

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, October 9, 2014**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Karen Lee called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:05 p.m., Thursday, October 9, 2014 in the Board of Trustees Conference Room, Old Main 340, at Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington.

**Board of Trustees**

Karen Lee, Chair  
Sue Sharpe, Vice Chair  
Dick Thompson, Secretary  
Betti Fujikado  
Chase Franklin  
Carly Roberts  
Ralph Munro  
Earl Overstreet

**Western Washington University**

Bruce Shepard, President  
Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Eileen Coughlin, Senior VP, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services  
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs  
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement  
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations and Community Development  
Spencer Anthony-Cahill, Faculty Senate President  
Annika Wolters, Associated Students President  
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General  
Sherry Burkey, Associate Vice President for University Relations and Community Development  
Paul Cocke, Director, University Communications  
Barbara Sandoval, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Elissa Hicks, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**2. WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT**

Steve Swan, Vice President, University Relations and Community Development introduced Rob Fix, Executive Director, Port of Bellingham. Fix proceeded to give a presentation on the current status of the Waterfront Development Project. He said that the current plan for the waterfront area is a vibrant mix of uses including parks and trails, a new downtown marina and an extension campus area for Western. The goals of revitalizing the first 10.8 acres of the waterfront include restoring the health of the land and water in the area, rebuilding the underutilized waterfront economy and improving public access to the waterfront. There will be five distinct development phases throughout the project.

Fix described some of the challenges of the project which include the failing industrial shorelines and infrastructure, site environmental contamination and cleanup, the endangered species in the area, and coordinating all of the local, state and federal regulatory permits from fourteen different stakeholders.

Fix said the next steps that the Port is currently working on include the continuation of the environmental cleanups with the help of the State Department of Ecology, the installation of the phase 1 roads and park areas and the selling and leasing of property for the first development areas.

Trustees had questions about the Port's ongoing commitments from the former tenants for cleanup and where the money from the cleanup efforts would come from. Fix said that a mix of insurance money from former tenants and grants from the State Department of Ecology would offset the expense. Trustees also had questions about the planning process, who had been involved and whether the current plan was different from the original plan for both the project as a whole and for Western's involvement. Fix said that the port has been working with numerous community stakeholders over the life of the project and that input and changes are still being sought and made to ensure a positive experience for the community. Provost Carbajal also mentioned that the plans for Western's involvement, while they have evolved, are still close to the original discussions. President Shepard added that leaving the waterfront option open for Western's future will be an enormous benefit to campus.

### **3. PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING**

Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General provided background on the Open Government Trainings Act. Higgins said that Board members received Open Public Meetings Act training from Assistant Attorney General Wochos at the August 2014 Board of Trustees meeting. She said the new laws represent an effort by the legislature to support the rights of citizens to participate in the democratic process of open public government and limit violations by providing routine training and broadening awareness. As part of the initiative Assistant Attorney General Higgins presented training materials regarding the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW. Because of time limitations Tony Kurtz, University Records Manager, was unable to present information on record management at the university. University staff will reschedule a time for Mr. Kurtz to present.

Trustees asked how this act related to their duties as trustees verses staff of the University. Higgins said that the same rules apply to them when they are doing the business of the University.

### **4. EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE HELD TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, REAL ESTATE AND LEGAL ISSUES AS AUTHORIZED IN RCW 42.30.110.**

At 4:37 p.m. Chair Lee announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately twenty five minutes to discuss a legal controversy with counsel as authorized in RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i).

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:00 p.m. with no action to report.