

**Western Washington University
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 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, December 12 at 3:06 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
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
Donna Gibbs, Vice President for University Relations and Marketing
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General
Melissa Nelson, 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 UNIVERSITY BUILDING NAMING

President Randhawa introduced Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement and Brad Johnson, Dean, College of Science and Engineering who provided an overview of the process that led to a ten million dollar gift in support of the construction of an Advanced Technology Engineering and Computer Science Building at Western from Grace Borsari and Fred Kaiser of Alpha Technologies. Randhawa explained that the legislature had made a commitment to fund pre-design and design phase funding within the current legislative biennium 2019-2021 and construction phase funding of an electrical engineering and computer science building within the next legislative biennium 2021-2023. He noted that this commitment was contingent on Western raising ten percent of the construction costs through private philanthropy. Executive leadership agreed that the building needs to be able to accommodate the growing needs of the Electrical Engineering

program, Computer Science program and the Energy Institute. He noted that the gift from Grace Borsari and Fred Kaiser will cover half of the total amount needed for Western's philanthropic contribution.

Brad Johnson, Dean, College of Science and Engineering explained the new building will enable the College of Science and Engineering to keep up with the growth of the newly accredited Engineering programs and the Computer Science program. He noted that the approach of the college is to strategically move forward by connecting to regional communities that support Western graduates within these programs.

Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement provided an overview of Borsari and Kaiser's commitment to Western that led to the largest single charitable gift in Western's history. She noted that they are local business partners with a history of giving to Western over two decades including equipment, scholarships, and graduate support. Through their Alpha Technologies they have also provided internship, employment, and professional advancement opportunities to many Western students and alumni. She acknowledged that this gift will inspire other donors to give to the campaign to fill the remaining amount of the campaign to fund the project.

RESOLUTION NO. 2019-05

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

**TO NAME THE ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE
BUILDING**

KAISER BORSARI HALL

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI have made a lead gift commitment of \$10 million to support the construction of an Advanced Technology Engineering and Computer Science Building at Western Washington University, the largest gift commitment in the history of the institution; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI have been generous supporters of Western Washington University for over two decades, with over \$2 million in previous giving, including \$1 million to the Institute for Energy Studies to name the Alpha Technologies Electrical Engineering Lab, support for a professorship in the College of Business and Economics, scholarships in computer science, engineering, and advanced materials science, with a particular focus on women and students from diverse backgrounds, and annual support for intercollegiate athletics through the Viking Night auction; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI, through their Bellingham-based company Alpha Technologies, built an internationally successful enterprise which has advanced the careers of numerous Western Washington University students and alumni through internships and employment; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI have supported higher education throughout North America, providing scholarships at numerous universities, and a gift to name the Fred Kaiser Building for applied sciences at the University of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER and GRACE BORSARI have encouraged leaders in their companies to volunteer for board service on the WWU Foundation, as well as college and department advisory boards and committees at Western Washington University; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI were recognized for their generosity and service to Western at the Commencement ceremonies of June 2013 with the President's Award, the University's highest community honor; and

WHEREAS, GRACE BORSARI was named Business Person of the Year by the Whatcom Business Alliance in 2019; and

WHEREAS, FRED KAISER serves as a Director on the US Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, during the 2019 session, the Washington State Legislature appropriated \$2 million in pre-design and design funding for a new engineering and computer science building, with a budget proviso to provide an additional \$46 million for construction during the 2021-2023 biennium, with the WWU Foundation raising \$20 million toward the construction costs through private philanthropy; and

WHEREAS, the \$10 million gift from **FRED KAISER AND GRACE BORSARI** represents fifty percent of the total fundraising effort required of Western and will inspire others to give; and

WHEREAS, the new Advanced Technology Engineering and Computer Science building will be a tremendous asset to Western's current and future faculty and students, and greatly advance Western's strategic goals of Advancing Inclusive Success, Increasing Washington Impact, and Enhancing Academic Excellence;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, that the new Advanced Technology Engineering and Computer Science Building be named

KAISER BORSARI HALL

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on December 12, 2019.

MOTION 12-01-2019: Trustee Sharpe moved that the Board of Trustees approve Resolution 2019-06 to name the Advance Technology Engineering and Computer Science Building *Kaiser Borsari Hall*

The motion passed.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into Executive Session for approximately forty minutes to discuss a personnel matter as authorized by RCW 42.30.110