WESTERN
COLORADO UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes
July 15, 2022
Crested Butte Community School Library, Crested Butte, Colorado

I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Pribyl called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

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), Leslie Taylor (VP), Pat Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), Kelsey Bennett (AVPAA), Gary Pearson (Dean), Bill Niemi, Jess Young (Provost), Kevin Alexander (AVPAA), Tom Burggraf (Foundation Director), Sarita Neyman (Executive Assistant), Natalie Powell (AG’s office), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks-via Zoom), and Fred Marienthal (Kutak Rock Legal firm-via Zoom).

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Trustee Gutierrez moved to approve the agenda as presented, and Trustee Blessman seconded. Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING OF MAY 6, 2022
Trustee Szczurek encouraged President Baca to explore cyber security incident response planning with ITS. President Baca suggested condensing the meeting minutes, summarizing conversations versus detail. Board concurred with more precise minutes. Trustee Buckley moved to approve meeting minutes as presented, and Trustee Todd seconded. Motion carried.

V. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM BOT MEETING OF MAY 6, 2022
List reviewed.

VI. ORAL REPORTS
A. President – Brad Baca: Attending events, meeting with community stakeholders and corresponding with key donors. Hosting AG Weiser at President’s Residence, Trustee Pribyl is attending. Will attend NACUBO conference in Denver. Provided updates on current searches for AVP, CFO, Executive Assistant and Business Dean. Attended first statewide CEO call. Will be moving into President’s Residence in August. Ceded time for update on Mountaineer Bowl to VP Mike LaPlante. Fall classes begin 8/22/2022 with Orientation beginning 8/17/2022. Cabinet will be reengaging in COVID conversations and has reached out to Joni Reynolds, Director of Gunnison County Health & Human Services.
B. Board Chair – Chair Pribyl: Reported on standing communications with President Baca, and attendance at Interim President Chisholm’s farewell gathering. Discussed upcoming meetings with Representative McCluskey, Kelli Kelty and the Attorney General. Trustee Blessman asked for BOT to have campus activity updates. VP Leslie Taylor suggested adding this to their weekly media update. Trustee Szczurek inquired about Trustee Shaddock’s replacement. President Baca and Chair Pribyl are working with the Governor’s Office in identifying candidates and hope to have resolution by October. Discussed appropriate protocols for Trustees attending political fundraisers. Discussed process of Board discussions, asked members to seek recognition before speaking. Reviewed statutory and fiduciary responsibilities of Trustees.

C. Student Trustee – Trustee Kyla Engelman: Reported attendance at student government national conference.

D. Faculty Trustee – Dr. Miccoli: Discussed the importance of housing, citing the current trend of many people leaving the workforce since COVID. Commended President Baca on his leadership about transparency and a shifting culture.

E. Faculty Senate Chair – Pat Magee!: Faculty Senate established a task force to review personnel policies. Requested strong coordination of DEI efforts as interest in this area grows. Conveyed faculty views on strategic planning development and the desire for open communication and engagement.

F. Mid Managers Chair – no report.

G. Foundation Executive Director – Tom Burggraf: Provided recap of annual financial report.

H. Attorney General/Legal Report – Attorney Natalie Powell: gave an update on Title IX proposed rule changes and how it impacts higher education. Proposed changes are currently open for public comment and the AG’s Office may coordinate a statewide response.

I. Legislative Recap – Kelli Kelty: Recapped legislative session, including increased operating and capital appropriations for higher education. Working to set up meetings between President Baca and legislators.

BREAK – 10:50 AM to 11:00 AM.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Information and Action Item: President Baca presented personnel action and information item. Discussion ensued around reasons for high turnover and how that might be addressed. Trustee Todd moved to approve the personnel action and information items, and Trustee Szczurek seconded. Motion carried.

B. Resolution to Update Enterprise Revenue Bond Tuition Pledge: President Baca presented a resolution that would allow Western to pledge 100% of tuition revenue against bonded debt, as authorized by Senate Bill 22-121. Discussion ensued. Trustee Buckley moved to adopt the resolution that would increase the pledge of tuition revenues from 10 percent to 100 percent, and Trustee Szczurek seconded. Motion carried.

C. MOU with Gunnison Rising for Utility Easement (hand carry): President Baca provided a brief overview of the Gunnison Rising annexation and the need to run electrical utilities
through campus property to support the development. Discussion ensued. *Trustee Gutierrez moved to delegate to the President and Board Chair the authority to negotiate and execute an electrical utility easement, and Trustee Ferchau seconded. Motion carried.*

**VIII. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

A. Elevate Western Campaign: 3-year recap:
   VP Mike LaPlante presented the Third Year Recap of the Elevate Western Campaign. Discussion ensued.

**BREAK – WORKING LUNCH 12:25pm**

B. Ad Hoc Policy Committee:
   Chair Pribyl announced that Trustee Szczurek will be the new chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Policy and asked for a Trustee volunteer to replace former Trustee Shaddock.

C. Enrollment Report:
   VP Leslie Taylor gave a presentation of Western’s five-year enrollment trends by student demographic. Discussion ensued.

D. Attorney General’s Office Training:
   Sr. AAG Natalie Powell gave a presentation on CO Open Meetings Law and Open Records Act. Discussion ensued.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Description: To consider personnel matters and to receive legal advice in accordance with §24-6-402(3)(b)(I) and § 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

The Board did not enter into Executive Session.

**X. SET NEXT MEETING’S AGENDA: OCTOBER 6, 2022**

Chair Pribyl requested that Trustees send their feedback and suggestions for the October meeting to him and President Baca.

Chair Pribyl announced the President’s Road Show in late July and requested that Trustees attend if available.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.