

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, April 10, 2025**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pettis called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:01 pm on Thursday, April 10, 2025, in the Board of Trustees Conference room, Old Main 340, at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

**Attendance:**

Faith Pettis, Chair

Mo West, Trustee

Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee, Trustee

Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair (on Zoom)

Maria Siguenza, Trustee (on Zoom)

Ash Awad, Trustee (on Zoom)

Chase Franklin, Trustee (on Zoom)

John Meyer, Trustee (on Zoom)

Sabah Randhawa, President

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

Melynda Huskey, Vice President of Student Affairs

Kim O'Neill, 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

Becca Kenna-Schenk, President's Office Chief of Staff

Kerena Higgins, AAG

Michael Slouber, Faculty Senate 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. STUDENT RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITY SYMPOSIUM**

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, gave background information on Scholars Week, which is May 12 – 16, 2025. Scholars Week, Western's signature academic event, occurs annually each spring. Now in its 25th year, Scholars Week uniquely conveys and supports Western's mission by providing an opportunity for students to present research and creative work in a public forum.

Western Washington University has impressive student scholars who have opportunities to work with world-class Faculty to engage in research as undergraduate students. These

research relationships are part of what makes WWU unique and one of the top producers of students who go on to earn PhDs.

Provost and Executive Vice President Johnson introduced four pairs of student researchers and their faculty mentors. Faculty shared information about their areas of research and the students explained how they work to further that research and creative activity across a range of disciplines.

Mark Bussell, Professor, Chemistry Department, and Founder of Scholars Week, gave a brief history of the scholarship showcase, explained the purpose of the event, and showed how it has expanded over time.

Maria McLeod, Associate Professor, Journalism Department, and Current Chair of Scholars Week Planning Committee, shared that one strength of Scholars Week is that it features Western's unique brand and reputation for providing opportunities to participate in research and work closely with Faculty mentors. Creative activity from the College of Fine Arts is also featured. Many projects are interdisciplinary and highlight collaborative research partnerships.

Chair Pettis asked how Scholars Week is promoted in the community and how we can draw more community and business partners. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee suggested that the event be highlighted at local high schools. Trustee West suggested that the audience be broadened to include legislators. Trustees offered support for increasing the visibility of this event and broadening the reach of our messaging about the unique research opportunities available at Western.

Faculty Mentor and Environmental Science Professor John McLaughlin, and students, Gracie Swanson and Caleb Barville, shared their experiences in field courses that bring students outdoors for ten days to conduct a wide-variety of environmental scholarship. The experience is often a catalyst for advanced degrees and careers in their chosen fields. The students shared their processes for preparing for field camp and their research models. Being immersed in science and having the opportunity to apply their knowledge, collect data, analyze it and then present their work are experiences the students look forward to.

Trustee Awad commended the students for pushing themselves and inquired about the students' career aspirations.

Faculty Mentor and Chemistry Professor Mike Larsen was joined by student, Oliver Venablerose. Dr. Larsen shared the work his research group is doing related to biodegradability of plastics. The goal of the research is to make materials that have the positive characteristics of plastic but that can degrade without negative environmental impact. Student Oliver Venablerose recently submitted a paper that was accepted for publication. He shared information about the properties of plastic and how they can be manipulated. The research team developed and field tested a material that completely dissolves in water. Dr. Larsen noted that these research opportunities have launched many students into graduate studies in related disciplines and into jobs in a relevant field.

Faculty Mentor and Geology Professor, Bernie Housen, and masters student, Jake Peckenpaugh, are working on a research project that blends geology and physics. Their work is focused on salmon habitat and ways artificial logjams can improve groundwater storage and foster better habitat for salmon. The tool used to assess the groundwater depth is a ground penetrating radar and that measures the reflections from the currents and the electrical resistivity. The project has a strong partnership with the Lummi Nation.

Faculty Mentors and Theatre Professors Rich Brown, and students, Ella Newborn and Jersey Patterson presented the creative activity being done in the department of theatre and dance. The students performed the regional competition winning scene and monologue that were part of the Irene Ryan package. The short scene and monologue will go on to compete at the national festival, where Western has performed strongly in past years. Faculty mentor, Eva Gil, talked about her Performing Arts work. Evan Meuller, another Faculty mentor, shared the work he his doing to collaborate with international experts to shape curriculum and integrate skills into student performance. The student performers shared their creative processes.

