



WESTERN

COLORADO UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes

December 8, 2022

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

University Center, Western Colorado University

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pribyl called the meeting to order at 10:00am, and introduced Trustees Hamner and Wiens as the new and incoming trustees, respectively.

II. ATTENDANCE

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

Other Attendees: Brad Baca (President), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Craig Beebe (Residence Life Director), Thomas Burggraf (E.D. Foundation), Al Caniff (Art Department Professor), Matt DaSilva (Director of Campus Safety and Security), Paul Giberson (Director of Retention and Completion), Ian Higgins (VPFA, via zoom), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks), Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Patrick Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), William Niemi (Special Projects), Lauren Peach (AG Office, via zoom), Gary Pierson (Dean of Students), Natalie Powell (AG Office, via zoom), Hanna Riepl (Human Resources), Caitlin Rovner (Exec. Assistant), Alex Sturde (IT), Nicole Swaggerty (Director of Student Health and Wellness), Leslie Taylor (Interim VP Enrollment and Marketing), Miles VanHee (Director of Athletics), David Wiens (Incoming Trustee), James Young (IT), Jessica Young (Interim Provost).

III. OATH OF OFFICE

Trustee Hamner completed the Oath of Office with Hanna Riepl prior to the start of the meeting.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

With a change of order of the discussion topics by moving the Enrollment Report and Overview to second, the Board approved the agenda with unanimous consent.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The minutes were approved by the Board with unanimous consent.

VI. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM THE OCTOBER 6, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

President Baca took questions regarding action items.

VII. ORAL REPORTS

A. President Baca

Introduced incoming VPFA Ian Higgins to Trustees. Provided update on other candidate searches, including VPI and Dean of Business School. Shared process of search for Provost position; search will be internal which was determined after consultation with campus constituents. Discussed the potential additions of Aerospace

and Biomedical programs at WCU's School of Engineering, and next steps towards making determination as to their feasibility. Reported on legislative hearings with the Capital Development Committee and Joint Technology Committee.

B. Board Chair Pribyl

Chair Pribyl requested that individual trustees provide reports on their activities.

Trustee Blessman reported on Colorado Trustee Network and is on their Policy Advisory Committee.

Trustee Ferchau has been providing community tours to potential candidates for positions at WCU.

Trustee Buckley shared feedback on Western's advertising at DIA and on Mountaineers Without Borders.

C. Student Trustee Engleman

The SGA is working on a letter of support for the mountain biking community, which will help promote proper use of trails by students. Reported on events that were recent and are upcoming as semester nears completion.

D. Faculty Trustee Miccoli

Faculty Trustee Miccoli shared concerns expressed to him by faculty regarding the Provost search and the decision to search internally. Overall, faculty understand the reasoning for an internal search, and have appreciated transparency of the process, but some have voiced a desire for an external search.

E. Faculty Senate Chair Magee!

Faculty Senate Chair Magee! shared faculty appreciation with WCU covering increase in insurance costs. There has been positive overall feedback about administrative searches. He thanked the Board for progress made towards DEI initiatives. Information about upcoming HLC visit was shared by AVPAA Bennett. Mental health awareness is continuing to be promoted via trainings on campus.

F. Administrative Leadership Council Chair Beebe

The ALC hosted a discussion about supporting the upcoming Higher Learning Commission site visit. They are also having discussions about how to support professional development for staff through the Center for Learning and Innovation.

G. Foundation Executive Director Burggraf

An update was provided by President Baca about Raiser's Edge and the transferring and updating of data into this new system. During this transition, it was discovered that approximately \$2M of campaign funds have been overstated. An assessment is being conducted to determine what happened. Exec. Director Burggraf shared that the Celebration of Giving annual report was finalized and would be provided in hard-copy to Trustees before end of year. A discussion about a donated property in Crested Butte followed.

H: Attorney General/Legal Report

Natalie Powell did not provide a report, and will be presenting in Executive Session. A reminder was shared with Trustees regarding provisions of the Open Meetings Law.

I: Legislative Report

Kelli Kelty reported on the post-election structure of the House and Senate. A discussion about the Board's February visit to the Capitol followed.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

IX. ACTION ITEMS

A. Personnel Action and Information Items

President Baca presented personnel recommendations. *Trustee Szczurek motioned to approve as presented, and Trustee Buckley seconded. Motion carried.*

B: Ad Hoc Committee on Policy

Trustee Szczurek provided a summary of discussion regarding Trustee censure ship. The Committee will not be recommending addition of a policy on censure ship to the Trustee Policy Manual, but will be looking at whether the TPM addresses appropriate conduct for Trustees.

Lunch with Honors Students

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting reconvened at 1:04pm, and Chair Pribyl requested a motion to start an Executive Session on weapons policies. Trustee Gutierrez motioned to approve this session, and Trustee Todd seconded. The motion carried. The Executive Session was started at 1:06pm. Description: To receive legal advice in accordance with § 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S.

XI. DISCUSSION TOPICS resumed at 1:45pm

A. Campus Policies on Weapons and Alcohol

Natalie Powell, Dean Pierson, and Director DaSilva continued discussion from Executive Session with the Board about potential action to take on WCU weapons policies, especially in relation to student housing and sporting events. The Board requested that more research be conducted with options presented at a future meeting.

B. Enrollment Report and Overview

Interim VP Taylor presented information on current student demographics, with a focus on where they come from, and how recruiting and marketing efforts are being conducted. Interim VP Taylor also provided an update on fall admissions data. Discussion followed.

C: 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Update

President Baca reported that the additional goal which the Board discussed at the October meeting had been added and incorporated into the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan task forces have been charged and are working to develop initiatives to support each goal area. An update on the plan will be provided at the February meeting. He also noted that the CCHE have recently approved, but not yet released, their own strategic plan, which is focused on return on investment.

D: Legislative Agenda Overview

President Baca emphasized the need to keep monitoring state funding for operation and capital and IT projects. An update was provided on institutional debt relief (rebranded to “Investing in an Affordable Future”) and the next steps to move that concept forward.

E: Elevate Western Campaign Update

Vice President LaPlante did not provide an update due to the challenges created by the Blackbaud rollout. He informed the Board that Sarah Hathaway will be new career services director, and that programmatic return on investment will be a focus in the new strategic plan.

F: Housing Update

Vice President LaPlante shared short- and long-term strategies to alleviate housing issues for employees. Discussion followed.

G: Draft 2023-24 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and Administrative Calendar

President Baca presented a proposed schedule. June 22-23, 2023, was noted as the preference of the Board for the summer retreat/business session. A final schedule will be presented at the February meeting for Board approval.

H: Strategic Resource Allocation Implementation Update

President Baca shared updates on Strategic Resource Allocation Implementation. This included discussion on the music program's hold harmless and whether more time should be provided to the program to grow enrollment. The Board supported providing additional time.

Chair Pribyl requested that Athletic Director VanHee provide an update at this time, and that this be added to future Board agendas. Director VanHee provided an update on the fall season, upcoming events, and shared the success of the music program's efforts to improve the game day experience with the percussion line.

XII. WRITTEN REPORTS

A. Department of Higher Education Budget Request

No discussion.

B. Financial and Capital Construction Report

No discussion.

C. Organizational Chart

No discussion.

D. Campus Updates

No discussion.

XIII. SET NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA

No discussion.

XIV. CELEBRATION OF TRUSTEE FERCHAU FOR 8 YEARS OF SERVICE TO WESTERN

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was raised.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 4:19pm.