

**Western Washington University  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 04, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Earl Overstreet, called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:21 p.m. in the Viking Union 565 in Bellingham, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

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

**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  
Donna Gibbs, Vice President for University Relations and Marketing  
McNeel Jantzen, Faculty Senate 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

**2. WELCOME CEREMONY FOR WWU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE AND FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS AND TRIBAL LIAISON LAURAL BALLEW**

The Board of Trustees of Western Washington University were joined by distinguished guests from the sovereign nations of Whatcom and Skagit Counties to present Laural Ballew, Executive Director of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations and Tribal Liaison to the trustees and the campus community. Chair Overstreet highlighted that the purpose of the events were to recognize and celebrate a historic moment in the history of Western Washington University, and the beginning of a new era of partnership between Western and the Native peoples of the Salish Sea, Washington State, and the Pacific Northwest.

Board Chair Overstreet acknowledged that Western Washington University is situated on the ancestral lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin. Throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed from time immemorial.

He noted that Western has an educational presence not only in Bellingham, but throughout the Puget Sound and Central Salish Sea. He and the trustees expressed their deepest respect and gratitude for Western's indigenous neighbors, and for their enduring care and protection of our shared lands and watershed.

Bernie Thomas, Education Director for the Lummi Nation, two-time alumnus of Western, and co-founder of Western's Native American Student Union was joined by the Lummi Blackhawk Singers, tribal representatives and the American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations, students from the Native American Student Union, and the Tribal Liaison Search Committee in a welcoming ceremony for Laural Ballew and a blanketing ceremony for the trustees.

Board Chair Overstreet expressed appreciation on behalf of the trustees for the gift of the tribal blankets and the warm embrace of friendship and common mission they represent. He added that the Board of Trustees look forward to working in partnership support the success of Native students at Western, and to building stronger ties of partnership with Native communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. He thanked everyone for attending and for sharing their thoughts, experiences, and hopes for the future. Chair Overstreet asked Trustee West to read the resolution and make the motion.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01**

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

#### **Recognizing the Western Washington University Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation Relations**

**WHEREAS**, Western Washington University exists on the ancestral homelands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, throughout the San Juan Islands and the North Cascades watershed, from time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, Western's strategic plan articulates a commitment to pursuing justice and equity in its policies, practices and impacts, and to advancing a deeper understanding of, and engagement with place; and

**WHEREAS**, Western is committed to building and sustaining mutually beneficial relationships with the Coast Salish Peoples, the twenty-nine federally recognized tribes and sovereign Indian nations in Washington State, and First Nations governments throughout the Salish Sea basin, applying Western's strengths to serve the current and future needs of these communities, and valuing their partnership in the sustainable stewardship of our shared home and its natural resources; and

**WHEREAS**, Western is committed to advancing the academic, personal, and professional success of its indigenous students, faculty, and staff, and to creating a more inclusive campus that supports the unique experiences, cultures, and ways of knowing of Native individuals and communities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University affirms and formally recognizes the historic importance of the creation of the Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nation Relations, and extends a warm welcome to

**LAURAL BALLEW** as the inaugural Executive Director of the Office and Tribal Relations Liaison to the President.

MOTION 04-01-2019

Trustee West moved, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University approve Resolution 2019-01 recognizing the Western Washington University Office of American Indian/Alaska Native and First Nations Relations

The motion passed.