighting and poles in December 2024. Construction has reached final completion, pending final signage and paperwork.

## Birnam Wood Parking Lot 27R Repair (Phase 2)

With lessons learned from Phase 1 parking lot renewal at Birnam Wood, Cascade Engineering Group prepared the Phase 2 bid package, and Stremler Gravel Inc. was awarded the bid. The total project budget for Phase 2 is \$2.85 million. Construction began in July 2025 and is scheduled to be completed in October 2025. Strategic construction scheduling is imposed due to site constraints and overlapping BW Siding and Bridges (Phase 3) staging and work areas.

## University Residences Commons Generator Upgrades

This project is upgrading the backup generators at Viking Commons, Ridgeway Commons, and Fairhaven Academic to ensure continued food service operations during power outages. The project designer is K Engineers, and the general contractor is Dutton Electric Company. Construction began in February 2024, and Substantial Completion was reached in April 2025.

## Higginson Hall Electronic Safety Upgrades

This project is replacing the existing fire alarm system at Higginson Hall with modern components and infrastructure. The project designer is K Engineers, and the general contractor is Dutton Electric Company. Construction began in May, and the contractor is expected to reach substantial completion in September 2025.

## Physical Plant Electrical Upgrades

This project is replacing the existing medium voltage transformer, main power distribution equipment, and backup generator at the Physical Plant. The project designer is K Engineers, and the general contractor is Prime Electric. Construction began in May, and the contractor is expected to reach substantial completion in January 2026.

## South Campus Infrastructure and Pedestrian Access Improvements

This project constructs roadway improvements, pedestrian improvements including sidewalks from Bill McDonald Parkway to the House of Healing, and utility extensions along portions of 25<sup>th</sup> Street and Arboretum Drive. This scope of work is related to and will be conducted concurrently with the adjacent project, PW774 House of Healing. Trimaxx Construction Incorporated, Sedro Woolley, WA, is performing the work. The consultant designer is Freeland and Associates, Inc., Bellingham, WA. The PSE electric service is installed and provides temporary power to the House of Healing Coast Salish Longhouse project. The City of Bellingham has performed the end-of-construction inspection, and the project is now complete.

# Board of Trustees Capital Program Report

August 15, 2025

**FACILITIES  
DEVELOPMENT  
AND OPERATIONS**



## Grant Funded Projects

### Clean Buildings Energy Audits

Western was awarded a grant from the Department of Commerce to conduct energy audits on 14 buildings over 50,000 sq ft. The program is designed to aid building owners in compliance with the Clean Building Performance Standard. This state program requires that commercial buildings over 20,000 sq ft benchmark their energy performance and complete energy management plans and operation and maintenance plans over the next few years. The energy audits will aid with compliance and provide a list of measures to reduce energy usage. McKinstry was selected as the consultant to lead the audits. Students will have an experiential learning opportunity to help conduct the audits. This project began in late January and was completed on June 30, 2025.

## Emergency Project

### Miller Hall Heating Infrastructure Upgrade (Emergency)

Tiger Construction is the general contractor for emergency repairs to the steam lines serving Miller Hall. Minor Works Preservation dollars fully fund the project. Excavation and repair work will require closing East College Way from August 4 to November 11, 2025. Heat is scheduled to be fully restored by October 21, and a plan is being developed to provide temporary heating at the start of the fall quarter. Emergency access needs and logistical challenges related to road closures are being coordinated across campus. Completion is expected in January 2026.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa by Provost and Executive Vice President Brad Johnson

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**SUBJECT:** **Annual Grants Report**

