



Meeting Agenda
March 23, 2023
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 10:02am.

II. Attendance

Trustees: Trustee Blessman, Vice Chair Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Gutierrez, Interim Faculty Trustee Ryter, Chair Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Todd, Trustee Vasquez (zoom), and Trustee Wiens (zoom).

Other Attendees: Brad Baca (President), Shelley Banker (Colorado Trustee Network), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Thomas Burggraf (E.D. Foundation), Chase Cordova (Student), Lance Dalleck (Interim AVP for Academic Affairs), Matt DaSilva (Head of Campus Security), Ian Higgins (VP Finance and Administration), Sarah Hughes (CCHE/Colorado Trustee Network), Kelli Kely (Politicalworks), Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Patrick Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), Steven Parker (VP Inclusivity), Gary Pierson (Dean of Students), Natalie Powell (AG Office), Caitlin Rovner (Executive Assistant, zoom), Leslie Taylor (Interim VP Enrollment and Marketing- zoom), Tamara Toomey (English Lecturer, zoom), Miles VanHee (Athletic Director), Katie Walters (Executive Assistant to Academic Affairs), Megan West (Director of Alumni Relations), James Young (IT), Jessica Young (Provost).

III. Approval of the Agenda

A motion to approve the revised agenda as presented was made by Trustee Szczurek. Trustee Todd seconded. The revised agenda moved the Master Lease from Action to Discussion. The motion to approve the revised agenda passed.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of February 2, 2023

With the noted and highlighted additions to the Minutes, a motion to approve the Minutes was made by Trustee Todd, and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. Without objection, the motion to approve the Minutes passed.

V. Review of Action Items from BOT Meeting of February 2, 2023

President Baca reported on revised additions to the Action Items. He noted that the Board's application for membership to the AGB (Association of Governing Boards) would be submitted next week.

VI. Oral Reports

A. President

President Baca introduced Interim Faculty Trustee Anne Ryter as the temporary Faculty Representative. He introduced Steven Parker as the new VP of Inclusivity. He introduced Jane Kolodinsky as new Dean of the Business School. Dr. Kolodinsky shared an overview of her background and discussed the requirements for accreditation and her intent to build relationships across the institution and with external stakeholders.

President Baca reported on the upcoming HLC visit, and will provide logistical information to Trustees. He gave an overview of the Opportunity Now Grant that Western is submitting a proposal for, which will be in partnership with Gunnison Valley Health. He also described the Western Slope Water Collaborative, a Congressionally-directed spending proposal, which has been submitted jointly with Fort Lewis. He reported on Western's participation in a Higher Education Business Model project sponsored by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO).

B. Board Chair

Chair Pribyl reported on his weekly meetings with President Baca, and their ongoing discussion about the Board's relationship with the Foundation, which will be discussed in Executive Session. He described his meeting with Governor Polis in December 2022, and the Governor's goals for Higher Education.

C. Student Trustee

Student Trustee Engleman reported on bills that had been considered by the Student Government Association (SGA). Applications for students to serve on SGA have been opened, with campaigning and elections scheduled for April. She reported on events that had occurred, and upcoming events, including fall registration.

D. Interim Faculty Trustee

Interim Faculty Trustee Ryter spoke on end-of-the-semester activities. Faculty evaluations are currently being completed by Chairs. A taskforce has been created by Faculty Senate to examine the evaluation process and recommend improvements. Questions about campus morale were addressed.

E. Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Senate Chair Magee! reported on end-of-the-semester. The movement towards fewer tenured faculty has meant heavier service workloads for faculty, which has impacted contributions to shared governance. Housing and salaries remain big concerns, and there is gratitude towards the Housing Committee's work on this. There are faculty departments not represented under shared governance, so an opportunity to be a part of Senate is being extended to these groups. He discussed the Strategic Plan and campus opportunities to provide feedback. He also reported on inclusivity work, including the efforts for a Land Acknowledgement Statement. Discussion about sustainability initiatives, including carbon-neutrality by 2050 followed.

F. Administrative Leadership Council Chair

Administrative Leadership Council Chair Beebe shared the group's discussion about supporting and providing feedback for the Strategic Plan. Intentional student programming around leadership and engagement is being discussed by the ALC. Scholarships have been launched for participation by staff in programming sponsored by the Center for Learning and Innovation. The transition to Workday has presented process questions, particularly related to hiring and budgeting, but the training has been very well-received.

G. Foundation Executive Director

Foundation Executive Director Burggraf presented a handout on fundraising updates. He spoke of upcoming events, including the Mountaineer Gala. This year's honoree is former Interim President Nancy Chisholm. He provided an update on fundraising for the Gunnison Valley Promise. He also spoke of the need for corporate donors outside of the Gunnison Valley, and provided a handout of possible partners and requested Trustee assistance in establishing relationships. Foundation Executive Director Burggraf also acknowledged and expressed gratitude towards recent Trustees' gifts.

H. Athletic Director

Athletic Director Van Hee shared Western's successes at recent national championship events. The Student Athletes Advisory Council is providing programming on post-athletic life-skills for athletes. The recently-created NCAA transfer portal has introduced challenges to student athlete retention and team stability. However, at Western, our strong athletic culture has mitigated significant student movement. An update of the Mountaineer Bowl redevelopment project was provided. The Annual Crab and Steak Feed will be held on April 1st. Questions about recruiting through the transfer portal were addressed.

