



**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OCTOBER 12-13, 2023**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pettis called the October 12, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 2:02pm.

Board of Trustees

Faith Pettis, Chair
Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair
Max Stone, Trustee
Chase Franklin, Trustee
John Meyer, Trustee
Mo West, Trustee

Western Washington University

Sabah Randhawa, President
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs
Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment & Student Services
Donna Gibbs, Vice President for University Relations & Marketing
Kim O'Neill, Vice President for University Advancement, Chief Executive Officer WWU Foundation
Becca Kenna-Schenk, Chief of Staff
Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer and Executive Director for the Office of Equity
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General
Annie Byers, Administrative Assistant to the President's Office and Board of Trustees
Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

2. CAMPUS TOUR

The Trustees toured Western's Bellingham campus. The first stop was at the Viking Union to visit Western's radio station, KUGS-FM, and the Student Multicultural Center. The second stop the Trustees visited was the Alma Clark Glass Residence Hall and an undergraduate microscopy laboratory. After that, the Trustees toured the underground steam tunnels and the Environmental Science Center building. For their final stop on the tour, the Trustees visited the Childcare Center located near Fairhaven College then stopped to have a photo taken at the Kaiser-Borsari construction site. This new building will house spaces for computer and electrical engineering, energy science, and computer science programs.

3. CONVERSATION WITH STAFF GROUP LEADERSHIP

- a. Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE)
Britta Eschete, Events Coordinator 1, Career Services Center, WFSE Bargaining Unit A Representative for Administrative and Clerical Staff
- b. Public School Employees (PSE)
Heather Christianson, Department Manager, Finance & Marketing, College of Business and Economics, PSE President
Ben Paulson, Classroom Support Tech 4, Geology Department, PSE Treasurer
- c. Fraternal Order of Police (FOP)
Terrence Cunningham, Officer, Police Officers Bargaining Unit
- d. Professional Staff Organization (PSO)
Chris Casquilho, Manager of Marketing and Special Events, College of Fine and Performing Arts, PSO President

Chair Faith Pettis reconvened the Board in the Board Room, Old Main 340, and welcomed staff leadership (noted above) at Western Washington University. The Professional Staff Organization, Public School Employees and Washington Federation of State Employees representatives last met with the Board in December of 2021. Chair Pettis welcomed new leaders from those organizations back to the table, and welcomed representatives from the Fraternal Order of Police, a new staff union that has formed since then. Each group was asked to prepare a short presentation about the types of employees they represent and the challenges they face at Western.

Britta Eschete, WFSE began by reading a statement that outlined the daily contributions of the four hundred and fifty plus WFSE-represented employees who work at Western. Eschete noted achievements of unions throughout history and explained her role as Bargaining Unit Representative as one to uphold Western's values. She shared things she has learned about the *Conscious Capitalism Movement*, a movement that believes business is good, and how that applies to Western Washington University. She referred to the Okanogan Charter, describing its impact on the Western community. The Okanogan Charter is an international Charter for health that provides a framework and set of principles for the institution to move toward system-level practices, focusing on embedding health and well-being into all aspects of the campus community.

Renee Gayden, WFSE, discussed ways she works to create spaces where students feel valued and where they have a sense of belonging. Gayden added in her work onboarding new WFSE employees, she works with a diverse range of employees from many backgrounds. She thanked Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, for her recent presentation on the data from over forty listening sessions that were held in the past year on Western's Bellingham Campus. Dr. Hughes' findings demonstrated that the student and employee sense of belonging was compelling and clearly linked to job satisfaction among WFSE-represented employees.

Heather Christianson, PSE introduced herself and explained the types of employees represented by the organization, including three hundred and seventy Western employees who

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serve as education support professionals. PSE members have an impact on all vital functions at the University. Christianson noted that there are currently many outstanding employment vacancies, which have increased the workload for remaining employees. She also raised financial issues for members, including pay caps for long-term employees that limit economic stability because cost of living adjustments Cost of Living Adjustments, (COLAs), do not keep up with inflation and housing costs. Christianson offered support and encouraged ongoing dialogue in identifying creative solutions to address issues such as vacation accrual and changing working conditions while consulting union representatives.

Ben Paulson introduced himself and explained his role at the University and with PSE. He highlighted safety issues in Environmental Health & Safety. He also noted that compensation and retention issues among staff impact the student experience.