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee is a Theatre student and commented on the strength of the programs at Western. Trustee West inquired about the students' plans after graduation.

### **3. EXECUTIVE SESSION AS AUTHORIZED BY RCW42.30.110(1)(i)**

Chair Pettis called a 30-minute Executive Session at 4:41pm.

Chair Pettis cited RCW42.30.110(1)(i). The purpose of the Executive Session was to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency in litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

The Executive Session ended at 4:56pm and the public meeting resumed.

### **4. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 4:56pm.

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
Friday, April 11, 2025**

**5. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Pettis welcomed guests and called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 8:00 am on Friday, April 11, 2025, in the Board of Trustees Conference room, Old Main 340, at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

**Attendance:**

Faith Pettis, Chair  
Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee, Trustee  
Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair  
Maria Siguenza, Trustee  
Mo West, Trustee (on Zoom)  
Chase Franklin, Trustee (on Zoom)  
John Meyer, Trustee (on Zoom)  
Sabah Randhawa, President  
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President  
Kim O'Neill, Vice President for Advancement, Executive Director of the Foundation for WWU and Alumni  
Becca Kenna-Schenk, President's Office Chief of Staff  
Kerena Higgins, AAG  
Michael Slouber, Faculty Senate President  
Liam Pratt, ASWWU President  
Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees  
Elissa Hicks, Policy Coordinator for Government Relations and the Board of Trustees

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. Regular Meeting: February 13-14, 2025

The Board reviewed the minutes from its previous meeting.

MOTION 4-1-2025: Vice Chair Witherspoon **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the president, approve the following minutes: Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, February 13 & 14, 2025.

Trustee Chase Franklin seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Board of Trustees agenda provides for public comment per Amended RCW 28B.35.110, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act.

Emma Jean is a senior studying environmental science and is the recycling educator. She introduced the speakers as Operational Student Employees. She spoke about safety concerns she and recycling staff have, specifically related to truck maintenance. She encouraged voluntary recognition of Operational Student Employees.

Sierra Demerjain spoke about training needs, specifically for Resident Advisors. Crisis training and support for employees who encounter traumatic situations were requested. She also advocated for adequate compensation for residence life staff and that the university recognize and bargain with Operational Student Employees.

Willow Giorgini is an Art Education major and has worked in both Academic Student Employee and Operational Student Employee jobs. They offered observations of disparities between the two groups. Layoff protections are one element of inequity across the two groups. Willow then ceded the rest of their time to Grace Rodriguez

Grey Askew ceded their time to Grace Rodriguez.

Grace Rodriguez, who is a fitness instructor at the Recreation Center, spoke about the process Operational Student Employees have been engaged in with the legislature over the past two sessions that ultimately ended without the union authorization bills being passed. She characterized the organizing students' situation as urgent and noted that there was no legal barrier to the university voluntarily recognizing the group as a union. The Operational Student Employees want to come to an agreement with the university and engage in collective bargaining that results in a fair contract.

Chair Pettis thanked the speakers for addressing the Board.

## **8. BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Chair Pettis acknowledged the passing of Ralph Munro, former Secretary of State, a former Trustee of Western Washington University, and a lifelong supporter of the institution.

Chair Pettis reported that she and Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee attended a scholarship dinner hosted by the Foundation. Chair Pettis noted that the event showcased student excellence. Trustee Siguenza was on campus recently for a Latine Professionals Panel, and Chair Pettis and Trustee West recently attended the College Success Foundation Gala. President Randhawa joined Chair Pettis for a Chamber of Commerce lunch where the President of Wesleyan spoke about campus free speech.

Chair Pettis noted that Student Trustee applications are being accepted for the 2025-26 academic year. Chair Pettis thanked Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee for her help reaching out to students and responding to inquiries.

Chair Pettis then reported on her experience at the Association of Governing Boards national conference, which focused on timely topics relevant to governing boards. She invited Trustees West, Witherspoon and Siguenza to share their reflections on the conference and what they learned. Trustee West shared that she attended sessions on student basic needs, data-driven approaches to assess student needs, and the role of Trustees in supporting programs to address them. Vice Chair Witherspoon attended sessions on the changing landscape of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. He also learned about hybrid models and the future of athletics. Trustee Siguenza shared what she learned about changing demographics and how to tailor programs and provide services to work with emerging populations. A quote that stood out to her was, "Affordability is not Accessibility." The federal landscape was a theme throughout the conference.

