



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2022**

Crested Butte Community School Library, Crested Butte, Colorado

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pribyl called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

II. ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Trustee Blessman, Trustee Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Ferchau, Trustee Gutierrez, Faculty Trustee Miccoli, Chair Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, and Trustee Vasquez (via zoom).

Other Attendees: Brad Baca (President), James Young (IT), Mike LaPlante (VP), Pat Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), Kelsey Bennett (AVPAA), Suzanne Taylor (Faculty) Gary Pearson (Dean), Leslie Taylor (VP), Bill Niemi, Jess Young (Provost), Kevin Alexander (AVPAA), Sarita Neyman (Executive Assistant), Jonathan Houck (Gunnison County Commissioner), Brian Cooper (Real Estate Broker), Willa Williford (Housing Expert), Russ Forest (Gunnison City Manager), Inta Morris (Confluence Strategies), Josh Scott (CCHE), and Sarah Hughes (CCHE).

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Todd moved to approve the agenda as presented, and Trustee Ferchau seconded. Motion carried.

IV. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

- a. Chair Pribyl announced the passing of Nancy Chisholm's mother. BOT will send memorial gift when appropriate.
- b. President Baca discussed the First Four: about ensuring that each touchpoint with students is meaningful and intentional in the first 4 minutes, the first 4 hours, the first 4 days and the first 4 months. Asked the trustees to reflect on their 4 years of service as a source of fulfillment for themselves and our institution.
- c. President Baca introduced new provost Jess Young. He also recognized Bill Niemi's service and transition to serving as Special Projects Manager. He introduced Inta Morris, Confluence Strategies; Sarah Hughes, Chair of the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE); and Josh Scott, Vice Chair of the CCHE.

V. DISCUSSION TOPICS

- a. Strategic Planning
 - i. CCHE Strategic Planning:
CCHE Chair Hughes and Vice Chair Scott provided the Board with an update on the strategic planning process of the CCHE. The major goal of the draft plan is to ensure academic programs demonstrate a positive return on investment. Discussion ensued.

BREAK – 11:15 AM to 11:20 AM.

- ii. Higher Learning Commission: Self Study Overview:
Dr. Kelsey Bennett and Dr. Suzanne Taylor provided an in-depth presentation on Western’s “Assurance Argument”, an institutional self-study required as part of Western accreditation reaffirmation by the Higher Learning Commission. Discussion ensued.

BREAK – WORKING LUNCH 12:15 PM

DISCUSSION TOPICS CONTINUED

- iii. Western Strategic Plan Development:
President Baca and Dr. Niemi led a discussion about a proposed process of strategic planning for Western. This included discussion on timeline, the process of plan development, and campus involvement. Discussion ensued.

- b. Housing Panel Discussion and Western Update: Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County Commissioner; Brian Cooper, real estate broker; Willa Williford, housing expert; and Russ Forest, Gunnison City Manager participated on a panel to provide the Board an overview of the current purchase and rental market within the Gunnison Valley along with housing projects that are in process or being considered. President Baca updated the Board on both short-term and long-term initiatives being considered by the University to provide housing for faculty and staff. Discussion ensued.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 4:00 PM.