



## Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2023  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
The Oxford Hotel, Denver

### I. CALL TO ORDER

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

### II. ATTENDANCE

Trustees Present: Trustee Blessman, Vice Chair Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Gutierrez, Trustee Hamner, Faculty Trustee Miccoli, Chair Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, Trustee Vasquez, and Trustee Wiens.

Other Attendees: Brad Baca (President), Thomas Burggraf (E.D. Foundation), Mayela Cardenas (Associate Professor of Art), Lance Dalleck (Interim AVP for Academic Affairs), Tammy Erickson & Keith Pew (Moss Adams- zoom), Paul Giberson (Director of Retention and Completion- zoom), Des Gibson (Budget Specialist- zoom), Abigail Harrison (Gunnison Country Times- zoom), Ian Higgins (VP Finance and Administration), Brayden Kammers (SGA Vice President for Internal Affairs), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks), Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Patrick Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), Erin McKenzie (Controller and AVP of Finance- zoom), Steven Parker (Incoming VP Inclusivity- zoom), Gary Pierson (Dean of Students), Natalie Powell (AG Office), Chad Robinson (CIO and Director of IT Services- zoom), Caitlin Rovner (Executive Assistant), Leah Taylor (SGA Treasurer), Leslie Taylor (Interim VP Enrollment and Marketing- zoom), James Young (IT), Jessica Young (Provost).

### III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Trustee Gutierrez motioned to approve the agenda as presented, and Trustee Hamner seconded. Without exception, the motion to approve the agenda passed.

### IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR THE DECEMBER 8, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

A correction to the December 8 minutes was noted: Trustee Blessman was not recorded as present. Trustee Szczurek motioned to approve the minutes with this correction, and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. The corrected minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

### V: REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM THE DECEMBER 8, 2022 BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

President Baca took questions regarding action items.

### VI. ORAL REPORTS

A. President Baca

President Baca reported on the hires of Steven Parker as the VP of Inclusivity (VPI) and Jane Kolodinsky as the Dean of the Business School. He provided an update on the development of the Strategic Plan. President Baca reported on the JBC hearing where WCU presented with Fort Lewis College and Adams State University. Confirmation hearings for new Trustees Hamner and Wiens, and for the second term of Chair Pribyl have been completed and we are awaiting approval by the full Senate. No questions were asked.

**B: Board Chair**

Chair Pribyl reported on a visit to Fort Lewis College and encouraged other Trustees to visit other campuses within the state. The informal Robert's Rules process for this Board was shared with new Trustees Hamner and Wiens, and both Trustees' ability to vote was noted. Chair Pribyl also had lunch with the Governor and discussed WCU. No questions were asked.

**C: Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Engleman provided an update on Student Government Association (SGA) activity, which included the passage of several bills. She answered questions regarding the process of funding from SGA, and reported a budget surplus going into the start of this academic year.

**D: Faculty Trustee**

Faculty Trustee Miccoli noted that this would be his last meeting as Faculty Trustee. He stated that a temporary Faculty Trustee would be attending the March Board meeting, and then an election for the two-year term would be held, following the process laid out in the Trustee Policy Manual. Trustee Szczurek noted the Board's gratitude for his service.

**E: Faculty Senate Chair**

Faculty Senate Chair Magee! noted that the ongoing curriculum update process has been an effort by many faculty members. Housing and salaries are ongoing issues for faculty. The next stage of the Strategic Planning process will provide opportunities for more input by faculty. Faculty are looking forward to VPI Parker starting. The Senate reiterated their support for the LGBTQI+ community through a statement after a recent campus graffiti incident.

President Baca introduced incoming VPI Parker via zoom, who shared his background and credentials with the Board.

**F: Foundation Executive Director**

Foundation Executive Director Burgraff reviewed the Foundation's dashboard with the Board. Questions followed, including the alignment of the Foundation's fundraising efforts with the new Strategic Plan. President Baca noted that this was the focus of the joint Boards' session in October 2022, and continued conversation will happen at the June 2023 meeting.