Chair Pettis next acknowledged the February 14 Dear Colleague Letter and thanked the administration for its thoughtful and measured approach that underlined commitment to our institutional values.

She also acknowledged the impacts of budget cuts, and how those have had direct impact on personnel. She thanked the administration for communicating with the university community with empathy and offering support for those impacted by layoffs and reorganizations.

## **9. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT**

President Randhawa began by reflecting on Ralph Munro's commitment to Western and shared how the statesman helped spark Western's commitment to offering education on the Peninsulas.

President Randhawa reported that he and Nora Selander have been meeting with legislators in Olympia to discuss the implications of budget cuts on higher education. Kim O'Neill and President Sabah have meeting with alumni and key donors.

He then shared thoughts about the operating budget reductions and the impacts on personnel. He thanked the Faculty Senate and the United Faculty of Western Washington for working with the administration as additional cuts are made. Provost and Executive Vice President Johnson has been visiting all academic units to hear about concerns and impacts that budget cuts will have.

As follow-up to the public comment, President Randhawa assured the Board that he and his team are looking into the safety concerns that were raised and will report back.

## **10. FACULTY SENATE REPORT**

Michael Slouber, Faculty Senate President, introduced Erika McPhee-Shaw who is the current Vice President of the Faculty Senate and the incoming President.

President Slouber commented on the federal actions and impacts on research grants and free speech. The state budget situation creates additional uncertainty. He shared thoughts on the shared governance process for making budget cuts and encouraged greater collaboration.

Trustee Franklin asked for additional details on situations when the administration fell short on shared governance and how information on Faculty opinions was collected. Michael Slouber responded by highlighting the scholarship centralization process as one area where shared governance failed, though the situation has since been resolved. He also cited the decision to offer College in the High Schools and expansion on the Peninsulas as decisions that were made without Faculty engagement. He also answered that his data about the feeling of disenfranchisement has been collected anecdotally from Faculty who are most engaged in university policy issues.

He continued by explaining a proposed new addition to the Faculty Handbook that provides a framework for shared governance among stakeholders and outlines steps in the processes. The process for budget cuts has been concerning and this newly proposed process would require consultation and ameliorate some of the problems that Faculty have encountered in the budget process thus far.

The difficult conversation series is wrapping up soon and has been a successful tool for sparking conversations about divisive issues in a respectful way.

The Handbook Committee is finishing its work and the Faculty Senate will vote on the entire revised Handbook in May following a review by UFWW and the AAG.

Chair Pettis clarified that the Board does not intend to review or vote on the Handbook revisions. She asked the AAG for assistance on clarifying the role of the Board related to the document.

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

Chair Pettis welcomed Liam Pratt, Associated Students of Western Washington University President, to his new role.

Liam Pratt acknowledged the Operational Student Employees and urged the administration to recognize the group. He also shared that he is serving as the S&A committee chair. The student government recently issued two statements. The first calls for the immediate release of students who engaged in first amendment activities and have since been detained by the federal government. The second statement addresses immigration enforcement that impacts students. President Pratt is also working to form the Student Trustee Application Review Committee. ASWWU elections are underway and several candidates have filed to run. Participation in elections has been low, and the students are working to increase turnout.

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee thanked the ASWWU for providing immigration resources and translating them to Spanish.

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

Trustee Chase Franklin, Chair, Finance, Audit, and Enterprise Risk Management Committee, reported that FARM has met twice since the last Board meeting. The meetings included discussion of the different types of student fees. He also reported on a recent meeting with Christy Fazio regarding internal audits that are underway and are on track in the 2024-25 Audit Plan. The State Auditors Office is starting its regular accountability audit that will cover July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. The committee also received updates on the operating budget, which is a situation that continues to evolve. Vice President Lopes gave a report to the committee on recent property sales and properties the university will rent out to capture revenue.

## **13. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee, Member of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, gave the committee report. At the last meeting, Graduate School Dean, David Patrick, joined the committee and shared the strengths and opportunities for growth in graduate programs. The committee is reviewing its charter to strengthen alignment with the Strategic Plan and center its priorities on student access and success. Provost Johnson updated the committee on budget cuts and how they impact personnel and structures. The new charter will be developed by the committee and it will be presented to the full Board for its consideration for approval. Vice President Huskey reported that the Know Your Rights information sessions were well-attended. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee attended the session and found the information useful. The committee learned that the Childhood Development Center is expanding and will be able to offer more capacity for childcare. Jacqueline Hughes shared that she is working closely with her peers across the region and nationally to monitor federal changes related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **14. HONORS COLLEGE**

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, introduced Kimberly Lynn, Dean of the Honors College. Dean Lynn shared ways the Honors College enhances the student experience. One strength of the program is to provide opportunities for academic and community engagement and to create interdisciplinary partnerships across various areas of the university.

