

**Western Washington University
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Earl Overstreet, called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order on Thursday, October 10 at 3:07 p.m. in the Old Main 340 Board Room in Bellingham, WA.

Board of Trustees

Earl Overstreet, Chair
Chase Franklin, Vice Chair
John Meyer, Secretary
Faith Pettis
Hunter Stuehm
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
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
Jeff Young, Faculty Senate President
Lani Defiesta, Associated Students President
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General
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 10-01-2019 Trustee Meyer moved that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon the recommendation of the President, approve the following minutes:

- Board of Trustees Regular Meeting, August 23, 2019

The motion passed.

2. REFLECTIONS ON STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR WESTERN

Board Chair, Trustee Earl Overstreet initiated a discussion on strategic opportunities and challenges for Western that began with recounting three takeaways from the Board of Trustees Work Session that was held in September in Seattle. First, Overstreet acknowledged that advancing inclusive student success is paramount to the success of Western and infuses all aspects of mission fulfillment. In this regard, he quoted President Randhawa's convocation speech, "Embracing a more expansive definition of Western's identity in relation to equity of access and equity of outcomes, while ensuring we stay true to the high quality education model that is the hallmark of Western." Second, Overstreet noted that making progress toward Western's strategic plan goals is dependent on the development and stewardship of Western's financial resources. He added that the third takeaway was enhancing campus climate and culture is an important element in building a safe and engaged community to ensure sustained progress toward inclusive student success over time.

The board engaged in conversation with regards to student success, Western's financial resources, and campus climate and culture and how that relates to the individual and collective efforts of faculty, students and administrators present at the meeting. Beyond campus, it was highlighted that the mission of the University is to serve the needs of the people of the State of Washington and that this implies an obligation to serve the entire state on all of the noted topics. It was noted that advancing inclusive success will require thoughtful investment in student services and a culture of inclusion that supports and sustains an increasingly diverse student body through all phases of their journey at Western.

3. DISCUSSION WITH SENATOR EMILY RANDALL, CHAIR OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

President Sabah Randhawa introduced Senator Emily Randall, who serves as the chair of the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee and the vice chair of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee. Randall was elected to the state Senate in November 2018 to represent the 26th district, which encompasses the southern portion of the Kitsap Peninsula, including Bremerton, Port Orchard and Gig Harbor. President Randhawa thanked Senator Randall for her support and advocacy for higher education by endorsing HB2158 (also known as the Workforce Education Investment Act) that created the Washington College Grant program from which many current and future Western students will benefit. He added that she is an advocate for all students, who is bringing more attention to the need for policies that increase access and support students experiencing homelessness and students who come from a foster care background. Randhawa expressed appreciation for Senator Randall's partnership and support in Olympia to expand Western's programs on the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsulas.

Senator Randall expressed appreciation for the invitation to join the board for the meeting and to have the opportunity to visit Western's campus and engage with students. She highlighted that as a first generation college student, she is honored to serve as chair of the Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee. She noted that she comes to the position with

a history of advocating for increased opportunities for Washingtonians within higher education. She added that access to health care and access to education are intertwined as both create new opportunities for her constituents and the people of the state of Washington. She expressed excitement at the opportunity to work with Western on these important issues to create pathways state wide, and for Washington to become a leader in the nation on education and access. She added that having the opportunity to hear from students and faculty allows for a broader view of what is needed for higher education when creating policy, and reflects the popular support for it to continue to be a priority within the Senate.

The board engaged in conversation with Senator Randall on the continued themes of student success, financial resources, and building a resilient future for the state of Washington.