

Regular Board of Trustees (BOT) Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2022
9:00 AM– 4:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Shaddock convened the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for Western Colorado University at **9:05 AM**.

II. ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present

Chair Shaddock, Trustee Buckley, Trustee Blessman, Trustee Engleman (Student Rep), Trustee Ferchau, Trustee Gutierrez, Trustee Miccoli (Faculty Rep), Trustee Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, Trustee Vasquez

Trustees Absent

Additional Attendees

Interim President Chisholm, Natalie Powell (Attorney), Brad Baca (VP), Julie Baca (VP), Bill Niemi (VP), Kevin Alexander (AVP), Mike LaPlante (VP), Tom Burggraf (Executive Director WCU Foundation), Tamara Toomey (Executive Assistant), Abel Chavez (VP), Chris Rourke (Communications Officer), Sam Liebl (Editor, Gunnison Country Times), Pat Magee! (Faculty Senate Representative), Shelley Jansen (Director), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks), Pete Sherman (Dean of Business School), Taryn Mead (faculty), Eric Kater (student), RJ Toney (Senior Web Developer), Kelsey Bennett (AVP), Carrie Shaw (Director), Des Gibson (Budget Specialist), Erin Mckenzie (Controller), Nathan Fyock (Auditor – Dalby, Wendland & Co), Mike Dooley (AP Analyst), Angie Ryan (AP)

Total Attendees: 37

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Szczurek moved to approve the agenda, and Trustee Blessman seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Todd moved to approve the minutes, and Trustee Ferchau seconded. Motion carried.

V. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM DECEMBER 9, 2021 BOT MEETING

Interim President Chisholm reviewed the action items from the previous meeting. All of them will be completed by the adjournment of today's meeting.

VI. ORAL REPORTS

- a. Board Chair – Chair Shaddock asked Trustees Gutierrez and Buckley to introduce themselves.
- b. Interim President – Nancy Chisholm discussed the return to campus, managing a rapidly changing variant, and the successful pivot to online learning for the first two weeks of the semester. She added that she and VP Baca visited the capitol in December to engage legislators about a variety of topics, including budget challenges unique to Western. These efforts have been well received. Interim President Chisholm also summarized her presentation to Faculty Senate.
- c. Student Trustee – Trustee Engleman discussed plans for ODK's spring day of service. Faculty, staff, and community members will engage in service activities throughout the community for non-profits, on campus, local businesses, etc. SGA voted to give \$20K to fund base fees for security cameras to show student support.

- d. Faculty Trustee – Trustee Miccoli formally endorsed and asked the board to support the installation of security cameras on campus. He discussed the ongoing policy review to clarify formal vs informal complaints and reporting.
- e. Faculty Senate Chair – Pat Magee! reported that faculty unanimously voted to support the Signal Peak Ranch Housing project. He also mentioned concerns from numerous faculty members about the campus climate and culture around the treatment of women, and general dissatisfaction with the handling of a recent personnel issue despite policies being followed. The faculty are concerned that the policies are insufficient and need improvement. A joint task force (Faculty Senate, Cabinet, DEI, etc.) will be established to review current policies and to identify any opportunities for changes.
- f. Mid Managers Chair – Sherry Ford (pass – no report at this time)
- g. Foundation Executive Director – Director Burggraf updated the Board on the Foundation’s performance to date this fiscal year.
- h. Legislative Report – Kelli Kelty updated the Board on ongoing efforts to advocate for more funding for Higher Education. March 8 is the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) date for slating funds for higher education.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Kater (student) shared comments commending the Trustees for their hard work, as well Dean of Students (Gary Pierson) and Disability Coordinator (Cheyenne Terry) for help with his ESAs. He also voiced support for faculty housing and a closer working relationship with RMBL.

Break: 10:25-10:45

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Personnel Action and Information Items – Interim President Chisholm reviewed the six sabbatical requests. *Trustee Blessman moved to approve the sabbatical requests, and Trustee Buckley seconded. Motion carried.*
- b. FY2022-23 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and Administrative Calendar – VP Baca referenced the Board packet with the proposed meeting schedule discussed at the December 2021 meeting. *Trustee Pribyl moved to approve the FY2022-23 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and Administrative Calendar, and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. Motion carried.*
- c. Proposed Curriculum Changes for 2022-23 – VP Niemi reported the addition of three new undergraduate programs all related to SRA:
 - Emphasis in Biology: Fisheries and Aquatic Biology
 - Modification of Environment and Sustainability: Emphases in Public Lands Management, Climate Action Planning and Food System
 - Modification of Music: Music Business Emphasis to Music Industry Emphasis.