Terrence Cunningham ,FOP introduced himself and shared his perspectives on Western and the impact he and others at University Police have on campus through positive interactions. Cunningham raised the issue regarding finances being a main impediment to safety and shared his experience working for New York Police Department. He recommended improvements in training for officers and the need for higher staffing levels.

Chris Casquilho, PSO President, shared feedback on job satisfaction among Professional Staff Organization employees. Areas of concern for PSO employees are employee retention and vacancies, workplace conflict resolution, and employee professional development. He shared data that showed turnover among PSO positions is especially high. He noted that conflict resolution resources are currently lacking for employees. PSO is advocating for an ombudsman or other office that manages those processes. He also proposed a coordinated effort for professional development, including thorough onboarding process for new hires and investment in current systems to ensure that employees are successful after being hired.

Chair Pettis continued the discussion by posing a question about how the pandemic has impacted University Staff and how they are coping with the impacts. Staff group leadership shared thoughts about the ability of some employees to work remotely, and others who remained working on campus throughout the pandemic. Custodial staff in residences and in spaces where they are in close proximity with others remain concerned as fall COVID pandemic and flu rates rise. The push to expand remote education delivery and the pull to return to campus remains evident among employees and students.

Trustee West asked about ways to increase a sense of belonging on campus and celebrate people who do not feel connected. Terence Cunningham shared his experience reaching out to students and trying to make the campus a friendly environment and invite dialogue. Others responded by sharing frustrations about supervisors handling similar situations differently and a need for supervisor training. It was suggested that using communications channels to showcase the contributions of staff on campus and empower employees to learn more about Western and how our complex organization works.

Chair Pettis asked for additional thoughts on the issues important to staff that Trustees should be considering when charting the future of the Western. Respondents made suggestions for more meaningful participation for staff representatives who serve on committees. The high cost of housing continues to have an impact on recruitment of diverse staff and is an external force that challenges employees given current compensation levels.

Chair Pettis thanked the staff leadership for participating. The meeting adjourned for the day at 4:59pm.

4. CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Pettis called the October 13, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 8:02am.

Board of Trustees

Faith Pettis, Chair
Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair
Max Stone, Trustee
Chase Franklin, Trustee
John Meyer, Trustee
Mo West, Trustee
Ash Awad, Trustee
Sue Sharpe, Trustee (on Zoom)

Western Washington University

Sabah Randhawa, President
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs
Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment & Student Services
Donna Gibbs, Vice President for University Relations & Marketing
Kim O'Neill, Vice President for University Advancement, Chief Executive Officer WWU Foundation
Jim Sterk, Athletics Director
Becca Kenna-Schenk, Chief of Staff
Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer and Executive Director for the Office of Equity
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General
Keara Ryan, President, Associated Students
Brandon Dupont, President, Faculty Senate
Annie Byers, Administrative Assistant to the President's Office and Board of Trustees
Rebecca Hansen-Zeller, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

MOTION 10-01-2023

Trustee Max Stone moved, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the president, approve the following minutes from August 17 and 18, 2023.

Trustee West seconded. The motion passed 7-0, with Trustee John Meyer abstaining.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Trustees agenda provided for public comment per amended RCW 28B.35.110, also known as the Open Public Meetings Act. No one signed up for public comment today.

6. BOARD CHAIR REPORT AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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Chair Faith Pettis began by recapping the campus tour that Trustees took the day prior. She invited Trustees to give their comments. Trustees remarked on what a complex living organism the campus is and acknowledged the many people who contribute to making the campus operate and work efficiently every day. Trustees also noted the various resource needs and highlighted opportunities for the future. Trustees were pleased to hear more about various student experiences at Western and to see students using spaces for research, studying, and recreation across campus. Trustee Meyer also thanked the leaders from the Associated Students of WWU for joining the Board for positive engagement at a reception the day prior after the campus tour.

Chair Pettis also took a moment to reflect on the August Board of Trustees meeting in Poulsbo. She and other Trustees appreciated the excitement of the local community and elected officials.

Chair Pettis then acknowledged Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations and Tribal Liaison to the President, who provided a Land Acknowledgment. Ballew began by introducing herself in her ancestral and English names. She acknowledged that Indigenous People's Day was celebrated on Monday, October 9, 2023 with a large celebration with the Lummi Tribal community. She read the University's Tribal Lands Statement:

I would like to begin by acknowledging that we gather today on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed, from time immemorial. Please join me in expressing our deepest respect and gratitude for our Indigenous neighbors, the Lummi Nation and Nooksack Tribe, for their enduring care and protection of our shared lands and waterways.

