



# WESTERN

COLORADO UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Meeting Agenda**

**February 8, 2024**

**10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**The Oxford Hotel, Denver, Colorado**

## **I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pribyl at 10:05am.

## **II. Attendance**

Trustees: Trustee Blessman, Vice Chair Buckley, Student Trustee Engleman, Trustee Gutierrez, Trustee Hamner, Faculty Trustee Mason, Chair Pribyl, Trustee Szczurek, Trustee Vasquez, Trustee Wiens (zoom)

Non-Trustees: Brad Baca (President), Townes Bakke (Student Government Association Officer), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Mayela Cardenas (Professor of Art), Ashley Carlson (AVP Academic Affairs), Nancy Chisholm (Chair of Elevate Western Campaign), Simon Driver (Knowledge and Data Management Director) (zoom), Paul Giberson (Director of Retention and Completion) (zoom), Ian Higgins (VP Finance & Administration) (zoom), Kelli Kely (Politicalworks); Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Pat! Magee (Faculty Senate Chair), Steven Parker (VP Inclusivity) (zoom), Lauren Peach (First Assistant Attorney General), Natalie Powell (Senior Assistant AG), Caitlin Rovner (EA to the President), Carrie Shaw (Director of Financial Aid) (zoom), Jazz Tanner (Student Government Association Officer), Leslie Taylor (VP Marketing & Enrollment Management), Miles VanHee (Athletic Director) (zoom), James Young (Campus Audio-Visual Manager), Jess Young (Provost).

## **III. Approval of the Agenda**

A motion to approve the agenda as presented by President Baca, with an additional Executive Session agenda item was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes for the December 7, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting**

A motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2023 was made by Trustee Szczurek and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.

## **V. Review of Action Items from BOT Meeting of December 7, 2023**

President Baca provided updates to the presented action items. A discussion regarding the inclusion of tabletop exercises in future agendas followed. The Board Chair and President will determine whether to incorporate such exercises in future board meetings.

## **VI. Discussion Topics**

### **A. Elevate Western Campaign and Advancement Update**

VP Advancement LaPlante provided updates on Development, Alumni Relations and Career Services as well as the Elevate Western Campaign. Advancement highlights included hiring of Alicia Economos as the Major

Gifts Officer covering the Front Range. Updates on the Foundation included transfer of funds from Morgan Stanley to Fiducient, thorough board policy review, and AGB Foundation Leadership Forum attendance. Alumni Relations highlights included shift of Westerner to new digital platform and record Western Ski Weekend attendance. Career Services report addressed spring career and internship fair to be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>. VP LaPlante encouraged BOT to promote Western through social media. Campaign Chair Chisholm shared an update on campaign including 82% to goal and emphasized the utilization of new Blackbaud system to enhance sophistication of prospect identification and engagement. Chair Pribyl encouraged BOT to raise funds needed to cover the cost of President Baca's table at Mountaineer Gala and match Trustee Todd's challenge to raise \$3,500 - \$335/per plate. He also encouraged 100% participation in the campaign and walked through giving statistics. A campaign pledge typically is a multi-year commitment or a planned gift. He encouraged those who haven't done so to think about what they'd like to support and visit with VP LaPlante.

### **B. 2023-2028 Strategic Plan: Metrics and Targets**

President Baca provided updates on the development of metrics and five-year targets, and requested confirmation that presented metrics and targets meet Board approval. He reminded the Board that metrics and targets can be revisited if needed over the period of implementation. *A motion to adopt these metrics and five-year targets as presented was made by Trustee Hamner and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.*

## **VII. Action Items**

### **A. FY2024-25 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates and Initial Budget Scenarios**

VP Higgins provided an overview of tuition and fees, an explanation of Western's Education and General (E&G) funds, and an outline of initial budget scenarios. VP Higgins presented proposed FY2024-25 tuition, fee, room and board rates that were consistent with projected budget needs and legislative limitations. A motion to approve the provided tables of tuition, food service charges, housing charges, mandatory student fees, and other fees for FY2024-25 was made by Trustee Hamner and seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

### **B. Proposed Curriculum Changes for 2024-25**

Provost Young introduced AVP Ashley Carlson to the Board. She provided an overview of the process for curriculum changes and program review. Professor Cardenas described the process using her own proposal of for a design major. A motion to approve the curriculum changes as presented was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Szczurek. The motion carried.

## **Lunch**

## **VII. Action Continued**

### **C. Personnel Action and Information Items (completed before lunch)**

Provost Young explained the sabbatical process and answered questions. A motion to approve the provided personnel recommendations, including sabbaticals, was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Szczurek. The motion carried.

### **D. FY2024-25 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule and Administrative Calendar (completed before lunch)**

President Baca presented a meeting schedule based on discussion from the December 2023 Board meeting. A motion to adopt the FY2024-25 annual meeting schedule was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Vasquez. The motion carried.

