

# **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 EKHTERAAE-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**

- a. Enrollment Management Summary
- b. University Advancement Report
- c. Capital Program Report
- d. Student Affairs Report
- e. Office of Equity Report
- f. Fellowship and Scholarship Report
- g. Report on Declared Majors
- h. Emeritus Status Report
- i. Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprises Report
- j. 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.