Ballew finished by providing some context for the purpose of the statement and encouraged attendees to reflect on the start of the academic year and creating an inclusive space for everyone.

Chair Pettis thanked Executive Director Ballew. President Randhawa also acknowledged her role in planning the very successful Indigenous People's Day event. He also took a moment to share condolences following the recent deaths of Lummi Tribal Members.

Chair Pettis then resumed her report and read a statement on behalf of the Board that acknowledged the recent violence in the Middle East and its impacts felt by the local community.

The statement read:

*Statement on the Israel-Hamas War
from the Western Washington University Board of Trustees*

On behalf of the entire Board of Western Washington University I'd like to share some brief thoughts on the conflict in the Middle East and its impact on Western's students, faculty, and staff.

We are saddened about the impact of the tragic events of the past several days that have deeply affected many individuals in our community and know that just thinking about those who are suffering is hard for many, while they also worry about their own safety and that of their loved ones.

On Tuesday, the university's Chief Diversity Officer Jacqueline Hughes issued a statement on behalf of the leadership acknowledging the struggles of our community members as they deal with this increasingly complicated conflict and encouraging members of this campus community to not only support one another, but also respect differing opinions.

At a time when we are seeing increased acts of antisemitism and anti-Muslim and anti-Arab violence, it is more important than ever that we in this university community work together to foster a caring and supportive environment where all members are respected and treated fairly. Allowing grief and anger to express itself in disrespectful behavior only serves to undermine our pursuit of excellence and our principles of integrity, responsibility, and respect for the rights and dignity of others.

This work isn't easy. But we, the members of this board, have great faith in the overwhelming courage and kindness of the Western Washington University community, and the deep knowledge that exists here to increase understanding toward a better future for the region and the world.

Chair Pettis continued her comments by reporting on President Randhawa's evaluation, which was conducted by the Board of Trustees in August 2023, and resulted in a set of shared goals for the year. The Board is adding an action item to today's agenda to amend the President's contract for a cost-of-living adjustment.

Chair Pettis concluded by acknowledging and thanking the Trustees who attended the President's Salmon BBQs in Woodinville, WA and Ferndale, WA. Pettis also thanked Trustee

Max Stone for speaking at Student Convocation and Vice Chair Witherspoon for speaking at the State of the University address. She gave a special acknowledgment to Trustee West, who is being recognized by Senator Maria Cantwell as a Woman of Valor Award. Finally, Chair Pettis acknowledged positive enrollment news and celebrated that Fall of 2023 marked the second-largest incoming class in Western's history.

7. UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT REPORT

President Randhawa began by introducing Western's new Athletics Director, Jim Sterk, Alumnus '77, who was hired into the role in July 2023. Sterk shared his long-term commitment to and ongoing excitement for athletics at Western. Sterk reported that he continues to make connections across campus and in the local community, sharing his enthusiasm for the impressive athletics programs Western offers. Randhawa and Sterk noted that one initial area of focus has been on improving the student athlete experience: on the playing fields, in the classroom and in their personal lives. Trustee Chris Witherspoon inquired as to how the Board of Trustees can help make Sterk successful in his role and support athletics on campus. Trustee Chase Franklin inquired on how Western's athletic programs can have an impact on the greater community in Whatcom County and bring more people to campus to explore possibilities and see the value of higher education.

Following Sterk's remarks, President Randhawa reflected on recent violence in the Middle East and recognized the impact the conflict continues to have on our campus community. Randhawa reiterated comments made in a recent campus-wide statement about the importance of inclusive physical and emotional safety during challenging times for the entire campus community. Randhawa reported that he and his executive team have engaged with the internal and external campus community members to address concerns and prioritize campus safety for all.

President Randhawa concluded by sharing his institutional goals for the year, which include: safety of the campus community, the successful expansion of Western on the Peninsulas, a focus on admissions, enrollments, and outreach, improving student retention rates, developing a blueprint for the growing division of Outreach and Continuing Education, supporting the urgency of the Access, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, as well as a fundraising campaign. Randhawa stated that the ongoing daily work in the classroom and across Western's campuses remain important and mission critical.

Trustee Ash Awad thanked President Randhawa and Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, for their messages to the Western community and for recognizing how the situation in the Middle East is impacting people's feelings of safety and well-being.

