

**Western Washington University
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2017**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Sue Sharpe called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:04 p.m., in the Board Room, Old Main 340, in Bellingham, WA.

Board of Trustees

Sue Sharpe, Chair
Chase Franklin, Vice-Chair - *Absent*
John Meyer, Secretary
Karen Lee
Betti Fujikado
Mo West
Earl Overstreet
Abigail Ramos

Western Washington University

Sabah Randhawa, President
Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Eileen Coughlin, Senior VP, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations and Community Development
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement
Kristen Larson, President of Faculty Senate
Stephanie Cheng, Associated Students President
Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General
Paul Cocke, Director of University Communications
Paul Dunn, Senior Executive Assistant to the President
Barbara Sandoval, Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Rayne Rambo, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees

2. STUDENT SUCCESS: GOING FROM GOOD TO GREAT

Trustee West introduced the topic of discussion regarding student success at Western. West expressed the need for high quality education, especially to those from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds, ensuring that the educational environment is supportive of a diverse range of identities and includes high impact learning experiences to prepare them for the future. West stated that these are the dimensions of student success, adding that successful students are successful graduates.

Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, stated that student success has to be a priority in every area of the university and that the panel assembled would provide different perspectives and examples for contributions to student success.

Senior Vice President Eileen Coughlin said that when academic advising, student outreach services, and counseling centers are provided and used by students it helps move them forward

towards success. Coughlin added that Freshman Interest Groups, (FIG's) allow students to be integrated academically.

The panel consisted of:

- Kathy Patrick, Advisor, Huxley College
- Tina Loudon, Director of Academic and Career Development Services
- Glen Tsunokai, Professor of Sociology
- Maia Adolf, student and F.I.G. participant
- Jennifer Hays, Community Studies Department
- Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education
- Dario Castellon, student
- Student Sara Wilson, Special Assistant to the Vice President of Enrollment and Student Services
- Shari Robinson, Director of Counseling Center
- Bryce Sasaki, Academic Support Coordinator
- Elica Starr, student and Community Advisor in Birnam Wood
- Christian Urcia, Resident Director, University Residences
- Renee Collins, Associate Dean of Students

Steve VanderStaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, reported that nationwide 55% of students that attempt a college degree at a public university successfully graduate. At Western 70% of the first year student that begin their studies at Western graduate with a degree. VanderStaay noted that by tracking the students who leave Western and graduate elsewhere, we have found that 80% of students that start at Western earn a college degree, a third of Western student leave after their first year, and, 20% of freshman do not re-enroll in a second year at Western VanderStaay said that students who leave are more likely to be low-income and first generation college students; those who failed a math class early; and students who don't have friends on campus; and students who do not have a faculty mentor. VanderStaay also pointed out that research has shown that students persist when they are socially and academically integrated within the institution.

The panelists each provided information about the ways in which their department or college help to guide students to achieve graduation, reinforcing the collaboration that is involved in student success at Western

The trustees acknowledged the panelists contributions towards student success with the programs that they facilitate. Trustee West said that making slight adjustments to the existing programs could help Western get from great to greater. Trustee Ramos added that being a current student and a first generation student success has come from a combination of all of the programs represented by the panel and that academic success comes from feeling supported by faculty and peers which helps to create balance and emotional stability. Trustee Fujikado said that while the larger institution wide quantitative measurements are important to the board it is also important to hear the individual student stories.

Trustee Overstreet stated he would like to see students achieve broad experiences at Western and that those experiences add to their academic credentials and the student's life skills capabilities. Overstreet emphasized that life skills and the ability to learn about one self is very powerful and that Western students should come away with both academic success and life skills that exceed their expectations.

Trustee Meyer asked about peer tutoring in social science subjects. Tina Loudon, Director of Academic and Career Development Services, said that tutoring for social science subjects are handled at the department level. Loudon noted that Western has study skills tutoring available

that guides students towards successful time management and decision making which contributes to life skills.

Vice Provost VanderStaay said that data shows students who enter university and take a full fifteen credit enrollment have better success than those who take a lighter course load. Sara Wilson, Special Assistant to the Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, added that taking fifteen credits per term is the path to graduation in four years and it is also important for parents to understand this information. .

Trustee Sharpe asked how Western informs incoming students about the various programs that are offered that help them with their transition to university life. Eileen Coughlin, said that the orientation and outreach programs that provide courses for incoming students and divides the content into subjects allowing student to select their interests. Coughlin agreed with Trustee Sharpe that this is one of the biggest challenges in reaching students and making an impact.

Provost Brent Carbajal, said that every student is going to have a different touch point at which they will be willing to get involved. He added that Western wants to ensure that every student is cared for how to reach every student is complex. President Randhawa said that the goal is selecting strategies that will have the maximum impact. He also reiterated that the afternoon's conversation has been focused around first and second year students. Randhawa also noted that as we look at upper class students, the ability to provide high impact experiences becomes increasingly important for student retainment. Trustee Sharpe thanked the panel for their time, perspectives and commitment to Western and Western students.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.