

**Western Washington University  
Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 14, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Sue Sharpe called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:03 am in the Board Room, Old Main 340, in Bellingham, WA.

**Board of Trustees**

Sue Sharpe, Chair  
Earl Overstreet, Vice Chair  
John Meyer, Secretary  
Betti Fujikado  
Chase Franklin  
Karen Lee  
Trista Truemper  
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  
Allison Giffen, Faculty Senate 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

**1. WESTERN ENGAGED: ADVANCING INSTITUTIONAL PRIORITIES**

• **Joint Session with the Foundation Board of Directors**

Board Chair, Sue Sharpe, welcomed everyone in attendance for a joint session with the Foundation Board of Director to discuss topics that are strategic to the university and focus on the partnership to advance the goals of the university. Sharpe noted the timeliness of the conversation as the goals, objectives, and priorities of the strategic plan have been identified and leads to the crucial question of how the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors, in their respective roles, can support and advance those priorities. Sharpe added that University Advancement and Foundation Board colleagues play a key role in how we advancing

Western's future and mission noting that the engagements and advocacy of Western's alumni, friends, and supporters is vital.

Brent Carbajal, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, initiated the joint discussion by articulating the benefits of getting the perspectives of both the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors on the topic of engagement and how these conversations impact senior leadership at the university. Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement, acknowledged the accomplishments of the previous fundraising campaign and what can be learned for future fundraising campaigns. Bowers introduced Kit Spicer, Dean, College of Fine and Performing Arts and Scott Young, Dean, College of Business and Economics who provided details of their partnership with University Advancement for the benefit of building donor relations for their colleges.

The Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Directors continued their conversation on improving long term donor relationships and how the two boards can support each other to benefit the university and the donor base. Both boards agreed that using technology and social media to initiate deeper engagement with Western's alumni, donors, and the local community is important to advancing the university and becoming a new generation of fundraisers.

Trustee Overstreet stressed the importance of not defining engagement as philanthropy. Overstreet emphasized the importance of using community connections to engage life-long learning and life-long relationship with the university and its alumni, donors and community. He added that having a broad vision on building community relationships and engagement will enhance connections within University Advancement.

Trustee Sharpe concluded the conversation by acknowledging the fact that students are always the central focus of the discussion and it is also the subject that energizes everyone working towards the advancement of the university. She noted that student success is the common thread for both boards and it initiates the alignment of university culture. Chair Sharpe thanked everyone for their participation in the joint conversation and noted that the conversations are always productive and stimulate new opportunities for growth within the university.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 4:36 p.m. Chair Sharpe announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss a personnel matter as authorized in RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g)&(i).

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.