He also reviewed the proposed two new 3+2 programs and three new certificates:

 - Education Emphasis with Master of Arts in Education with Endorsement in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education (3+2)
 - Sociology Rural Health Emphasis with Master of Behavioral Health (MBS) in Rural Community Health (3+2)
 - Certificate in Cultural Resource Management
 - Advanced Spanish Proficiency Certificate
 - Spanish Language and Culture Certificate

Trustee Pribyl moved to adopt the Proposed Curriculum Changes for 2022-23, and Trustee Vasquez seconded. Motion carried.
- d. Campus Security Update – VP Chávez updated the Board on the capital request for campus lighting and presented the proposal for safety cameras. *Trustee Gutierrez moved to direct staff to develop and issue a Request for Proposals for the placement of safety cameras in campus parking lots and authorize the use*

of up to \$200,000 of institutional reserves to support this project. Trustee Vasquez seconded. Motion carried.

IX. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- a. Appointment of Board Members to Committees – Chair Shaddock made the following committee appointments:
 - Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Trustee Gutierrez
 - Colorado Trustee Network (CTN): Trustee Blessman
 - Foundation Board of Directors: Trustee Buckley
 - Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Reaffirmation: Trustee Buckley
- b. Higher Education Role and Mission Overview – VPs Niemi and Baca answered questions about community college authority for Western Colorado University that were raised by the Board at the December 2021 meeting and provided further context of House Bill 21-1330 (HB21-1330)—Higher Education Student Success. Discussion ensued.
- c. Presidential Search Update – Trustee Pribyl, Search Committee chair, reviewed the updated Presidential Search Timeline in the Board packet and the draft finalist schedule.
- d. Ad Hoc Committee on Policy: Presidential Evaluation – Chair Shaddock and Trustee Szczurek presented a proposed evaluation tool for the next President and requested that Trustees submit feedback within the next week for further consideration and review of a final document at the March meeting.
- e. Elevate Western Campaign Update – VP LaPlante reviewed the Campaign dashboard and updated the Board on progress since the December meeting, including Mountaineer Bowl Events Complex program planning meetings, commitments from Crested Butte and Mt. Crested Butte for Gunnison Valley Promise, and finalization of partnership with Tourism and Prosperity Project (TAPP). Trustees discussed a goal of 100% participation in the Elevate Western campaign.
- f. Budget Overview and FY2022-23 Initial Budget Assumptions – VP Brad Baca discussed the budget scenarios and identification of Board budget priorities and budget balancing initiatives as included in the Board packet. A survey will be sent to Trustees to learn more about their budget priorities.
- g. FY2020-21 Financial and Compliance Audit – VP Brad Baca and Nathan Fyock, representative from Dalby, Wendland & Co reviewed the audit conducted by the State Auditor. In summary, it is the opinion of the auditor that the basic financial statements of the University fairly present our financial position and they did not find any material instances of noncompliance with legal or regulatory requirements. The audit found one significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting due to a late submission of financial exhibits. This was due to untimely staff turnover and steps will be taken to mitigate any similar circumstance going forward.
- h. Information about Tenure Process – This agenda item was moved to next meeting for the sake of time.
- i. Signal Peak Ranch Workforce Housing Project – VP Julie Baca provided project updates: Staff and Servitas hosted a community forum to receive feedback, answer questions, and address concerns. Title work was completed, which affirmed the Colorado Land Board’s ownership but gives us broad use under easement to perform educational functions. Alternative paths forward were identified and discussed with the Board.

X. WRITTEN REPORTS

- a. Appointment of Board
- b. Enrollment Report
- c. Financial and Capital Construction Report
- d. COVID Update
- e. Organizational Chart

XI. SET NEXT MEETING AGENDA: MARCH 24, 2022

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session was requested by Chair Shaddock to consider personnel matters, matters required to be kept confidential under federal or state laws, and/or to receive legal advice in accordance with § 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), C.R.S. and § 24-6-402(3)(a)(II) and (III), C.R.S.

Trustee Blessman moved to convene executive session and Trustee Pribyl seconded.

Break: 3:03 - 3:10 PM.

Executive Session convened at **3:10 PM** and ended at **4:10 PM**.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Shaddock adjourned the meeting at **4:11 PM**.