



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2024 10:00 a.m. – 4:34 p.m.
University Center, Western Colorado University

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pribyl at 10:00am.

II. Attendance

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

Non-Trustees: Brad Baca (President), Craig Beebe (Residence Life Director), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Ashley Carlson (AVP Academic Affairs), Eliza Ekstrom-Sullivan (Adult Degree Completion Success Advisor-zoom), Jason Ellis (Moss Adams-zoom), Paul Giberson (Director of Retention and Completion), Brooke Hanks (Senior Lecturer in Education), Patricia Hartshorn (Interim Director of Restorative Justice and Title IX Coordinator), Ian Higgins (VP Finance & Administration), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks-zoom), Pat! Magee (Faculty Senate Chair), Steven D. Parker (VP Inclusivity), Natalie Powell (Senior Assistant AG-zoom), Chad Robinson (AVP & CIO), Caitlin Rovner (EA to the President), Terry Schliesman (Director of Adult Degree Completion), Alex Sturde (Audio-Visual Technician), Leslie Taylor (VP Marketing & Enrollment Management), Miles VanHee (Athletic Director), Marita Whalen (Equal Opportunity Officer), Dashawn Wilson (Interim Director of Campus Security), Terri Wenzlaff (Emeritus Professor of Teacher Education-zoom), James Young (Campus Audio-Visual Manager), Jess Young (Provost).

III. Approval of the Agenda

An amendment to the agenda was noted- Oral Report I. Legislative Report will be presented as the first oral report. A motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Todd. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of February 8, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of February 8, 2024 was made by Trustee Szczurek and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.

V. Review of Action Items from BOT Meeting of February 8, 2024

President Baca provided updates to the presented action items.

VI. Oral Reports

A. Legislative Report *(moved from end to beginning of Oral Reports)*

Kelli Kelty provided an update on the legislative budget process. It is anticipated that the Joint Budget Committee will finalize the Long Appropriations Bill within the next couple days. Tentative action

would provide Western with two construction projects. Operational appropriations for Higher Education have not been finalized.

B. President

President Baca provided information on the 2024 commencement speaker. He shared information about a \$1.5M grant that Western has received from Opportunity Now to establish a nursing program. Next steps include accreditation and exploration of additional funding partners. Gunnison Valley Health (GVH) will be partnering with Western, and will be providing clinical assistance, scholarship funding, and facilities for lab space. The program's first BSN cohort will start in Fall 2025. President Baca also provided an update on the Masonic Lodge donation which is scheduled for closing on Monday, March 25. He also reported on a Table-Top exercise which was conducted in conjunction with the Gunnison City Police Department on emergency preparedness and situations. The pending departure of VPI Parker was shared, and feedback on Western's direction with this work is being solicited from the campus community.

C. Board Chair

Chair Pribyl advised that the Board's AGB membership had expired, and asked for interest in continuing. After discussion, it was determined that this membership would not be renewed. He also reminded Trustees of the Mountaineer Gala on April 13th, and encouraged attendance and/or sponsorship of the event.

D. Student Trustee

Student Trustee Engleman provided updates on SGA's recent work. Bills have been passed including \$2K for Traumatic Stress Management Licensure. She provided updates on committee work, and on the SGA Election Season, which is now underway. Fall registration will be completed using Workday Student for the first time.

E. Faculty Trustee

Faculty Trustee Mason shared updates on advising and registration. The upcoming fall semester is the first instance of faculty using Workday Student for this process, and the retention of students is being prioritized. Faculty are also looking to the summer semester: planning research, teaching, field schools, summer camps, and working with summer programs on campus, such as the Teachers' Institute.

F. Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Trustee Chair Magee! reported on Standing Committees and Task Force activities. A variety of items are being put through the shared governance process. Work is being undertaken to develop and consider a new concept for the general education program, with engagement from faculty and students. The faculty senate approved a new model, known as the Watershed model, and this will be initiated in Fall 2025. More information about this new program will be presented to the Board at a later meeting. Workday is being used for fall advising. The Western leadership team also deserves to be recognized for their efforts to elevate sustainability on campus – including sustainability as a guiding principle for the strategic plan and finding resources for and committing to hiring a sustainability director, demonstrates a vision for a strategic path forward on sustainability growth and implementation.

G. Administrative Leadership Council Chair

ALC Chair Beebe provided updates on ACL activities. Workday is presently taking a significant amount of time and effort, and training is being sought before the rollout of Workday Student. The

Distinguished Mountaineer awards will be held in April which represents a chance for faculty and staff to get together in celebration. Professional development funds totaling \$4K have been allocated. An Ad-hoc committee to assess whether a Staff Senate would be beneficial has been working on surveying exempt and non-exempt staff, and will make a recommendation about whether this should move forward.

H. Athletic Director

Director VanHee provided updates on winter sports. Western students won a total of 10 All-American Titles during the winter sports season. Western is currently 7th among all NCAA Div II institutions in the Learfield Cup. Student-athletes are completing a survey on their Western experience, and results will be presented at the next Board meeting.

I. Attorney General/Legal Report

Ms. Powell summarized the recent extreme risk protection order hearings in which Western participated in February 2024. Ms. Powell discussed that a temporary and permanent extreme protection order was granted at the conclusion of those hearings.

VII. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

VIII. Executive Session

Chair Pribyl invited a motion under Sections 24-6-402(3)(a)(II) and 24-6-402(3)(b)(I) of the Colorado Revised Statutes to convene an executive session to receive legal advice and to consider personnel matters, specifically i. the president's recommendations on faculty tenure applications, and ii. certain potential future staffing changes.