8. FACULTY SENATE REPORT

Dupont, Faculty Senate President, thanked Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, President Randhawa and the Board for their statements. He noted that faculty and students are being impacted in the classroom and personally by recent global events. Dupont reported that at the first Faculty Senate meeting of the year, they voted to form a new ad-hoc committee that will

be reviewing the WWU Faculty Handbook. Dupont continues work on reconstituting the Faculty Senate committees and has been busy recruiting for those committees to get them running and operational. He shared that the University Planning and Resource Committee (UPRC) is under discussion for substantial restructuring, and a decision is expected soon. Ne reported that there are ongoing concerns among faculty around the budget and budget restrictions. He added that improving communication across Western's campus is another priority this year. Dupont has revived a Faculty Senate President's blog and ways to increase interaction among the Deans. Dupont finished by thanking Elissa Hicks and Jamie Lawson for providing staff support.

Trustee Awad inquired about the scope of the work of the Library Committee. Dupont explained how the committee helps to support faculty teaching and student learning. He noted one example of their impact is through selection of publications and materials that are available for research. Trustee Awad also asked about the Faculty Senate is addressing Artificial Intelligence (AI). Dupont answered by explaining the technology issues and the curricular issues that faculty are facing and how those two existing committees will work together.

9. ASSOCIATED STUDENTS REPORT

Keara Ryan, Associated Students (AS) President, thanked Trustee Stone for reaching out and collaborating with the Associated Students on shared governance and leadership. Ryan also thanked Jim Sterk, Athletics Director, for making attending athletics events free for students and noted an increase in enthusiasm and excitement for athletics on campus. She outlined a number of items that the AS is working on related to outreach and engagement to increase accountability and transparency. AS leaders have been attending back to school events. She reported that both AS Executive Board and Student Senate leaders have reinstated the practice of doing in-class visits. They are also visiting clubs, residence halls and doing social media and video outreach. The AS Executive Board is working to narrow their key focus this year to either food insecurity or housing insecurity. Chair Pettis thanked Ryan and the AS leadership for attending the reception the previous evening. Vice Chair Witherspoon inquired about barriers to recruitment for leadership positions. Ryan outlined the challenge in recruiting graduate students and at-large unpaid positions on committees. They have been reaching out to professors for recommendations on students to serve.

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

Trustee Chase Franklin gave the Finance, Audit and Enterprise Risk Management committee report. He shared that the committee's workplan is under development and they are working on streamlining their agendas. The committee is attempting to balance the need for regular business and Enterprise Risk Management, (ERM) activities, while also devoting time for in-depth strategic discussions on issues facing the Western. Franklin reported that the committee heard a data-rich presentation from Provost Brad Johnson on the opportunities and challenges facing Academic Affairs planning and budgeting. Trustee Franklin recommended further discussion of the data presented.

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, shared an update on the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for hiring a new external auditor. Trustees Franklin and Trustee Awad are serving on the committee to review proposals. The full Board will be asked to review and approve the selection of the new external auditor.


The committee meets next on October 26, 2023.

Vice Chair Witherspoon thanked Committee Chair Sharpe for her leadership in reorienting the committee to align with its goals.

11. BOARD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Mo West, Committee Chair for the Academic Affairs and Student Success Committee, provided a report on their most recent meeting. The committee is starting their meetings this year with a *'Dialog with a Dean.'* Christopher Bianco, Dean of the College of Fine and Performing Arts, was their first guest of the committee and he shared the challenges and opportunities for the college, including building partnerships.

Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, shared her findings from the campus listening sessions and her reflections after being in her role for one year. She reported that training and building skills to have courageous conversations are among the next steps towards a healthier campus climate. She noted is working on a five-year training plan that will be shared with the committee.

Shelli Soto, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, presented historical fall enrollment data, outreach efforts, and recruitment efforts, that are underway for next year's incoming freshman class. She added that increasing recruitment of first-generation and Federal PELL Grant eligible students is a high priority. The committee was also provided an update on a pilot project to offer *College in the High School* courses in Whatcom and Skagit Counties. 

DISCUSSION ITEMS

12. INTRODUCTION OF DEANS, PRIORITIES FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President
Deanna Kennedy, Dean, College of Business and Economics
Christopher Bianco, Dean, College of Fine and Performing Arts
Keith Russell, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Janelle Leger, Dean, College of Science and Engineering
Caskey Russell, Dean, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies
David Patrick, Dean, Graduate School and Vice Provost for Research
Teena Gabrielson, Dean, College of the Environment
John Danneker, Dean, Western Libraries
Kevin Roxas, Dean, Woodring College of Education
Robert Squires, Vice Provost for Outreach and Continuing Education
Jack Herring, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, reported that seven of the eight colleges have new Deans, representing an exciting time for academic leadership at the Western. Provost Johnson reported that the new leadership team is already working together on advocacy and outreach for their colleges. Each Dean shared a bit about their path to Western and goals for their college. Following the introductions, Provost Johnson introduced the Academic Affairs priorities for the year, and noted that, programmatic self-review and strategic scheduling were implemented in the last academic year. He framed the priorities for the coming year within a few contexts: 1. We Do Good. Western has a solid foundation of academic quality and have a niche.

