WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING
June 11, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Phil Sharpe called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:00 p.m., June 11, 2009 in Old Main 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham.

Chair Sharpe welcomed Trustee Betti Fujikado to the Board of Trustees.

Board of Trustees
Betti Fujikado
Hannah Higgins
Howard Lincoln
Kevin Raymond
Phil Sharpe, Chair
John Warner
Peggy Zoro (connected via conference phone)

Western Washington University
Bruce Shepard, President
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement
Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President for External Relations
Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs & Academic Support Services
Matthew Liao-Troth, President, Faculty Senate
Erik Lowe, President, Associated Students
Dennis Murphy, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Paula Gilman, Executive Director for University Planning and Budgeting
Barbara Stoneberg, Administrative Assistant to the President
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations
Kathy Wetherell, Interim Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs
Lisa Wochos, Assistant Attorney General

2. SPECIAL REPORT ON THE BUDGET

A. 2009-11 Operating Budget

President Shepard offered observations and a review of the budget process. The process, developed by the campus, was an open, engaged, and transparent process and protected the core mission of the university. Shepard said the university has made great progress and will continue to improve the efficiencies of the operating budget and capital budget processes.

The Trustees said it is important for the Board to understand Western's budget cuts, especially as they relate to the Board's expectations relative to the university's enrollment, tuition level,

and compensation, and to enable the Trustees to communicate the impact of the cuts to legislators and others.

B. Direct Consequences of Budget Reductions

Dennis Murphy, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs reviewed the impacts of the budget cuts in Academic Affairs. The colleges developed a process of budget cuts to have the least impact on the students. Their main objective was to maintain the same number of seats while reducing the number of sections of courses. Some programs will be delayed in their full implementation (AMSEC, BRAIN). Vacant faculty and staff positions will not be filled and others will become vacant through attrition. Murphy noted that we have become stronger by the development of new information systems, better processes and procedures, and positive working relationships with colleagues.

Kathy Wetherell, Interim Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs, spoke of the impact of the budget cuts in Facilities Management. The majority of their cuts are in preventative maintenance, such as roofing and heating, resulting in such things such as equipment failure and deteriorating roofs. Academic Custodial Services is increasing the gross square footage per custodian and the cleaning of non-academic areas will be reduced. Outdoor maintenance will also be reduced. In the Human Resources and Student Services areas, human interaction will be lost with the automation of many processes. Wetherell noted that the increased workload on staff often results in employee burnout, more absenteeism, and an increase in workmen's' compensation claims.

Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Student Affairs and Academic Support Services, spoke on the impacts on Student Affairs. Each area presented their solutions to the entire SA team. Many staff positions remain vacant, current staff are assuming additional responsibilities, departments have been combined allowing for cross training, and counseling services are strained. Coughlin said she expects some staff to leave for new jobs offering the same salary with less responsibility.

Provost Murphy said this round of budget cuts allowed us opportunities to make decisions that will not affect the quality of education at Western. Institutional research capabilities have been reorganized and will give us metrics for early warning about any potential deterioration. Murphy noted that many improvements have been made through this process and he feels good about the quality of the student experience at Western.

C. Tuition and Financial Aid

Eileen Coughlin, Vice President of Student Affairs, introduced Clara Capron, Director of Financial Aid, who presented ***Why It's a Great Time to be a Student from a Financial Aid Perspective.*** Supporting material was included in the Board packets.

D. 2009-11 Capital Budget

Kathy Wetherell, Interim Vice President for Business & Financial Affairs, provided information on the Capital budget and invited Renee Roberts, Director of Capital Budget to comment. Roberts said Western is pleased with the 2009-2011 Capital Budget. Western's priority listing of the proposed capital projects was included in the packet. Roberts reported that Western's Miller Hall renovation received the highest point score using the new scoring process required by all

four-year higher education institutions. Western's appropriation for 2009-2011 was the highest level of capital appropriations in Western's history.

At 4:35 p.m. Chair Sharpe announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session to discuss personnel, real estate, and legal issues as authorized in RCW 42.30.110 for approximately 15 minutes. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 4:50 p.m. and no action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.