



# WESTERN

COLORADO UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022

10:00am – 5:00pm

University Center, Western Colorado University

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pribyl called the meeting to order at 10:04am

### II. ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Trustee Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Ferchau, Trustee Gutierrez, Faculty Trustee Miccoli, Chair Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, and Trustee Vasquez

Other Attendees: Brad Baca (President), Inta Morris (Confluence Strategies, via zoom), Natalie Powell (AG Office, via zoom), Lauren Peach (AG Office, via zoom), Al Caniff (Art Department Professor), Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Jess Young (Interim Provost), Leslie Taylor (Interim VP Marketing & Communications), James Young (IT), Alex Sturde (IT), Caitlin Rovner (Exec. Assistant), Patrick Magee (Faculty Senate Chair), Bill Niemi (Special Projects), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Kevin Alexander (AVP Academic Affairs), Craig Beebe (Residence Life Director), Anne Ryter (Chair-Department of Natural and Environmental Sciences), Tom Burgraffe (E.D. Foundation), Sherry Ford (AVP Operations & Construction), Gary Pierson (Dean of Students), Miles Van Hee (Director of Athletics)

Excused: Trustee Blessman

### III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

*Chair Pribyl approved the agenda with unanimous consent.*

### IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETINGS OF JULY 14-15, 2022

Trustee Szczurek suggested some edits. Most were accepted, not all. *Chair Pribyl approved minutes with edits by unanimous consent.*

### V. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM BOT MEETINGS OF JULY 14-15, 2022

*No discussion or questions.*

### VI. ORAL REPORTS

#### A. President Baca

Reported on visit with Mr. Paul Rady and guests. Visited construction site of Mountaineer Bowl Events Complex and had discussion regarding potential additions to the athletic and engineering programs. HLC will visit WCU April 24-25. Trustee participation will be arranged. Reported on status of key leadership searches: VP for Finance and Administration, VP for Inclusivity, and Dean of Business School. Working

with Governor's Office and Chair Pribyl to fill one empty trustee position as well as Trustee Ferchau's pending vacancy. Tracking Grant programs related to Workforce development and housing.

#### B. Board Chair Pribyl

Process of recruitment for new Trustees has begun, no names to share at this stage. Chair Pribyl requested comment from local trustees:

Trustee Buckley reported on graduate program successes and field work and research being conducted by students and faculty within the Rady School.

Trustee Ferchau reported on the REMAX/Music Department's "Music on Mainstreet" program, and is continuing to explore faculty housing scenarios.

#### C. Student Trustee Engleman

All seats on the Student Government Association are now filled. Senators pay has been adjusted to meet FLSA requirements. SGA has partnered with Alumni Association to host a Tailgate at Homecoming to foster student-alum relations.

#### D. Faculty Trustee Miccoli

Trustee Miccoli acknowledged local Trustees for promoting events and partnerships. Concern expressed regarding July retirements and resignations and how this has negatively impacted shared governance by requiring existing tenured-track and tenured faculty to take on unsustainable service loads and in some cases resulting in important committees not being fully staffed. This will continue to be monitored.

#### E. Faculty Senate Chair Magee!

Thanked Trustee Buckley and Board for acknowledging work on campus by faculty. The DEI Committee under Chairship of Asst. Prof. Mahamane is exploring creation of bystander intervention training for campus. Work is being done to create a 'One Stop Shop' for mental health services for campus community. Taskforce on Personnel Policy has begun their review of policies.

#### F. Administrative Leadership Council Chair Ford

Chair Sherry Ford introduced incoming Chair Craig Beebe. Provided feedback that salary adjustments were well-received by staff and acknowledged that further work was needed to address equity concerns.

#### G. Foundation Executive Director Burgraff

Reported on first quarter fundraising results and provided an overview of the Gunnison Valley Promise.

