

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY APRIL 5, 2016**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Karen Lee called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 5:02 p.m., in the Boardroom, Old Main 340, in Bellingham, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

Karen Lee, Chair  
Sue Sharpe, Vice Chair  
Earl Overstreet, Secretary – *by phone*  
Betti Fujikado  
Chase Franklin – *by phone*  
John M. Meyer – *by phone*  
Mo West – *by phone*  
Seth Brickey

**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  
Molly Ware, Faculty Senate President  
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General  
Paul Cocke, Director of University Communications  
Barbara Sandoval, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the BOT  
Elissa Hicks, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**2. EXECUTIVE SESSION: The Board will go into executive session for the purpose of evaluating the qualifications of applicants for public employment pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).**

At 5:03 p.m. Chair Lee announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel matters.

The Board returned to open meeting at 5:35 p.m. with no action to report.

Chair Lee announced a 5 minute break at 5:35. The board returned and reconvened the meeting at 5:45.

**3. PRESIDENTIAL SEARCH: DISCUSSION**

Trustee Sharpe said that a variety of the campus stakeholder groups have met with the preferred candidate Dr. Sabah Randhawa over the last two days, have provided their feedback and all unanimously support Dr. Randhawa. Sharpe said that the stakeholder groups included the Associated Students Board of Directors, the Council of Deans, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, the Diversity Taskforce, classified staff leadership, professional staff leadership, United

Faculty of Western Washington Executive Committee, Alumni and Foundation Boards, the Vice Presidents, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC) as well as those attending a campus open forum. She said that comments from all the groups were similar and included:

- Dr. Randhawa's willingness to listen
- His frequent references to shared governance
- Contextualization of answers
- Responsibility for Higher Education to address the achievement gap
- His ability to frame critical and difficult conversations
- His commitment to diversity and international students
- His commitment to equity and inclusion in the strategic plan going forward
- His ability for resource development and ability to facilitate legislative and private foundation resources
- His overall ability to take Western to the next level
- His vision for extended education and online education going forward
- His understanding and stance on sustainability in all forms

Trustees were pleased overall with the campus feedback and support and are encouraged by the feeling of collaborative work going forward and for the campus support of the presidential choice. Trustee Lee read one feedback response as an example of the typical feedback that the Trustees received. "it appears that Sabah has a great vision for growing Western's programs, improving its climate, and making it a national and perhaps international leader with regard to undergraduate education."

Trustee Sharpe said that there was also some feedback regarding the overall search process and that the PSAC will be meeting again to debrief and discuss how to improve the process for the next search.

#### **4. POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION ON PREFERRED CANDIDATE, DR. SABAH RANDHAWA**

Trustee Lee thanked the PSAC and campus stakeholder groups for all of their hard work and for making themselves available for this important step in the process. Trustees said that they were pleased with the selection of Dr. Randhawa and that noted that he fits almost perfectly the description that was put together by the campus community at the start of this long process.

President Shepard said that he believes Dr. Randhawa will provide good stewardship of the university, its people, hopes and aspirations, and that this process has been successful because of all the hard work and dedication of everyone involved.

MOTION 04-01-2016: Trustee Sharpe moved to adopt Resolution 2016-01 appointing Dr. Sabah Randhawa the fourteenth President of Western Washington University, and further authorize Trustee Chase Franklin, working with Board Chair Karen Lee to negotiate the final contract terms for approval and ratification by the full Board at a subsequent Board meeting.

**RESOLUTION 2016-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**APPOINTING DR. SABAH RANDHAWA THE FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT  
OF WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**WHEREAS**, President Bruce Shepard announced in June 2015 his decision to retire from the presidency of Western Washington University effective June 30, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees ("Board") appointed a Presidential Search Advisory Committee ("Committee") chaired by Trustee Sue Sharpe, charging the Committee with the responsibility for conducting a nationwide presidential search and for reviewing the qualifications of applicants for the presidency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee, with the assistance of Greenwood-Asher and Associates, executive search consultants, conducted extensive campus-wide and community stakeholder listening sessions and surveys to collect input from university and off-campus stakeholders regarding personal and professional qualities, challenges and opportunities for the next president of Western Washington University; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee received and considered application materials from 75 candidates, interviewed 18 candidates and transmitted to the Board all the applications with the recommendation that the Board focus particular attention on five of those candidates; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board considered all 75 candidates and conducted interviews of the five candidates recommended by the Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 30, 2015, the Board identified Dr. Sabah Randhawa, Provost and Executive Vice President of Oregon State University, as the Board's preferred candidate for the presidency and invited him to campus for meetings with on-campus leadership and to participate in open, campus-wide events;

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Sabah Randhawa, came to campus on April 4 and 5, 2016 and met with student, faculty and staff governance leadership and participated in a campus-wide open forum;

**WHEREAS**, the Board wholeheartedly approves of the selection of Dr. Sabah Randhawa to serve as the next president of this fine university; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University hereby appoints Dr. Sabah Randhawa as the fourteenth President of Western Washington University, subject to coming to final agreement on a contract. The Board authorizes Trustee Chase Franklin, working with Board Chair Karen Lee to negotiate the terms for approval and ratification by the full Board at a subsequent Board meeting.

Dated this 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016.

The motion passed with Trustees Franklin, Fujikado, Meyer, Overstreet, Sharpe, West and Lee voting in favor of the motion by roll call vote. Student Trustee Brickey was excused from voting pursuant to RCW 28B.50.102(2).

Dr. Randhawa said that he is deeply honored and for the opportunity to lead Western. He also thanked President Shepard and Cyndie for their leadership on campus over the past years. Dr. Randhawa reaffirmed his commitment for student success, education, education institutions, and enhancing educational institutions. He also said that he and his wife Uzma Ahmad are looking forward to making Bellingham their home. Ms. Ahmad said that she is excited about this opportunity and looking forward to working with those in the campus and in the greater community in the near future.

5. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.