I. Attorney General/Legal Report

Senior Assistant AG Powell gave an overview of Title IX, with changes anticipated to be published in May.

J. Legislative Report

Kelli Kelty reported on Joint Budget Committee decisions on Higher Education funding. In total, \$145.9 million was approved which was greater than the Governor's request but less than the need identified by institutions. Western is anticipated to receive funding for our next-gen Wi-Fi request, upgrades to the swimming pool, and we're hopeful to receive funding for the Hurst Hall remodel.

VII. Public Comment

Chase Cordova, student of Western, shared with the Board a Land Acknowledgement initiative which is being presented to various stakeholders on campus, including Cabinet. He outlined some desired outcomes of increased diversity and inclusion efforts.

VIII. Executive Session

Chair Pribyl requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss faculty tenure and the Board's Memorandum of Understanding with the Foundation. A motion was moved by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Szczurek. The motion carried. Provost Young, President Baca, and Senior Assistant AG Powell were invited to attend the 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.

Lunch with Student Athletes Advisory Council

Chair Pribyl reported on Executive Session. A motion was made by Trustee Buckley to approve tenure appointments for Drs. Kate Clark, Brian Coppess, Gary Van Guilder, Marc Rubin, and Steve Coughlin. Trustee Gutierrez seconded this motion. With no objection, the motion carried.

IX. Action Items

A. Personnel Action and Information Items

President Baca provided an overview of the personnel action and information item. This included emeritus recommendations for Drs. Al Caniff, Anthony Miccoli, and Kevin Alexander. A motion to approve personnel action including emeritus recommendation was made by Trustee Buckley. Trustee Szczurek seconded. The motion passed.

B. Ad-Hoc Committee on Policy

Trustee Szczurek presented recommendations for addition to the TPM section 1.3 related to issues of conflict of interest. Trustee Szczurek moved approval of the recommended additions and Trustee Gutierrez seconded. The motion passed. Discussion of the workplan and timeline of the Ad-Hoc Committee followed. The Board was in consensus that the Committee complete its work by the October 2023 Board Meeting. Future changes to the TPM will be initiated by legal counsel or the President's Office.

X. Discussion Topics

A. Colorado Trustee Network Overview

Sarah Hughes and Shelley Banker of the Colorado Trustee Network (CTN) presented on the organization and its role and mission. Trustee Blessman serves as the Western's liaison to the CTN. Information about future trainings and events will be shared with Trustees. Discussion followed.

B. 2023-2028 Strategic Plan Draft

President Baca described the process to date, and noted that feedback on goal initiatives had been elicited from the campus community. Senior Cabinet members provided brief overviews of the different initiatives under each goal. Discussion and questions followed, and Board members were asked to provide individual feedback to President Baca. Another discussion on the Strategic Plan will take place at the May meeting, and it is anticipated that the Board will be asked to approve the Plan at the June meeting.

C. Weapons Policy and Campus Safety Update

Due to time constraints, this was not discussed. Information was provided for Trustee review.

D. Elevate Western Campaign Update

Due to time constraints, this was not discussed. Information was provided for Trustee review.

E. Master Lease Agreement for Faculty/Staff Housing

VP of Advancement LaPlante shared the progress of the Short-Term Housing Initiative. Once all parties, including the AG's Office, have reviewed the final draft of the Master Lease, the Board will be asked to approve the agreement at a special meeting. Costs of the Master Lease were discussed, including the rates to be charged to faculty and staff. Institutional reserves were identified as the funding source to support this initiative. Western is also looking at a partnership with Gunnison Valley Health to build new housing on campus.

F. FY2023-24 Draft Current Fund Budgets

VP Finance and Administration Higgins presented draft Current Fund Budgets for FY2023-24. This included information on State Appropriations as approved by the Joint Budget Committee, and tuition rate increases approved by the Board in the February meeting. Expenditure increases included a 5% salary increase pool for all employee groups and mandatory adjustments to other operational lines. Based on all revenue and expenditure assumptions, the budget for the E&G Fund is balanced and the budgets for the auxiliary funds have positive net income of over \$900,000. Approval of the final budget will be sought in the May meeting.

IX. Written Reports

A. Enrollment Report

VP Enrollment Management Taylor provided data on current enrollment trends. A breakdown of admissions data among academic programs was provided and a discussion of moving prospective students from admits to deposited followed. Information was shared comparing Western tuition with out-of-state tuition at non-Colorado institutions.

B. Campus Updates

Dean Pierson presented an overview of campus updates and events. He provided a student wellness brochure to Trustees.

XII. Set Next Meetings Agenda: May 5, 2023

Due to time constraints, the agenda for the May meeting was not discussed.

XIII. Other Business

Draft performance metrics for President Baca were briefly discussed.

Chair Pribyl invited Trustees to underwrite a table at the Mountaineer Gala honoring Former Interim President and Trustee Nancy Chisholm.

VP Advancement LaPlante shared that the public phase of the Elevate Western campaign will launch in September with a campaign goal of \$80M.

XIV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07pm.