#### H. Attorney General Representative Powell

Introduced Lauren Peach (First Assistant Attorney General). Senior Assistant Powell will continue as Western's primary general counsel. Presented on Fair Campaign Practices Act.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS

#### A. Personnel Information and Action Item

President Baca presented and requested approval of staff appointments. *Trustee Todd motioned to approve as presented, and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. Motion carried.*

#### B. Ad Hoc Committee on Policy

Trustee Szczurek provided an overview of the Committee's role, and presented proposed changes to section 7.0 of the TPM. Proposed changes were discussed. *Trustee Gutierrez motioned to accept these changes, and Trustee Buckley seconded. Motion carried.*

*Trustee Szczurek motioned that the Chair of the Board or Ad-Hoc Committee be able to make minor edits, and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. Motion carried.*

#### C. Roll Call Vote on Support for W.A. "Tex" Moncrief, Jr. Petroleum Geology Program per Rady Agreement

Overview of Petroleum Geology program was provided. Gift agreements requires a roll-call vote to affirm support of the program. *Trustee Ferchau motioned to affirm support of the program, and Trustee Buckley seconded.*

Roll call vote:

*Yeas-* President Baca, Trustee Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Ferchau, Trustee Gutierrez, Faculty Trustee Miccoli, Chair Pribyl, Chair- Department of Natural and Environmental Sciences Ryter, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, Interim Provost Young, and Trustee Vasquez.

*Nays-* None.

#### D. FY2022-23 Current Fund Budget Adjustments and FY2021-22 Unaudited Year-End Financial Report

President Baca presented amendments to the FY2022-23 current fund budgets. This included decreased tuition revenues due to enrollment decline and an increase in projected health premiums. To balance the budget, an increase in roll-forward spending and higher vacancy savings factors were applied.

*Chair Pribyl requested the agenda item X.D. Student Enrollment Update be covered at this time as a discussion rather than a written report.*

Interim Vice President Taylor reported on enrollment, including marketing and recruitment strategies. A more comprehensive report will be presented at the December 2022 meeting.

*Trustee Gutierrez motioned to approve the FY2022-23 Current Fund Budget as presented, and Trustee Ferchau seconded. The motion carried.*

### VIII. LUNCH WITH EPIC MENTORS

#### IX. ACTION ITEMS (CONT.)

##### E. 2024-2029 Strategic Plan

President Baca outlined the timeline and the proposed goals and principles for the Strategic Plan. A Steering Committee composed of faculty, students, staff, and senior cabinet has been meeting to develop plan goals and principles based on Board feedback from the July 2022 meeting and ongoing feedback solicited from the campus community. The Board discussed the proposed goals and principles, including adding a goal on financial strength and growth.

*Trustee Vasquez motioned to approve the goals and principles of the Strategic Plan as proposed. Trustee Szczurek seconded and offered a friendly amendment to include the addition of a goal on financial strength and growth. The friendly amendment was accepted by Trustee Vasquez. The motion carried.*

#### X. DISCUSSION TOPICS

##### A. First 100 Days Report

President Baca presented a report on his first 100 days in office. The three areas of focus included campus and community outreach, moving forward key strategic initiatives, and filling key leadership roles. In addition, a report on key institutional metrics from FY2021-22 was provided. This included enrollment, retention rates, graduation rates, student loan default rates, and the composite financial index. Discussion followed.

##### B. Elevate Western Campaign Update

Vice President LaPlante presented an update on the Elevate Western Campaign. This included an update on the Mountaineer Bowl Events Complex project, information on the transition to a new database system, and a presentation of the Campaign Dashboard. Discussion followed.

##### C. Housing Update

Vice President LaPlante provided a housing update. This included results from a new employee survey. The University continues to explore short-term solutions, including a Master Lease agreement with a local developer, and long-term solutions that result in the construction of Western-owned units. Discussion followed.

**D. Student Enrollment Report**

Interim Vice President Taylor presented the Student Enrollment Report. Enrollment for fall 2022 was down but higher than expected. Retention of first-year students is projected to be the highest on record at over 76%. The Board requested a more comprehensive presentation on student recruitment and marketing at the December 2022 meeting.

**XI. WRITTEN REPORTS**

**A. Campus Updates**

Dean Pierson presented the Campus Updates. Discussion followed including a request to publicly promote the various accomplishments of faculty and staff as a means to elevate awareness.

**XII. SET NEXT MEETING'S AGENDA**

No discussion.

**XIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Trustee Szczurek presented the microgrant that WCU was awarded by the Statewide Internet Portal Authority for an HD video camera.

**XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were made.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.