2. We live within a higher education landscape with trends and external drivers that we cannot ignore. 3. We need to excel within our means toward and align resources for long-term sustainability. 4. We are expanding and diversifying our regional impact.

Trustee Mo West inquired about connections to the community and how the Board can support those efforts. The Deans collaboratively spoke about student community service impacts within their colleges. Trustee Awad asked about the Academic Affairs structure and how the Provost's vision is translated to Deans, Directors, and Faculty. Vice Chair Witherspoon commented that there is a strong mix of internal leadership who have developed their careers at Western, as well as talent from other institutions. Chair Pettis shared feelings of encouragement and thanked Provost Johnson and the Deans for their leadership on this strategic direction. Trustee Franklin asked about how we factor in competition with peer institutions and how we make Western become the top choice among students who are deciding whether, or not, to attend college. Provost Johnson emphasized doubling-down on Western's strengths and how to continue to add value and support the goals of the strategic plan.

Trustee Max Stone inquired about the financial literacy program and how that can be leveraged to engage first-generation students who are making a choice about whether they will attend college. Trustee Sharpe thanked Provost Johnson and the leadership team for their level of engagement. Sharpe asked about how Western interfaces with individuals on the continuum of higher ed on the spectrum of post high-school attainment opportunities.

The Board took a break at 10:10am and reconvened at 10:27am.

13. OPERATING BUDGET UPDATE

Provost Johnson provided an overview of how Western is putting a pause on the strategic budgeting process to allow some financial slack to build in the system while systems and processes are being aligned and improved. The systems and processes that are being changed independent of budget constraints; the operational work is necessary even without financial tension. Provost Johnson reported that time spent preparing decision packages in the past will be focused on other operational priorities going forward. Provost Johnson also mentioned that a focus on enrollment and recruitment will assist in relieving pressure on the budget constraint issues. Trustee Mo West asked how the UPRC changes are connected to the pause in the strategic budgeting process.

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, outlined the process of the 3% operating budget cut and how goals are being achieved. She reported that each division has identified where the 3% reduction will take place to save \$6.3 million in savings **this** year. Lopes added that University Reserves will continue to be maintained and rebuilt toward the 10% goal. Lopes explained that while this reduction is necessary, Western is looking for a balance and evaluating where impactful investments can be made going forward. Vice President Lopes discussed how current job vacancies are contributing to the budget reduction and how positions are being analyzed before being filled. She reported that parallel rethinking will take place with regard to Western's operating budget, and aligning the Capital Budget as well..

ACTION ITEMS

14. APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT'S CONTRACT ADDENDUM

Chair Pettis introduced the action item to add a 3% COLA to the President's salary following the Board's performance review.

MOTION 10-02-2023 Vice Chair Witherspoon moved, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the Board Chair, approves a 3% increase to the president's salary retroactively effective on July 1, 2023.

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

15. APPROVAL OF 2024-25 ACADEMIC YEAR TUITION RATES AND MANDATORY FEES

- a. 2024-25 Academic Year Tuition
- b. 2024-25 Mandatory Student Fees

Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs and Faye Gallant, Assistant Vice President for Strategy, Management, and Budget, introduced two action items: approval of tuition rates, and approval of mandatory fees.

MOTION 10-03-2023 Trustee Ash Awad moved, that the 2024-2025 annual tuition operating fee and capital building fee rates for state-funded resident undergraduate students and all other state-funded students including non-resident undergraduate, resident and non-resident graduate, resident and non-resident MBA, resident and non-resident Clinical Doctorate of Audiology program, resident and non-resident Clinical Mental Health and School Counseling, and the resident and non-resident Speech Pathology program be raised by 3.0%.

