



Western Colorado University Board of Trustees (BOT)
Ad Hoc Committee on Efficiencies, Bylaws, and Policy (Policy Committee)

Agenda
September 28, 2022
11 am - 12:30pm MTN

I. Call to Order

Chair Szczurek called the meeting to order at 11:14am

II. Attendance

Members present: Chair Szczurek, Trustee Gutierrez, Trustee Vasquez

Additional attendees: Natalie Powell (AG Office), Carrie Shaw (Director of Financial Aid), Caitlin Rovner (EA), James Young (IT)

Total attendance: 7

III. Additions to Agenda, if any, and Approval of the Agenda

Chair Szczurek moved to approve, Trustee Gutierrez seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

IV. Review Purpose and History of Policy Committee

Chair Szczurek shared historical context of Committee. Purpose is to improve Board efficiencies, update bylaws, revise policies, and other assignments as requested by the Board

V. Status of Trustee Policy Manual

Review is complete of many sections of Trustee Policy Manual. There is still more work to do. All work of the Policy Committee is to be documented and included in Board packet with recommendations for actions. Updates to bylaws must be approved by majority of BOT. May 6 2020 was most recent update that was approved.

From this update, notes for changes: Section D needs Appendix added, and it is missing certain documents relation to Presidential Evaluation.

Chair Szczurek noted that, in her opinion, nothing should be removed from BOT website without approval of the BOT, but this occurred last year. Interim President Nancy Chisholm took action to review this. Chair Szczurek also demonstrated how to locate TPM on website.

VI. Sections 7.3.and 7.7 and 5.0 of TPM, inputs from Faculty Rep

In the May BOT meeting, section 7.0 was presented for BOT approval. The Board approved revision of 7.1, noting that this section referenced Appendix D. 7.2 also references this Appendix. 7.3 and 7.7 have not yet been approved. Trustees discussed changing verbiage: “will” to “may” in 7.3, and “shall” to “may” in 7.7. Natalie Powell noted her support of this as it gives Board more discretion. Trustee Gutierrez noted recollection of discussion of this previously and queried why not updated, Chair Szczurek advised that this was to allow faculty feedback, and confirmed faculty has given input that they are in favor of change. Committee to recommend approval of updates to 7.3 and 7.7 at next Board meeting, with no dissent.

5.0 Academic Affairs- it is unclear what needs input from faculty. Chair Szczurek recalls limited review of this section so far, however discussion of intellectual property and copyright ownership is needed. Dr. Niemi suggested changes, but these appear to have not yet been presented to Committee. Natalie Powell cautioned that changes are likely within the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, which may necessitate further amendment. Chair Szczurek noted the need to consult with Provost Young.

Former Committee Chair Shaddock shared notes with Chair Szczurek. Committee discussed priorities. Potential undertakings were noted, including adding Western Values to TPM. Discussed Natalie Powell drafting comprehensive motions for Executive Sessions so that Board can choose appropriate options from 'checklist'. Natalie Powell confirmed current process. Trustee Gutierrez noted that with changes to relevant laws, templates may be unnecessary and/or problematic as Executive Sessions require very specific processes and need to involve counsel. Natalie Powell concurred. Chair Szczurek advised therefore that the Policy Committee would not address adding this now and would revisit this if Board Chair Pribyl requests this form of document.

Discussion about 3.5: Carrie Shaw to confirm contact information for relevant reporting options. This is to be updated in TPM. Trustee Gutierrez concurred with Chair Szczurek making these changes as they are editorial-level, and Board has previously confirmed Chair of Committee's ability to make these forms of changes. Natalie Powell advised that Title IX changes are currently in rulemaking process, with potential for changes to be presented fall 2023 at earliest, recommended no major changes to this section of TPM until these are concluded. Noted that faculty had expressed concern over 2.2, 3.5, and have formed a committee that are reviewing these policies. Trustee Gutierrez emphasized that the Committee needs to ensure experts are consulted when updating these sections.

VII. Other Business -- Other Policy Committee Suggestions and Discussion.

The Committee discussed next focus area: sections 3 and/or 5. 3 is pending federal-level changes, 5 is currently under faculty review and discussion. Committee to become familiar with section 5 prior to next meeting.

Recommended next meeting towards end of October.

VIII. Thanks and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:31pm.