Wren [Grace] Landaverde is a second-year student at Western and is a transfer student. They are majoring in Environmental Science with a Toxicology emphasis. They enjoy the

student-led learning in the Honors College that is facilitated by excellent Faculty. The Honors College community is strong and being part of that community is another feature of the program that they appreciate. Wren shared that they are working on their Senior Capstone Project, which requires technical research and will result in a pop-up book that aims to explain the technical information to a lay audience. Wren will present her research at an upcoming conference.

Manuel Montano, Associate Professor of Environmental Science, described the symbiosis between the College of the Environment and the Honors College and the interdisciplinary research that Faculty and students engage in together. He shared his experiences working with a series of Honors students to further shared research objectives. The caliber of students, their curiosity and their motivation for research makes working with Honors Students rewarding.

Dean Kimberly Lynn has been at Western for eighteen years and has been in her current role for the last eight months. She shared her background, her experience as an undergraduate Honors student, and why she personally values Honors education at Western.

She continued the presentation by outlining the vision and mission for the Honors College, how it fits within Western more broadly, and how the program has grown over the last ten years. The Honors College currently includes about 850 students and has a goal of admitting about 250 students each fall. She shared the demographics of current Honors students and noted how it includes first-generation, PELL eligible, and students of color. She cited impressive retention and graduation statistics. She also shared the variety of majors Honors Students pursue. She shared the various curricular pathways and what the Honors curriculum includes and highlighted participation in Study Abroad programs. She shared ideas for increasing opportunities for community service, furthering university-wide initiatives, fostering inclusion, and developing long-term goals.

Violet Cole, a second-year student who is majoring in Archeology and minoring in History and Honors, then shared how she decided on Honors at Western and how the program has had a positive impact on her education. She enjoyed the Honors seminars and appreciated the Faculty who taught on topics they were passionate about and the ways they provided a forum for student-directed discussions. Violet is involved as a student leader on the Honors Advisory Board and has made lasting friendships through the program.

Keith Russell, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, shared the way the College collaborates with Honors through a high number of Faculty teaching Honors classes and noted the success of Honors students.

Chair Pettis thanked the presenters.

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee, who is an Honors student, inquired about the gender breakdown of Honors students. Dean Lynn shared that about 70% of Honors students are female-identifying or non-binary. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee noted that the demographics still reveal gaps in the number of students with backgrounds that have been typically

underrepresented in higher education. Dean Lynn noted that Honors closely mirrors the broader university demographics and that they are working on new ways to reach out to new audiences, engage in targeted recruitment, and provide financial support through scholarships. The Trustee noted her appreciation for the variety of assessment tools that are used to evaluate learning beyond traditionally testing. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee closed her questions by asking for thoughts on how more STEM students can be included.

Trustee Meyer observed that this year's Honors enrollment has dropped by about 25%. Dean Lynn posited that the FAFSA problems and that the University of Washington admitted to students further down their waitlist last fall.

Provost and Executive Vice President, Brad Johnson, closed the presentation by commenting on common themes between the Scholars Week and Honors presentations and how both amplify the research culture and contribute to our reputation for academic excellence.

## **15. LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT, HOUSE AND SENATE BUDGET PROPOSALS**

Nora Selander, Director of Government Relations, reported that it is the 89<sup>th</sup> day of the legislative session. She shared information on the current Capital Budget proposal and reported that funding for the building in Poulsbo and the heating conversion project is uncertain. She shared the proposed cuts to Western's Operating Budget and scenarios for various legislative outcomes. Both across the board and one-time cuts are under consideration. The fund-split is one of Western's primary budget concerns and the current legislative proposal rolls that split back further to a 51/49 split. The fund split is not applied evenly across 4-year institutions in WA and disproportionately impacts Western. Director Selander observed that the House budget proposed mostly across the board cuts while the Senate proposal would give more flexibility for setting tuition.

