APPROVED
June 11, 2026

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 9, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Faith Pettis called the April 9, 2026, meeting of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 12:00pm in the Compass Room, Hotel Bellwether, 1 Bellwether Way, in Bellingham, Washington.

Attendance:
Chair Faith Pettis
Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon
Trustee Mo West
Trustee John Meyer
Trustee Ash Awad
Trustee María Sigüenza
Trustee David Frockt
Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot
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, CEO 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

2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORK SESSION

The President's Cabinet joined the Board of Trustees for a work session to discuss enrollment, budget, legislative strategy and other topics pertaining to the university.

3. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.

Friday, April 10, 2026

4. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Faith Pettis called the April 10, 2026, meeting of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 8:01am in Old Main 340 at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA.

Attendance:
Chair Faith Pettis
Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon
Trustee Mo West
Trustee John Meyer
Trustee Ash Awad
Trustee María Sigüenza
Trustee David Frockt
Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot
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, CEO for the Foundation for Western Washington University and Alumni (on Zoom)
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

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

Adam Segaar, WWU Men's Club Hockey Coach, addressed the Board to share the team's success this season. Coach Segaar advocated for in-state tuition to help recruit and retain more out of state players. Hockey player, Jacob James, spoke about his experience as an out of state student athlete with financial hardship and asked the Board to grant in-state tuition for more students. Kai Slette, who is a player who pays in-state tuition, talked about how the team and the university would benefit from granting in-state tuition to players. The coach and players expressed pride in the program and the success of the team and individual players.

Dibora Markos is a Western student and spoke about the International Affairs Association and her involvement in the Model United Nations. The Model UN team has been successful in competition this year. She spoke about how the club has a broad positive impact on the campus community by teaching diplomacy skills and hosting panels and events. She

encouraged more funding for the club. Conor Lincoln shared more about the success of the Model UN club in competitions. He spoke about the current funding level and encouraged increased funding to support student travel and other activities. He and other students are working within the new S&A Fee Allocation and Department Related Activities Committee process to advocate for more funding.

Chair Pettis thanked the speakers for taking the time to address the Board.

6. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Many Trustees attended the Scholarship Dinner on campus the previous evening. Chair Pettis thought it was a wonderful celebration of students and donors, and that the student panel exhibited impressive students who are accomplishing amazing things. Trustee Mo West thanked the students and the Faculty for their excellence. Trustee Ashlynn Tibbot reflected that it was a special event with great attendance. Trustee María Sigüenza shared that the event was a positive reminder of the benefits of investing in students and seeing their potential.

The Board met with the President's Cabinet for a half-day work session the day before. Chair Pettis summarized the topics discussed, including alignment of enrollment and budget and an exploration of expanding the strategic enrollment initiative pilot statewide. The Board also discussed S&A Fee distribution and a need for a strategic budgeting approach and focus on outcomes that align with the university mission. The Board also discussed the future of higher education and how to better understand the impacts and potential for Artificial Intelligence.

Chair Pettis invited the other Trustees to share their thoughts on key takeaways from the work session and the recent Association of Governing Boards conference.

Trustee John Meyer commented on the proactive work being done by President Randhawa and the administration.

Trustee David Frockt shared that a central theme of the Association of Governing Boards conference was free speech and academic freedom. The information on how leadership across higher education institutions should face external threats and engage in the public discussion about higher education was timely.

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon remarked that this year's conference took a strong point of view on how institutions should be responding to external pressures and the role of higher education institutions in facing threats directly and remaining mission-focused.

Trustee Ash Awad commented that the speed of change in higher education right now is significant and that Western needs to keep pace to remain stable. Stakeholder engagement is an important part of the decision-making process when change is rapidly occurring.

Trustee Mo West attended conference sessions related to student success. She reported that Western is implementing many best practices regarding wellness and well-being. She also talked about the connection between humanities studies and healthcare.

Chair Pettis congratulated the WWU Mock Trial Team on their successful season. The team had the highest-placing witness and attorney at the Seattle Regional Tournament.

She closed by thanking Trustees Tibbot and West for their trip to Olympia at the end of the session to thank legislators for their work during the session and share Western's message about changes to the way Western is funded. President Randhawa and Chair Pettis were also in Olympia during the session to testify before the Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee to support a bill to increase Western's per student funding.

7. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT

President Randhawa began by thanking the Trustees for their support for exploring an expansion of the enrollment initiative. Expanding the pilot statewide is an opportunity to increase Western's impact in the state and broadly invest in student potential. He continued by thanking Director of Government Relations, Nora Selander, for her thorough preparation for session and consistent presence in Olympia. President Randhawa closed by recognizing Chair Faith Pettis for her recent Lifetime Achievement Award from the Housing Development Consortium of Seattle and King County.

8. FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Faculty Senate President, Erika McPhee-Shaw, began by acknowledging the Trustees' comments and sharing that she has observed improvement in the shared governance relationship. She shared that after collaborative conversation, there is a strong desire among Faculty to support the goals of the enrollment growth initiative. Building belonging and improving retention are other topics that have been discussed at Faculty Senate.

President McPhee-Shaw shared some of the work that is underway in the Academic Coordinating Commission to approve curricular proposals. She thanked that group for the many hours they spend doing important work. The discussion about the impacts of Artificial Intelligence is focused on academic freedom and academic integrity continues and a task force has formed. The Academic Technology Committee is currently reviewing applications for student technology fee grants. She closed by sharing insights from a Faculty Senate discussion about the 3-year Baccalaureate movement in WA State.

9. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY REPORT

Aspen Cates-Doglio, the Associated Students of Western Washington University President, began by raising concerns about S&A Fee use for a position in Tribal Relations. He recommended that the student committee's work become a year-round activity or start earlier.

Candidates are filing to run for 2026-2027 positions. In addition to the AS elections, a constitutional amendment to restructure the Senate, and a referendum on a new Athletics Fee are also on the ballot.

He closed by raising safety concerns about an event sponsored by Students Supporting Israel that is scheduled on campus.

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

Committee Chair John Meyer reported that the FARM committee met on March 11 and had a robust agenda.

Committee members met with Senior Internal Auditor, Christy Fazio, to hear about I-200 compliance and ongoing Internal Audit investigations.

Vice President Lopes provided an update on contract negotiations with the Whatcom Transit Authority. Negotiations for FY26-27 are underway and after a short-term agreement is made for the coming year, a four-year contract will be negotiated. The longer-term contract will likely impact the Active Transportation Fee and will therefore need to be presented to the students for a referendum next year.

Vice President Lopes also reported that a Transportation Demand Study is underway to assess current and future parking needs; and additionally, a conference services consultant is preparing a report.

Vice President Lopes noted that the Sustainability Action Plan has been updated; and the Quarterly Treasury Report was submitted for the committee's information

The main discussion item was about a long-term housing plan that projected student demand for on-campus housing over the next 10-20 years. Vice President Joyce Lopes and Executive Director Leonard Jones outlined a series of timelines and potential scenarios to meet maintenance needs for current housing and options for building new housing. The draft plan contemplated multiple financing options to explore. The housing conversation will continue at future committee meetings.

11. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Mo West gave the AASSC Report.The committee met on March 18 and had a full agenda.

Committee members welcomed David Patrick, Dean of the Graduate School for a presentation on Western's Graduate Programs. Dean Patrick illustrated the enrollment model for graduate programs, how they fit within Western's financial picture, and how workforce projections shape enrollment trends in certain degree areas such as computer science and health-related fields.

We learned that about half of Western's graduate students completed their undergraduate degree at Western. Due to curriculum overlap between upper-division undergraduate courses and graduate-level offerings, there is a natural pipeline of undergrads who go on to seek a graduate degree at Western.

The committee was impressed by high completion rates and the ways that graduate studies enhance Western's brand of academic excellence. Our Graduate Programs attract exceptional Faculty to the university, which furthers our positive reputation.

The committee continues to track fall enrollment, particularly in the five-county pilot region where the WEGAP opportunity is being offered. Provost Johnson shared data on the pool of confirmed students for fall 2026 and noted that group of students is receiving a lot of communication and staff are working hard to achieve a strong yield from that pool.

Construction of the Student Success and Development Center is underway, and the committee is excited that the new building will house Admissions, Advising, and Transition and Orientation, as well as other services for current and prospective students to access easily.

Chief Diversity Officer Jacqueline Hughes reported on recent and upcoming programming being offered through the Office of Equity.

