

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WORK SESSION MINUTES
FRIDAY, August 19, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sue Sharpe called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 9:06 a.m., Friday, August 19, 2016 in the Chrysalis Inn Kulshan Room in Bellingham, Washington.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Sue Sharpe, Chair
Chase Franklin, Vice Chair
John M. Meyer, Secretary
Karen Lee
Betti Fujikado
Earl Overstreet
Abby Ramos
Mo West

WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Sabah Randhawa, President
Barbara Sandoval, Assistant to the President/Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Cathy A. Trower, President, Trower & Trower, Inc.

2. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

Chair Sharpe welcomed Cathy Trower, President, Trower & Trower, Inc. to the board meeting and invited President Randhawa to make opening remarks. Randhawa expressed his appreciation to the board for the opportunity to spend the day working to strengthen the shared understanding of, and commitment to, exceptional and meaningful governance at Western. Opening thoughts included the desire to use the board's time effectively, utilizing the trustees' expertise and engaging the board. Trower, a governance expert, provided an overview of the agenda for the day.

3. GOVERNANCE IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Trustees explored various leadership mindsets and focused discussion on generative governance. The board reflected on the presidential search and transition and how that process included fiduciary, strategic and generative governance mindsets. The board agreed that it is important to have the right discussions on the right issues at the right time. Trustees also discussed the opportunities and challenges of governing in open meeting settings.

4. BOARD ASSESSMENT

Cathy Trower led the board through a review of their 2016 Self-Assessment that trustees had completed prior to the work session. The discussion explored the board's effectiveness and performance, trustee expectations, orientation and ongoing education for trustees, and strategic agenda setting.

5. PRESIDENTIAL TRANSITIONS

Cathy Trower presented an overview of basic “do’s and don’ts” for the trustee/president relationship. The board and President Randhawa discussed their partnership, the importance of on-going dialog and how the trustees could best support the president to successfully lead the university to an even higher level of excellence in accordance with institutional goals.

6. CLOSING REFLECTIONS

The board reflected on their takeaways from the work session, their values moving forward and next steps for the board as a whole. Trustee Franklin, Chair of the Governance Committee asked that the board’s Statement of Expectations be reviewed at the next Governance Committee meeting in October. The board also expressed a desire to schedule a follow-up work session in approximately four months.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:15 p.m. Chair Sharpe announced that the board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss a personnel matter as authorized in RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g).

8. ADJOURNMENT

The board returned to open session at 2:50 pm with no action to report and the meeting was adjourned.