Director Selander continued her report with insights on recent conversations with legislators. The fund-split is a primary point of advocacy in the final days of the session, and she reported on support we have from our local legislators. She closed with an overview of the dynamics between the Governor and the Legislature.

Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee inquired about the parameters for setting tuition and asked about specific budget provisions for Academic Access and for the Planning Studios for Urban and Environmental Planning students.

Trustee Siguenza thanked Director Selander for her work in Olympia.

Chair Pettis inquired about HB 2070, which addresses funding parity, and why it was pushed to 2029. Nora Selander answered that the extended timeline acknowledges the immediate budget problems and keeps the conversation going.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **16. APPROVAL OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES POLICY ON SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING**

Chair Pettis gave history and context for the committee's work. She thanked Trustee Franklin for chairing the committee and acknowledged the work of the advisory committee members.

Trustee and Advisory Committee for Socially Responsible Investing Chair, Chase Franklin, reported on the success of the committee in meeting its charge to develop a Board Policy on Socially Responsible Investing. He noted that the committee members worked collegially and effectively, and all members collaborated on the final proposed policy.

ASWWU President and ACSRI Committee Member, Liam Pratt, shared that he is pleased with the committee's proposal and looks forward to implementing it and seeing its impact.

Trustee Franklin reviewed the committee's process that led to unanimous approval of the Socially Responsible Investing policy that is being submitted for consideration by the Board of Trustees. He and the committee believe that the proposed policy offers a clear framework and appropriate level of specificity for the committee to review investments and form a recommendation on a specific investment.

In addition to the policy language, the ACSRI had three additional recommendations to the Board. Trustee Franklin outlined those recommendations, which are listed below.

Chair Pettis proposed a vote on the proposed policy first, then to consider the additional recommendations separately.

Vice Chair Witherspoon noted the hard work that went into the recommendations before the Board.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing, approve the proposed Board of Trustees Policy on Socially Responsible Investing.

Trustee John Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

Following approval of the Board of Trustees Policy on Socially Responsible Investing, Board members discussed the additional recommendations.

Chair Pettis expressed support for recommendations 1 and 3 but had questions about number 2. She shared her view that the Foundation represents donors and alumni and having them present is important to key constituencies, even if the Foundation's investments are not under the purview of the ACSRI. Vice Chair Witherspoon agreed with Faith's characterization of the Foundation's involvement. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee asked

why the Foundation would be removed and Trustee Franklin and Liam Pratt shared the reasoning of the committee. She further inquired whether the Foundation would be included in the committee if they adopted an SRI and Chase shared that the appropriate level of transparency is needed for them to have their investments analyzed by the committee. Sabah offered that the Foundation brings a lot of expertise and that committee members would all be expected to have the best interest of the university in mind, regardless of the Foundation's position on SRI. Chief of Staff Becca Kenna-Schenk shared that MOU specifies inclusion of Foundation representatives.

Chair Pettis expressed hesitation to amend the charter and an interest in engaging the Foundation on this question. She recommended tabling the committee's second recommendation for further discussion. Trustee Siguenza noted that the committee felt strongly about the recommendation and requested additional conversation with the Foundation. Trustee Ekhteraee-Sanaee also supported taking more time for discussion. Trustee West supported additional dialogue with the Foundation before considering adoption.

MOTION 4-2-2025

Chair Faith Pettis **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, approve the following recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing:

Recommendation 1. Direct the administration, in cooperation with the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni (Foundation), to separate the appreciated fund value of the 1988 Distinguished Professorship Trust Fund from the Foundation's core portfolio(s), and reinvest such funds in compliance with the university's proposed SRI. (The value of these funds total approximately \$15 million.)

Recommendation 3: The ACSRI requests that Board staff be directed to collect and publish on the ACSRI website up to date financial, educational, governance, procedural and other information pertaining to the university's SRI policy.

Chair Faith Pettis further **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University table Recommendation 2:

Recommendation 2: The ACSRI feels strongly that, in recognition of the Foundation's inability to comply with the proposed SRI policy, they should not maintain a voting membership on the committee. Therefore, the ACSRI requests that the ACSRI charter be amended to eliminate the Foundation's voting role but maintain a single ex officio role. This recommendation was tabled for further discussion.

Trustee John Meyer seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## 17. APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS

Vice President Lopes invited Brian Ross, Director of Capital Budget and Public Works Procurement, Facilities Development and Operations, to give an overview of the projects. He noted that the two contracts up for consideration are fixed and will not be impacted by potential tariffs if they are executive soon.