### **E. Lease Agreement: 120 N. Iowa Street, Gunnison, CO**

President Baca presented information about a potential donation of the Masonic Lodge to the University, which would follow a lease of the property to Western. The presentation covered the proposed donation process, donor requirements, a discussion of potential uses of the property, and an overview of the property's condition and potential upgrade/maintenance needs, along with estimated costs. The Board discussed key considerations including the opportunity for community engagement and downtown revitalization, the length of time to University ownership, costs of renovations relative to estimated value, and ownership options (i.e., University vs. Foundation). A motion to approve the lease agreement and direct staff to continue to identify potential uses of the property and refine estimates of needed property improvements and associated costs was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

## **VIII. Oral Reports**

### **A. President**

President Baca gave updates on major accomplishments: the launch of the Mountaineer Promise, the progress towards establishing a nursing program, and the promotion of the rural funding initiative. He also reported on a fundraising trip to the West Coast, and provided an update on the student database platform conversion.

### **B. Board Chair**

Chair Pribyl confirmed that the Presidential Evaluation would be completed annually in the fall. He reminded Trustees of the April 13<sup>th</sup> Mountaineer Gala and encouraged attendance.

### **C. Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Engleman reported on bills in progress for the SGA. Work is underway to ensure that the General Education (GE) program is student focused, and to ensure that student feedback is provided for the Strategic Plan implementation. Applications for next year's SGA are opening in March, and voting will be in April. Committee work is being undertaken to make the bill process more efficient, and to develop transition materials (knowledge management) for the incoming cohort.

### **D. Faculty Trustee**

Faculty Trustee Mason provided information about early academic intervention for students based on initial assessment results. The 2024-2025 course schedule is being finalized, and some challenges are being presented with the Hurst Hall renovation. Faculty will start their performance review process soon. Trustee Mason also thanked administrative staff for their work supporting faculty.

### **E. Faculty Senate Chair**

Faculty Senate Chair Magee! listed recent priorities of the faculty senate including passing curriculum proposals which support the Strategic Plan initiative to reimagine the "core" (GE) and heighten relevance of a Western education through additional practical learning and certifications. Class schedules for fall and spring are being developed, and faculty evaluations and recommendations are underway. With the transition to a new student database platform, faculty are adjusting to a new advising software system.

### **F. Administrative Leadership Council (ALC) Chair**

Paul Giberson provided an update on ongoing projects of the ALC, including committee work. The Spirit Committee is engaged in morale-boosting initiatives, including planning the upcoming Distinguished

Mountaineer awards, which recognizes exemplary employees and is open to all Western faculty and staff. The Employment Enhancement Initiative is a new committee that is working with HR to assist employees in understanding their employment benefits. The Staff Representation group is looking to enhance the voice of administrative and classified staff in shared governance.

#### **G. Attorney General/Legal Report**

Senior Assistant AG Powell informed the Board that the State Services Section in the AG's Office had a new deputy appointed in September 2023, Jennifer Sullivan. Ms. Sullivan previously served as an assistant dean at the University of Colorado School of Law.

#### **H. Legislative Report**

Kelli Kelly provided an update of the 2024 legislative session. The total funding need for higher education governing boards to cover core minimum costs was discussed as well as Western's specific capital construction requests and other legislative priorities.

#### **I. Athletic Director**

Miles VanHee provided an update on spring NCAA student-athlete enrollment, and reported a 90% retention from fall. Western currently ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation (of approximately 300) NCAA D2 schools in the Learfield All Sports cup. He also reported on new personnel and inductions into the Hall of Fame, and provided an update on the Rady Family Sports Complex project.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

No public comments were submitted.

#### **X. Written Reports**

##### **A. Enrollment Report – Undergraduate Admissions**

##### **B. Financial and Capital Construction Report**

##### **C. Campus Updates**

#### **XI. Set Next Meeting Agenda: March 21, 2024**

A request to add the audit as a discussion item and the budget amendment as an action item was made.

#### **XII. Other Business**

Feedback on the itinerary for the events surrounding the February meeting, and the location of the meeting was discussed.

#### **XIII. Executive Session**

The following motion to enter into Executive Session was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

Description: To consider matters required to be kept confidential by federal or state law under section 24-6-402(3)(a)(III) of the Colorado Revised Statutes; to consider details of specialized security arrangements or investigations under section 24-6-402(3)(a)(IV), to consider personnel and individual student matters under section 24-6-402(3)(b)(I), and to receive legal advice under section 24-6-402(3)(a)(II) concerning the following topics:

- Status regarding threats reported to the University; and
- A recent personnel resignation.

As part of the motion, the Board will invite its counsel, President Baca, and Provost Young to join the session.

Following the executive session, Chair Pribyl noted that two personnel matters and recent threats to campus safety were discussed during Executive Session.

#### **XIV. Adjournment**

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 4:43pm.