

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 11, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Faith Pettis called the December 11, 2025, meeting of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 12:36 p.m. at the Four Points Hotel, 714 Lakeway Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229.

Attendance:

Chair Faith Pettis

Vice Chair, Chris Witherspoon

Trustee Mo West, Trustee Maria Siguenza

Trustee David Frockt

Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot

Trustee John Meyer (on Zoom)

Trustee Ash Awad (on Zoom)

President Sabah Randhawa

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs

Kim Hill, Vice President for Advancement, Executive Director for the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni

Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, Executive Director for the Office of Equity

Becca Kenna-Schenk, Chief of Staff

Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees

Elissa Hicks, Policy Coordinator for Government Relations and the Board of Trustees

2. BOARD WORK SESSION

The Board of Trustees and members of the President's Cabinet met to discuss the status of the Strategic Enrollment Growth Initiative, and to make plans for the upcoming legislative session.

The Board of Trustees and the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni Board met jointly for a presentation from the Education Advisory Board.

3. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Friday, December 12, 2025

4. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Faith Pettis called the December 12, 2025, meeting of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 8:31 a.m. in Old Main 340 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA.

Attendance:

Chair Faith Pettis
Vice Chair, Chris Witherspoon
Trustee Mo West, Trustee Maria Siguenza
Trustee David Frockt
Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot
Trustee John Meyer (on Zoom)
Trustee Ash Awad (on Zoom)
President Sabah Randhawa
Erika McPhee-Shaw, Faculty Senate President
John Hardgrove, ASWWU Senate President
Kerena Higgins, AAG
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
Kim Hill, Vice President for Advancement, Executive Director for the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni
Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, Executive Director for the Office of Equity
Becca Kenna-Schenk, Chief of Staff
Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees
Elissa Hicks, Policy Coordinator for Government Relations and the Board of Trustees

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Pettis welcomed the individuals who signed up for public comment and acknowledged that the Board received a letter from Conor Lincoln addressing the proposed changes to the S&A Fee allocation process.

Conor Lincoln is a senior studying political science and is involved in student government and DRAC. He raised concerns about the proposed structural changes to the S&A Fee allocation process and reservations he has about whether the changes will yield their intended results.

Ella Horner is an S&A representative from DRAC, which is a committee that represents the interests of a wide range of students on campus. She advocated to maintain strong representation of DRAC on the committee. She expressed concerns about how and when changes were communicated to students on DRAC and urged a slower timeline for more consultation with students.

Elizabeth Swift served as the Vice Chair for the S&A Committee last year and was a representative of Athletics. She will participate on the committee again this year. She expressed support for standardizing processes to address the contentious nature of the process but raised concerns about changes to the committee roster and the number of representatives from key constituencies. She also commented on the timeline for decision-making by the committee and noted that it is often rushed. She also noted that Athletics plans to put a referendum to the students, which could impact the recommended allocation for next year.

Erin Hayhow spoke on behalf of the Outback Farm and its staff. She shared ways the farm has a positive impact at WWU. She shared that staff were informed that funding for the Outback Farm Manager is being cut and raised her concerns about the ability to manage student employees and adequately maintain the farm.

Caroline Tronger is a work study employee at the Outback Farm and spoke in support of continued funding for the Outback Farm Manager position. She shared information about how Fairhaven College engages students through classes and activities based at the farm. She noted negative impacts to the food pantry and student well-being that would result from funding cuts.

6. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chair Pettis welcomed the newest Trustee, David Frockt, to the Board and asked Trustee Mo West to read a Resolution to formally recognize him.

a. RESOLUTION 2025-05, WELCOMING TRUSTEE DAVID FROCKT

WHEREAS, on October 27, 2025, Governor Bob Ferguson appointed DAVID FROCKT of Seattle, Washington, to serve on the Western Washington University Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, DAVID FROCKT has had a distinguished career in law and public service, including twelve years in the Washington State Senate from 2011 to 2023, during which he held numerous leadership roles and championed legislation across a wide array of policy areas, including the environment, health care, higher education, and gun violence prevention; and

WHEREAS, during his service as a state legislator, DAVID FROCKT was a tireless champion for public higher education in Washington State, consistently advancing policies

to expand access, promote college affordability, and strengthen financial aid, including his strong support for maintaining low tuition and improving the Washington College Grant; and

WHEREAS, during his tenure in the Legislature, DAVID FROCKT also served in key budget leadership roles, including on the Senate Ways & Means Committee, where he played a pivotal role in shaping the state's operating and capital budgets and advocating for investments in higher education; and

WHEREAS, during this period, DAVID FROCKT was a committed and influential advocate for Western Washington University, helping secure funding for several major capital infrastructure projects on campus that have strengthened the university's academic mission and enhanced the student experience; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election to the State Senate, DAVID FROCKT served as a Congressional Aide in the U.S. House of Representatives and later practiced law in Seattle. Following his retirement from the Legislature, he founded a public policy consulting practice and currently serves as Deputy Policy Director in Governor Ferguson's administration; and

WHEREAS, DAVID FROCKT has expressed his commitment to serve as a member of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees and to continue advancing the mission of public higher education in Washington State; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University officially extends a warm welcome to DAVID FROCKT as he begins his term on the Board.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on December 12, 2025.

MOTION 12-1-2025 Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon made a **MOTION** to approve the Resolution.

Trustee Maria Siguenza seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0, with Trustee David Frockt abstaining.

Trustee David Frockt thanked the Trustees for their warm welcome. He shared that he was honored and excited to be part of the Western community. As a legislator, he had the opportunity to learn about Western and was impressed by the institution and its impact.

Chair Pettis then continued with her report.

The Board held a work session at the end of October where they discussed enrollment, athletics and housing, state legislative issues, and the impact of recent federal actions.

The Board met for a follow-up work session the day before and focused on the Strategic Enrollment Growth Initiative. Chair Pettis emphasized the importance of the initiative and

the high-level of Board support for achieving the enrollment goals. At the end of the work session, the Board of Trustees met jointly with the Foundation Board and each group shared its priorities.

Chair Pettis closed her report by noting that the annual performance evaluation of the Executive and Liaison to the Board of Trustees is underway.

7. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT

President Randhawa reported on the campus-wide holiday party and tree lighting, which was well-attended. The Sequoia that is lit is about 125 years old.

He then shared new information about the Strategic Enrollment Growth Initiative. 6300 high school seniors in the five-county pilot region recently received emails offering admission to Western. Responses to those messages are being carefully monitored. President Randhawa commented on the urgent timeline that everyone has been working on and thanked key individuals who are leading critical elements of the initiative.

President Randhawa reported on Whatcom Transit Authority's proposed rate changes. The university continues to negotiate a solution that recognizes student affordability. He thanked the students who have organized and attended recent WTA meetings.

President Randhawa closed his report by reflecting on the death of a recent graduate, Edmundo Corrales, who was killed in a car crash in Anacortes. President Randhawa shared his personal experiences writing to families when a student passes and how each death has immeasurable impacts.

8. FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Erika McPhee-Shaw, Faculty Senate President, began her report by sharing her recent experience working with students on an exciting science-learning opportunity during the floods in Skagit Valley. A rapid response field team of Faculty and students sampled floodwaters and analyzed the water. This type of research experience is unique to Western.

She then shared feedback received through Faculty Senate on the timing of the enrollment growth initiative and the process for shared governance with Faculty. The Executive Committee recently sent a letter to Provost Johnson and communicated its desire to promote trust and strengthen shared governance. The letter requests that Faculty be involved in decisions for all important elements of the initiative moving forward.

Faculty Senate is working with Provost Johnson to form a task force on Artificial Intelligence. Its charge is to focus on defining issues related to intellectual property and academic honesty.