Vice Provost Ledbetter reported on the S&A Fee Allocation process. A recommendation from the S&A Fee Committee will be coming to the Board for its review in June.

She also reported that 2400 students per week are accessing the food pantry. The committee knows how food security is linked to retention and sees that there is a great and growing need for the service.

The committee meeting closed with a brief introduction to the Draft Housing Plan, which the committee will dive into more deeply at a future meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS

12. END OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The legislative session ended in March and the supplemental budget was signed by Governor Ferguson. Nora Selander, Director of Government Relations, summarized the final operating and capital budget allocations for WWU and final dispositions of the important policy bills that Western was watching.

Due to creative budgeting that included bond swaps, Western didn't suffer additional operating budget cuts. Advocacy for an increase in per student funding began in earnest

this session and will continue next session. Director Selander thanked President Randhawa, Chair Pettis, students, and union partners who were all effective advocates in Olympia.

13. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS 50TH ANNIVERSARY: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

Provost and Executive Vice President, Brad Johnson, introduced the topic and the presenters.

The Dean of the College of Business and Economics, Dr. Deanna Kennedy, presented insight into the history of the College of Business and Economics, the current status of the College, and goals for the future.

Western Washington University's Board of Trustees established the College of Business and Economics (CBE) in 1976. 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the college and presents an opportunity to reflect on the past, highlight alumni journeys, celebrate growth, fundraise for student scholarships, engage with the community, and plan for the future.

CBE's programs are accredited by AACSB and offer quality education and faculty who are respected experts in their fields and engaged in a broad range of published research. Preparing students for career pathways that have societal impact are measures used by the accrediting body.

CBE offers fourteen undergraduate degrees with 26 career pathways, and two graduate degrees. Enrollment has grown to 1,302 students in 2024-25, and the marketing major is the fourth largest major at WWU.

Challenges for the College include a competitive recruitment landscape, budget reductions and resource constraints to support research.

In the near-term future, programs to support education and skill development for Artificial Intelligence will be added. Increasing enrollment, expanding the College's role as a business incubator, and offering more student services and career services are other noteworthy goals for the coming years.

14. WOMEN, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Provost and Executive Vice President, Brad Johnson, and Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Keith Russell, introduced the topic and the presenters. Dean Russell reflected on the external landscape and pressures that similar programs are facing across the country and the timely importance of education in the discipline.

Professor and Department Chair, Rae Lynn Schwartz-DuPre, and Professor Allison Giffen from the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies presented the history of the department,

highlighted current faculty and students, and shared the ways it is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (WGSS) is an interdisciplinary field that centers intersectional feminist and queer histories and theories to challenge marginalization and advance social justice.

The WGSS Department was established in 2024, but programming at WWU began 50 years ago with the establishment of a minor in 1976. Professor Schwartz-DuPre highlighted the teaching and research that Faculty in the Department lead. Interest and enrollment have steadily grown and WGSS courses are among the most popular classes offered at Western.

ACTION ITEMS

15. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes from February 12-13, 2026
b. Approval of Construction Contract for Arntzen Hall Starbucks Renovation, PW847
c. Approval of Construction Contract for Multiple Building Electronic Safety Upgrades, PW856
d. Approval of Construction Contract for Birnam Wood Siding and Bridges, Phase 4, PW855

Chair Pettis invited Trustees to pull items from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

MOTION 04-01-2026 Trustee Ash Awad **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 February 12-13, 2026
b. Approval of Construction Contract for Arntzen Hall Starbucks Renovation, PW847
c. Approval of Construction Contract for Multiple Building Electronic Safety Upgrades, PW856
d. Approval of Construction Contract for Birnam Wood Siding and Bridges, Phase 4, PW855

Trustee María Sigüenza seconded the motion. The motion passed 8-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

16. WRITTEN REPORTS

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

The Trustees reviewed the reports and thanked the staff who prepared them. Vice President and Foundation CEO, Kim Hill, gave an update on Give Day. Trustee Siguenza shared her enthusiasm about the results of the food security program and would like to see the programs expanded with sustainable funding.

17. TRUSTEE REMARKS

Trustees offered no additional remarks.

18. DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING: June 11-12, 2026, in Bellingham, WA

The next Regular meeting is scheduled for June 11-12, 2026.

19. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:13am.