**G: Attorney General/Legal Report**

AG Representative Powell reported on the Supreme Court's decisions regarding race-conscious admissions. Discussion followed.

**H: Legislative Report**

Kelli Kely provided a report on the Legislative Session. Discussion took place regarding higher education funding requests, including the potential for a future request to better support rural institutions.

**VII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Closed with no comment.

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS**

### **A: Sabbatical Proposals and Reports**

Provost Young provided an overview of the process for sabbatical applications and took questions. Trustee Blessman motioned to approve the sabbatical requests as presented, and Trustee Szczurek seconded. With no objections, the motion carried.

### **B: FY2023-24 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

President Baca presented the schedule, and noted one adjustment from the December discussion: a session will be held with the Foundation Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Trustee Blessman moved to approve the schedule as presented, and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. Without objection, the motion carried.

### **C: Proposed Curriculum Changes for 2023-24**

Provost Young and Interim AVP for Academic Affairs Dalleck explained the curricular review and proposal process. Discussion followed. A motion to approve the proposed curricular changes was made by Trustee Gutierrez, and was seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

## **Lunch**

## **VIII. ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED)**

### **D: Ad Hoc Committee on Policy**

Trustee Szczurek reported on the committee's last meeting, and presented recommendations outlined in the Board Packet. A motion to approve the proposed updates to the Trustee Policy Manual was made by Trustee Szczurek and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.

Chair Pribyl noted that as an ad-hoc committee, this is a temporary committee.

### **E: FY2023-24 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates (Hand Carry)**

VPFA Higgins provided a presentation on tuition and fees that included an overview of the tuition and fee landscape, pricing competition, student affordability, and cost drivers and deferred maintenance. Rate change proposals were presented to the Board including a differential tuition for CU Partnership Programs. Discussion followed. A motion to approve the FY2023-24 proposed tuition, fee, room and board rates was made by Trustee Gutierrez, and was seconded by Trustee Vasquez. The motion carried.

## **IX. DISCUSSION TOPICS**

### **A: Budget Overview and FY2023-24 Initial Budget Assumptions**

VPFA Higgins presented different scenarios, and noted these do not include roll-forward spending. Discussion followed, including the practicalities of long-range budget planning.

### **B: FY2021-22 Financial and Compliance Audit**

VPFA Higgins introduced the annual audit, which was released December 2022. Controller McKenzie provided an overview of the audit process, and Tammy Erickson of Moss Adams (WCU Auditors) summarized the audit.

### **C: Housing Update**

VP of Advancement LaPlante reported on housing initiatives including an update on a master lease for fifteen units and discussions related to construction of units on Western's campus. A master lease will be presented to the Board at the March meeting for consideration.

### **D: Elevate Western Campaign Update**

VP of Advancement LaPlante provided an update to the Elevate Western campaign. This included discussion on the BlackBaud system conversion, and the misstatement of campaign dollars raised. Discussion followed.

#### **X. WRITTEN REPORTS**

A: Enrollment Report

Questions were addressed.

B: Financial and Capital Construction Report

No discussion.

C: Campus Updates

No discussion.

#### **XI. SET NEXT MEETINGS AGENDA: MARCH 23, 2023**

It was requested that a report from Director of Athletics Van Hee, and a report from the Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy be added to the March agenda.

#### **XII. OTHER BUSINESS**

Chair Pribyl and members of the Board acknowledged the work of Faculty Trustee Miccoli on the Board, and thanked him for his service.

#### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Description: To consider personnel matters in accordance with §24-6-402(3)(b)(I), C.R.S. and to receive legal advice in accordance with § 24-6-402(3)(a)(II), C.R.S. The topics of discussion included the WCU/WCU Foundation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), and President Baca's six-month evaluation. Trustee Gutierrez moved to enter the Executive Session. Trustee Todd seconded. The motion carried, and the executive session began at 3:45pm. The session concluded at 5:02pm, and it was noted that VP of Advancement LaPlante did not join the session.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 5:02pm.