President McPhee-Shaw reported that Faculty have workload concerns due to new web accessibility requirements that apply to websites and canvas courses.

In closing, she reported that there will be an exciting new GUR offering: Power, Equity and Justice.

9. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY REPORT

Chair Pettis welcomed John Hardgrove, ASWWU Senate President, who gave the ASWWU report. He began by announcing that the Senate has filled five vacancies and is now at full capacity.

He shared that one goal for student government this year is to increase collaboration between the Executive Board and the Senate. The groups plan to meet jointly throughout the year and identify issues they can address together.

ASWWU Senate President Hardgrove reported on the strength of the Civic Action Program and highlighted a Get Out The Vote campaign and a Bellingham City Council forum that was hosted on campus. He closed by recognizing student advocates for representing student interests at Whatcom Transit Authority meetings.

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

FARM Committee Chair, John Meyer, gave a summary of the November 14, 2025, meeting.

He reported that an annual evaluation of the Internal Audit Executive Director, Priya Sall, was recently completed. Chair Meyer will be working closely with Christy Fazio, Senior Internal Auditor, while Priya Sall is on leave.

The committee also heard briefings on I-200 compliance, proposed changes to the Services & Activities Fee allocation process, the Quarterly Treasury Report covering July – September 2025, the Tuition Forecast for 2025-2026, and the potential sale of a university-owned property on 32nd Street.

Committee Chair Meyer shared that the committee's charter was last revised in 2018 and is currently under review. At the last committee meeting, members reviewed a set of proposed revisions and provided feedback on how to articulate the committee's goals and responsibilities. The revised charter is likely to be presented to the full Board for its approval at the February 2026 meeting.

He and AASSC Committee Chair, Mo West, have been meeting regularly to discuss cross-over issues that touch on both committees' work and to share information on what each committee covered in its last meeting.

11. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

AASSC Committee Chair, Mo West, summarized the November 12, 2025, meeting.

Committee Chair West reported that Madeline Kelly, Dean of Libraries, was invited to present about the strengths and challenges facing Western Libraries.

She noted that the committee is paying careful attention to enrollment and is focused on supporting the Strategic Enrollment Growth Initiative and tracking progress toward the enrollment and retention goals.

Committee Chair West shared that AASSC is reviewing and revising its charter. The revised charter better defines the committee's responsibilities and ways it supports key elements of the strategic plan.

Committee Chair West closed by reporting that the group received reports about recommended changes to the S&A Fee allocation process, student basic needs, structural changes related to Western's multi-cultural centers, Disability Access Center issues, and Office of Equity activities.

ACTION ITEMS

12. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from October 16-17, 2025
- b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from October 27-28, 2025
- c. Approval of Contract Amendment to Progressive Design-Build Contract for Student Development and Success Center, PW776
- d. Approval of Progressive Design-Build Contract for Heating Conversion Project, PW830

Chair Pettis introduced the items on the consent agenda and asked if Trustees wanted to pull anything for further discussion.

Chair Pettis asked Vice President Lopes to give a short report on potential design changes to the Student Development and Success Center. Vice President Lopes explained that the contract amendment before the Board gives flexibility to prepare for possible expansion of the building. Should any changes to the design be made, that information would be brought to the Board. Vice President Lopes also provided details on the state allocation for the project and the required timeline for spending those funds.

MOTION 12-2-2025 Trustee Maria Signuenza **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President, and under the individual motion language proposed in the attachments, approve the following items listed on the Consent Agenda.

- a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from October 16-17, 2025
- b. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes from October 27-28, 2025
- c. Approval of Contract Amendment to Progressive Design-Build Contract for Student Development and Success Center, PW776
- d. Approval of Progressive Design-Build Contract for Heating Conversion Project, PW830

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Trustee Ash Awad was not present for the vote.

13. APPROVAL OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE CHARTER REVISIONS

Trustee Mo West, AASSC Chair, summarized the proposed changes to the charter. The revisions offer a comprehensive look at the committee's areas of responsibility and how those connect to the Board's work and the strategic plan.