- a. Construction Contract Award for Birnam Wood Parking Lot 27R Restoration Phase 2, PW829

MOTION 4-3-2025 Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon **MOVED** that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, award a contract to Stremler Gravel, Inc., Lynden, WA, in the amount of \$1,959,200 (plus associated sales tax) for Birnam Wood Parking Lot 27R Restoration Phase 2.

Trustee Maria Siguenza seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

- b. Construction Contract Award for Birnam Wood Siding and Bridges Phase 3, PW835

MOTION 4-4-2025 Trustee Chase Franklin **MOVED** that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, award a contract to Dawson Construction, LLC., Bellingham, WA, in the amount of \$2,723,025 (plus associated sales tax) for Birnam Wood Siding and Bridges Phase 3.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## 18. APPROVAL OF RENTAL LEASE ADDENDUM WITH PUGET SOUND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DISTRICT, RENTON WA

Chief of Staff Becca Kenna-Schenk shared that the Lease Addendum is for facilities Western rents in Renton to house a partnership between the ESD and Woodring College of Education which operates a program to certify bilingual paraeducators.

MOTION 4-5-2025 Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon **MOVED** that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the rental lease addendum with Puget Sound Educational Services District, Renton, WA.

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

**19. APPROVAL OF 2025-2026 SELF-SUSTAINING ACADEMIC YEAR AND 2026 SUMMER TUITION RATES**

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, introduced the request, which is brought before the Board annually. The Board previously approved a 3% tuition increase in October 2024 and this proposal is consistent with that increase.

MOTION 4-6-2025

Trustee Maria Siguenza **MOVED**, that the 2025–2026 Self-Sustaining Academic Year Tuition Rates below be raised by 3% to the following rates:

- Undergraduate Course/Workshop \$316 per credit;
- Graduate Course/Workshop \$405 per credit;
- Graduate – Audiology Course/Workshop \$658 per credit;
- Graduate – Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling \$448 per credit;
- Graduate – MBA Program (Bellingham) Course/Workshop \$469 per credit;
- Graduate – Pathology Course/Workshop \$617 per credit;
- Self-Paced Course/Workshop \$175 per credit;
- Undergraduate Degree Program Courses \$366 per credit; and
- Graduate Degree Program Courses \$439 per credit.

**FURTHER MOVED**, that the 2025–2026 Self-Sustaining Academic Year Tuition Rates below remain the same as the 2024–2025 rates:

- Credit Option: Variable Fee \$50 to \$100 per credit;
- Continuous Enrollment \$50 flat;
- Viking Launch \$300 per credit; and
- Weekend MBA \$757 per credit.

**FURTHER MOVED**, that the Summer Session 2026 Tuition Rates be raised by 3% to the following rates:

- Resident – Undergraduate Summer Session \$316;
- Resident – Graduate Summer Session \$405;
- Non-Resident – Undergraduate Summer \$504;
- Non-Resident – Graduate Summer Session \$591;
- MBA – Resident – Graduate Summer Session \$459; and
- MBA – Non-Resident – Graduate Summer Session \$1,168.
- MBA tuition rates are banded from 10 to 18 credits.

Trustee Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0.

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

### **20. WRITTEN REPORTS**

- a. Enrollment Management Summary
- b. University Advancement Report
- c. Capital Program Report
- d. Student Affairs Report
- e. Mid-Year Housing and Dining Report
- f. Professional Leave Report

Trustees reviewed the reports. Chair Pettis pulled out the Enrollment Management Summary and asked for additional information about why our first-year enrollment numbers are down. Provost Johnson and President Randhawa posited reasons why our currently enrolled pool is smaller and what is being done to address that decline.

Trustee Siguenza found the on-the-spot admissions efforts interesting and encouraged additional efforts to streamline enrollment.

### **21. TRUSTEE REMARKS**

Vice Chair Witherspoon thanked the Operational Student Employees for their engagement with the Board and appreciated President Randhawa's commitment to addressing the safety concerns raised by the student employees.

Trustee Siguenza noted that yesterday was Dolores Huerta Day. Dolores Huerta was a civil rights and labor leader and is the only woman in WA State with a day dedicated in her honor. She noted that the OSE students' message is timely and that the Board heard their message today.

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

The next Regular Meeting is June 12-13, 2025 in Bellingham, WA.

### **23. ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.