

**Western Washington University
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 11, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair, Trustee Earl Overstreet called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:07 pm in the Sulkin Library, Shannon Point Marine Center, Anacortes, WA.

Board of Trustees

Earl Overstreet, Chair
Chase Franklin, Vice Chair
John Meyer, Secretary
Citlaly Ramirez
Karen Lee
Mo West
Sue Sharpe

Western Washington University

Sabah Randhawa, President
Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement
Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services
Donna Gibbs, Vice President for University Relations and Marketing
McNeel Jantzen, Faculty Senate President
Millka Solomon, Associated Students President
Paul Cocke, Director of University Communications
Paul Dunn, Chief of Staff to the President, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Barbara Sandoval, Senior Executive Assistant to the President
Rayne Rambo, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION 10-01-2018

Trustee Sharpe moved that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the following minutes:

- Board of Trustees Meeting, August 23 & 24, 2018
- Board of Trustees Special Meeting, September 11 & 12, 2018

The motion passed.

2. WWU ON THE PENINSULAS FEASIBILITY STUDY PROGRESS REPORT

Ray Thompson, Vice President, Higher Education Services, MGT Consulting Group provided a progress report on an ongoing feasibility study of expanding Western Washington University's educational delivery and presence on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas. Thompson noted that the focus of the study was to collect and analyze regional educational information and workforce demands collected through meetings and surveys conducted with stakeholders from across the Peninsulas, including educational leaders, workforce and economic development councils, community and tribal leaders, faculty and staff at existing WWU learning sites and community members.

Thompson shared that approximately 450,000 people live on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, with 254,000 living in Kitsap County alone. He said that at 448 square miles, Kitsap County had the fourth greatest population density in Washington State, and is the most densely populated area in the U.S. that lacks a four year institution of higher education. Thompson noted that the remainder of the population is distributed across a 5,000 square mile area of snow-capped mountains, dense rainforests, and rocky coastlines served by few roads. He said that timely, frequent travel to and from population centers is difficult for most citizens, and dependable, high quality internet service is not universally available. He added that most of the populations in these remote areas continue to lack access to higher education programs and services.

Thompson indicated that the Washington State Legislature appropriated one-time funding in 2018 for Western to study the feasibility of expanding its educational offerings on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas, specifically the feasibility of creating a four-year degree-granting campus. He added that Western is required to submit a report on the findings to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature by December 2018.

Thompson concluded his presentation by noting the primary objectives of the study which included the following:

- Assessment of the four-year higher education needs and demands in the region, taking into account student demand and economic and workforce needs.
- Assessment of the current limitations to physical and online access to higher education in the region, including transportation and commuting challenges, inconsistent availability of higher education quality internet service, and other impediments to access.
- Assessment and comparison of the feasibility of multiple options for expanding baccalaureate and other higher education services in the region, including but not limited to one or more of the following: the development of a four-year university campus, the expansion of current degree and certificate programs in partnership with local community and technical colleges, and/or online and distance education programs.
- Determine optimal location(s) for providing additional higher education services, if feasible, taking into account population, demand, and access, as well as existing higher education capital resources.

3. NEW DIRECTIONS IN MARINE SCIENCE AT WESTERN

Brian Bingham, Interim Director of the Shannon Point Marine Center, and Brooke Love, Interim Academic Program Coordinator provided the board an overview and progress report on the new Marine and Coastal Sciences major at Western. Bingham reported that as part of Western 2018 supplemental budget, the Washington State Legislature approved \$1.3 million for development of an undergraduate degree program in marine and coastal sciences at Western. He noted that this program is only the second undergraduate degree program in the state. The program will help meet a growing demand among incoming students for access to marine science training, while addressing the needs within the State of Washington to create more STEM graduates who have the necessary interdisciplinary training to tackle the problems that face local coastal communities, state, and the planet. Bingham noted the degree program will pull together expertise and resources from the Department of Environmental Sciences, the Biology Department, and the Shannon Point Marine Center in a rigorous, interdisciplinary cohort model. Brooke Love, Interim Academic Program Coordinator and Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, added that the program will focus on research opportunities for students early in their college career, active, hands-on learning experiences in the laboratory and in the field, and engage learning communities built around coursework series, programs, and immersive learning experiences. Love introduced Laura Anthony, an undergraduate alumna of the Western Marine Science Scholars Program who shared her experience as a student in the program and provided the board with an overview of how the program has created opportunities and experiences for her as an undergraduate alumna of the Marine Science Scholars Program.