FURTHER MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President and various constituent review committees, approve the 2024-2025 mandatory student fee levels for the following fees:

- Services & Activities Fee (3.47% or \$8.41 per quarter increase for students taking 10 credits or more, pro-rated for students taking less than 10 credits)
- Student Recreation Fee (4% or \$4.55 per quarter increase for students taking 10 credits or more, pro-rated for students taking less than 10 credits)
- Student Health Services Fee (3.77% or \$6.00 per quarter for students taking 6 or more credits)
- Student Technology Fee (No increase)
- Non-Academic Building Fee (3.85% or \$2.00 per quarter increase for students taking 6 credits or more)
- Sustainable Action Fee (No increase)
- Active Transportation Fee (16.67% or \$5.00 per quarter increase for students taking six or more credits)
- Legislative Action Fee (No increase)

- Multicultural Services Fee (No increase)

Trustee John Meyer seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

16. APPROVAL OF 2024-25 HOUSING AND DINING RATES

Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, and Leonard Jones, Executive Director of University Residences, shared that this is the first year we are setting the Housing and Dining rates in the Fall, instead of the Spring, which will give families planning for next academic year a clearer picture of the cost of attendance. They noted the timeline change has impacted the outreach they usually do with student constituents, though they have collaborated with AS leadership.

Jones provided further details on the residence options for students and how prices compare to off-campus living options. He shared how *Dessert with the Director* programming allows for more student engagement and bringing students together. Trustees asked on-campus housing rates compared with off-campus rates, and about how housing assignments are made. Trustee Sue Sharpe also asked about how students are engaged in the process. Trustee Max Stone asked about statistics on how many low-income and first-generation students live in the residences.

MOTION 10-04-2023

Vice Chair Chris Witherspoon moved, the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation of the University President, approve the Housing and Dining rates as proposed. The 2024-2025 proposed rates call for:

- 1) 4.47% increase in the base residence hall room and board rates.
- 2) 4.50 % increase in Birnam Wood apartment rental rates.

Trustee Max Stone seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

17. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONSULTANT CONTRACT FOR POULSBO ACADEMIC BUILDING PREDESIGN, PW809

Chief of Staff Becca Kenna-Schenk outlined the series of legislative investments since 2015 to support work to expand Western's presence on the Peninsulas. Kenna-Schenk noted that with the expansion of program offerings, there is now a need for more capital infrastructure and an expanded physical presence on the Poulsbo campus. Western continues collaboratively working towards a ground lease with Olympic College on their Poulsbo campus. She added that that ground lease will eventually come to the Board of Trustees for approval at a future regular Board meeting. Western plans to pursue funding in the next biennium for design and construction of that Poulsbo campus structure.

Trustee Awad asked about the cycle for pursuing capital funding through the state and the timeline for having a new building operational. If it approved as a design/build project, we could be operational in late 2026 or early 2027.

President Randhawa explained that our goal is to get items prepared for Board action, but a delegation of authority is necessary on this project, given the complexities of timing and working with Olympic College.

MOTION 10-05-2023

Trustee John Meyer moved, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, delegate the authority to the President, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, to award a consultant contract for the Poulsbo Academic Building Predesign, PW809.

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

18. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONSULTANT CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES RENOVATION PREDESIGN PW808

Joyce Lopes, Vice President, Business and Financial Affairs and Rick Benner, University Architect and Senior Director, Facilities Development and Operations, Planning and Development provided an overview of the consultant contract for the Environmental Studies renovation and predesign work.

MOTION 10-06-2023

Trustee Chase Franklin moved, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, delegate the authority to the President, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, to award a consultant contract for the Environmental Studies Renovation Predesign, PW808.

Trustee John Meyer seconded. The motion passed 8-0.

INFORMATION ITEMS

19. REPORTS

- a. Enrollment Management Summary
- b. University Advancement Report
- c. Capital Program Report
- d. University Relations and Marketing Report
- e. Tenure & Promotion Report

The Board of Trustees accepted the reports. Chair Pettis thanked everyone for the detailed reports. Trustee West praised Student Outreach Services for their recruitment efforts that resulted in a large first-year cohort.

20. TRUSTEE REMARKS

Vice Chair Witherspoon shared some themes he has observed the last two days around resourcing opportunities. Trustee Max Stone shared an observation about the impact of small interpersonal connections that have big impact on the sense of belonging.

21. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Purpose: Litigation Update. Authorized by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The Board met in Executive Session from 11:30am-12:37pm. No action was taken.

22. DATES FOR NEXT REGULAR MEETING

The next meeting of the Western Washington University Board of Trustees will be on December 7-8, 2023 in Bellingham, WA.

23. ADJOURNMENT

The Board reconvened in public session and the meeting adjourned at 12:38pm.