As part of the motion, the Board will invite its voting trustees, its counsel, President Baca and Provost Young to the executive session. The motion was made by Trustee Buckley, and seconded by Trustee Todd. The motion carried.

At the commencement of the session, Chair Pribyl summarized that while in Executive Session, the Board was informed of an academic program change, and was presented with four tenure candidates.

A motion to approve granting tenure to the following faculty members effective July 1, 2024, was made by Trustee Buckley, and seconded by Trustee Wiens. The motion carried.

Steven Hughes, Director of Theatre and Assistant Professor of Communication Arts; Dr. Forest Mannan, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Dr. Jennifer DeBoer, Director, Outdoor Industry MBA; Assistant Professor of Business Administration – Strategy; Dr. Michelle Conway, Assistant Professor of Exercise & Sport Science.

IX. Action Items

A. Personnel Action and Information Items

A motion to approve the provided personnel recommendations, including administrative appointments and the granting of emeritus status, was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Wiens. The motion carried.

Lunch with ALP Students

IX. Action Items (cont.)

B. Revised FY2024-25 Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

President Baca presented a corrected meeting schedule based on the approved schedule from the February 2024 Board meeting. A motion to adopt the revised FY2024-25 annual meeting schedule was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Wiens. The motion carried.

Dean Pierson introduced Dashawn Wilson, Interim Director of Campus Security, to the Board.

C. Trustee Policy Manual and Handbook for Professional Personnel: Revisions Regarding Personnel Policies

Ms. Powell presented on proposed policy revisions and additions to the *Trustee Policy Manual* (TMP) and *Handbook for Professional Personnel*. She noted that Title IX changes are still pending at the federal level, and that a future update would need to be made. Discussion followed. A motion to approve the provided updated policies (subject to final copyediting) and incorporate these into the University's policy manuals was made by Trustee Todd and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.

D. Proposed Curriculum Change: Sport Management Certificate

A motion to approve the proposed curriculum change was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Buckley. The motion carried.

E. FY2023-24 Reserve Spending

VP Higgins provided an overview of current and future projects that require reserve funding. A motion to approve the additional one-time expenditures of \$145,800 from the E&G fund balance to begin the compensation plan project, \$875k from the Residence Life auxiliary fund balance to replace boilers in Chipeta Hall and the Mears Complex, and \$650k from the Cafeteria auxiliary fund balance to replace boilers in the University was made by Trustee Szczurek. The motion was not seconded. A motion to approve the additional one-time expenditures of \$1.1M from the E&G fund balance for Workday support, \$145,800 from the E&G fund balance to begin the compensation plan project, \$875k from the Residence Life auxiliary fund balance to replace boilers in Chipeta Hall and the Mears Complex, and \$650k from the cafeteria auxiliary fund balance to replace boilers in the University Center was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Buckley. A roll-call vote was taken: six yeas, one nay. The motion carried.

X. Discussion topics

A. FY2022-23 Financial and Compliance Audit

VP Higgins provided an overview of Western's auditing process. The office of the State Auditor contracts an independent firm to conduct an annual financial and compliance audit of Western Colorado University. Moss Adams LLP conducted the fiscal year 2022-23 audit. The audit included examinations of the basic financial statements of the University and a review of the University's internal controls. Jason Ellis, an Assurance Manager with Moss Adams shared a high-level overview of the audit, and took questions.

B. Housing Update

VP Higgins presented on long-term housing solutions, and outlined plans for construction on campus to develop housing through a combination of apartments and townhouses. He described three scenarios for funding for this project through various debt instruments. Discussion followed.

C. Academic Program Innovation

Directors Brooke Hanks, Terry Schliesman and Chrissie Nehrenberg were introduced by Provost Young to discuss academic innovations. Director of Teacher Education Hanks explained the traditional process of teacher education, and how Western's program structure differs. The innovative residency models have resulted in one of the strongest Education programs in the state which serves school districts in every CDE service region. In addition, the program has grown while the state has seen a precipitous decline in students enrolled in other teacher preparation programs. Adult Degree Completion Director Schliesman introduced team member Eliza Ekstrom-Sullivan and explained the Adult Degree Completion program. The program has grown rapidly from single digit enrollments 2 years ago to over 100 students served across the state today. Notably, it enables K-12 classroom aids to gain a degree and teacher education licensure without leaving their communities or school. A pre-recorded session by Chrissie Nehrenberg, Director of Concurrent Enrollment, was shared with the Board emphasizing the program's growth from serving the valley students to now having almost 4000 enrollments in over 50 high schools due to creating innovative hybrid instructor models. Questions were taken, and discussion followed.

Chair Pribyl delegated Vice Chair Buckley to lead the remainder of the meeting.

D. Trustee Policy Manual Revisions: Chapter 5, Academic Affairs

Provost Young provided an overview of policy changes in Ch. 5 of the *TPM*. These changes will be presented for Board consideration at the May, 2024 meeting. Advanced copies of changes will be provided if available.

XI. Written reports

A. Elevate Western Campaign Update

VP LaPlante was not in attendance at this meeting. The written report was provided in the Board Packet.

B. Enrollment Report-Undergraduate Admissions

VP Taylor gave an update on current deposits for Fall 2024 and shared the extended timeline for deposits due to the delay in FAFSA processing at the federal level. An update was also provided on success in social media initiatives and new web page that will highlight Western media mentions (western.edu/in-the-news).

XII. Set Next Meetings Agenda: May 3, 2024

XIII. Other Business

No other business was raised.

XIV. Adjournment

Vice Chair Buckley adjourned the meeting at 4:34pm.