**PURPOSE:** Informational Item

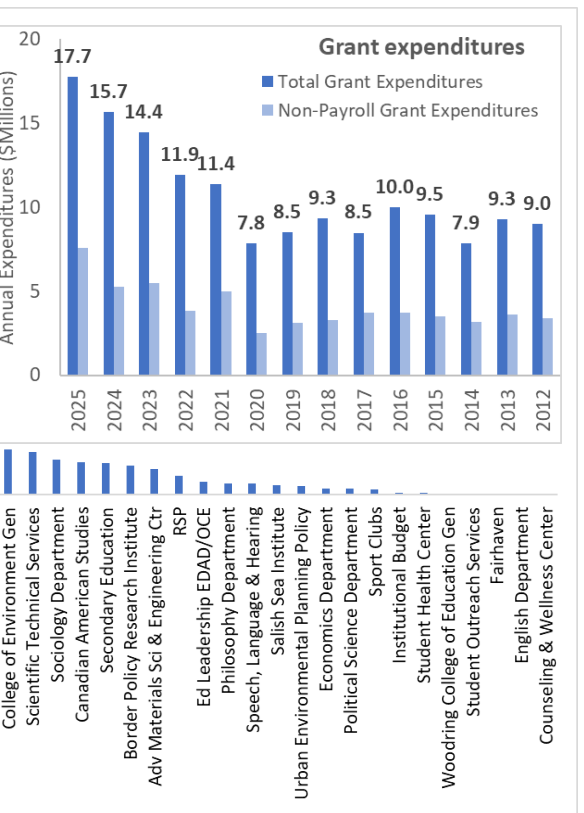
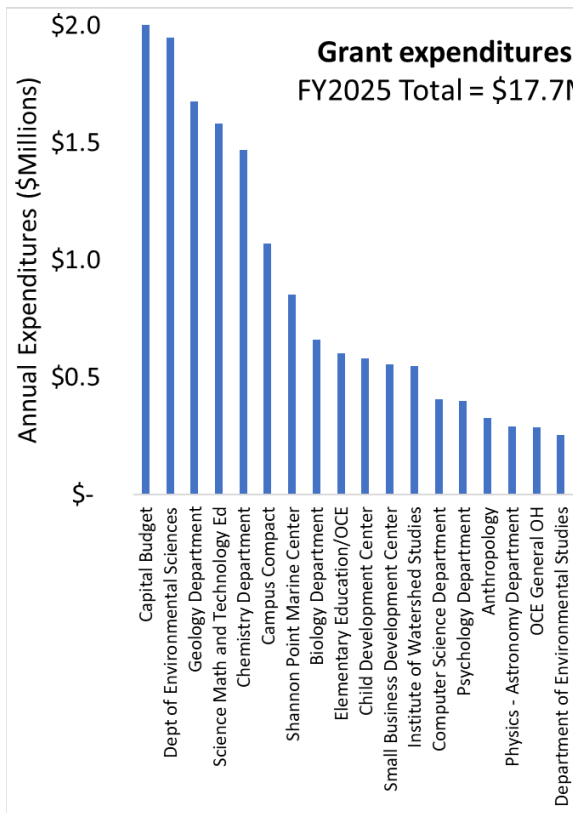
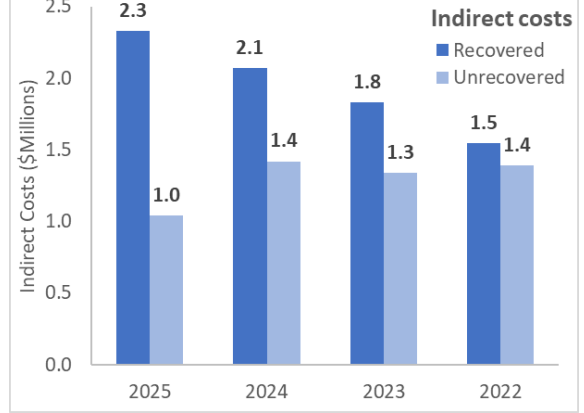
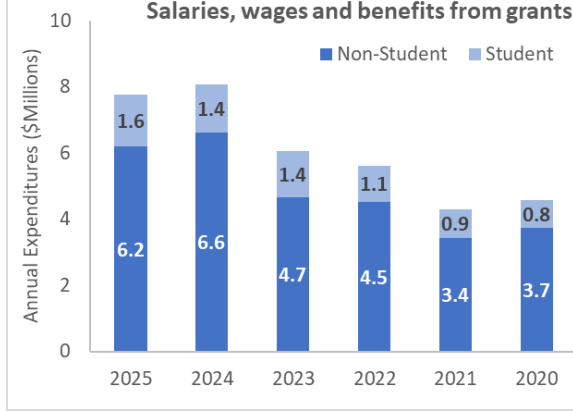
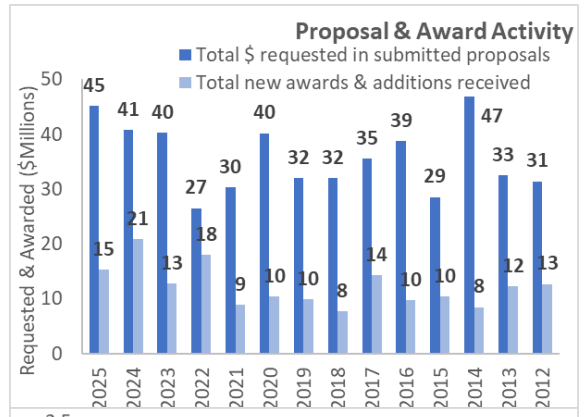
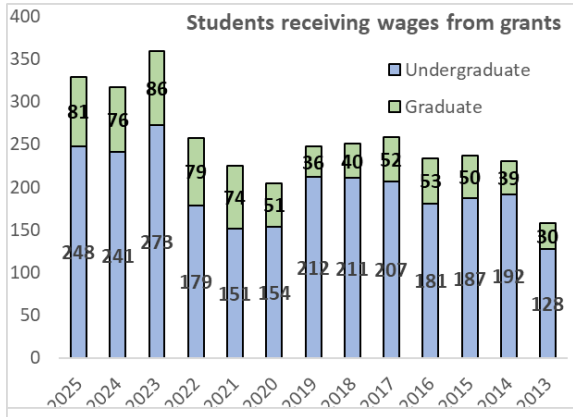
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**Purpose of Submittal:**

Information from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs concerning grant awards for the period July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

**Supporting Information:**

- Grant awards/totals for the period 7/1/24 – 6/30/25



## **18 Board of Trustee Remarks**

## **19 DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

- **October 16 – 17, 2025, in Bellingham, WA**

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** Sabah Randhawa, President

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Executive Session

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

President Randhawa will lead the Trustees in an executive session as authorized by RCW 42.30.110 provides a basis, as follows: The purpose is to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions.

**21 ADJOURN**

## **22 Break**

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**TO:** Members of the Board of Trustees

**FROM:** President Sabah Randhawa

**DATE:** August 15, 2025

**PURPOSE:** Information Item

**SUBJECT:** Board Work Session

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**Purpose of Submittal:**

The Board of Trustees will have a work session with the President.

## **24 ADJOURNMENT**