MOTION 12-3-2025 Trustee Mo West **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, approve the revised Committee Charter.

Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Trustee Ash Awad was not present for the vote.

14. APPROVAL OF PROPERTY SALE: 333 32ND STREET

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, summarized the process that led to the recommendation for sale of the surplus property to Whatcom County. Proceeds from the sale will be held in reserves and used for future capital projects.

MOTION 12-4-2025 Trustee Maria Siguenza **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the sale of real property located at 333 32nd Street, Bellingham, WA, to Whatcom County.

Trustee Mo West seconded the motion. The motion passed 7-0. Trustee Ash Awad was not present for the vote.

15. APPROVAL OF SERVICES & ACTIVITIES FEE COMMITTEE PROCESS CHANGES

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President; Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs; Faye Gallant, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Management and Budget; and Sislana Ledbetter, Vice Provost for Student Affairs contributed to the presentation of the agenda item.

In the process of developing the working group's recommendation, participants heard feedback on the S&A Fee process and allocations from Internal Audit, from former committee members, and from the Board of Trustees. The proposed process is meant to address many of the issues that were identified by these groups. Providing consistency in the process of making requests and clarifying the reporting and oversight structure were priority outcomes. Adjusting committee composition to address potential conflicts of interest while also making sure that appropriate constituents remain involved was another element carefully considered. A central goal was to ensure that all students are broadly served by the fees. Additional training and closer partnership with Business and Financial Affairs aims to better prepare students for the process and alleviate negative pressures within the committee.

Vice Chair Witherspoon thanked the working group for the recommendations and encouraged continuous improvement of the process. Trustee Siguenza also expressed support for continued dialog and a deliberate process for continual improvement.

Chair Pettis expressed confidence in the direction of the proposed process changes and also asked for a commitment to continued dialog and openness to additional changes to improve the process and the student experience in future years.

MOTION 12-5-2025 Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon **MOVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the attached Services and Activities Fee Committee Guidelines and void all prior versions.

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

The S&A Fee committee that will propose the 2026-2027 allocation will be convened during winter quarter 2026.

16. APPROVAL OF FALL QUARTER DEGREES

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, announced that there are 561 undergraduate degrees and 55 graduate degrees being submitted to the Board for approval.

MOTION 12-6-2025 Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot **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 Fall Quarter 2025, effective December 13, 2025.

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

Chair Pettis congratulated the students and noted that the Trustees look forward to attending commencement ceremonies over the weekend.

INFORMATION ITEMS

17. WRITTEN REPORTS

- a. Academic Affairs Report
- b. Business and Financial Affairs Report
- c. Advancement Report
- d. Office of Equity Report

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon appreciated the update on the House of Healing and thanked the marketing and engagement team for their work.

Trustee Mo West commended the work being done to meet student basic needs through the food pantry.

Trustee Maria Siguenza inquired about the student health center shift to insurance billing and asked whether there are negative impacts on students without insurance. Vice Provost Ledbetter explained the new process and shared that new programs that are under development to help students get insurance and to make sure that all students are able to access services.

18. TRUSTEE REMARKS

Trustee Meyer commented on the loss of Edmundo Corrales and the widespread positive impact he had as a teacher in the Anacortes community. He also thanked Trustee Frockt for joining the Board and offering his skills and broad experience to the institution.

Trustee Ash Awad enjoyed getting to know members of the Foundation Board and was impressed by the caliber of leadership among the volunteers.

Trustee Mo West asked Chief Diversity Officer Jacqueline Hughes to provide a summary of the book, Design for Belonging, that each of the Trustees received.

Trustee Ashlynn Tibbott thanked the students who spoke at public comment and encouraged students and administrators to continue to work together on improvements to the S&A Fee allocation process.

19. DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

20. THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

February 12-13, 2026, in Bellingham, WA.

21. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.