



Special Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2025
9:00-10:00 a.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pribyl at 9:02am.

II. Attendance

Trustees: Chair Pribyl, Trustee Blessman, Vice Chair Buckley, Trustee Gutierrez, Faculty Trustee Mason, Student Trustee Tanner, Trustee Todd, Trustee Vasquez, Trustee Wiens.

Excused: Trustee Carver, Trustee Hamner.

Non-Trustees: Brad Baca (President), Ashley Carlson (AVP Academic Affairs), Steph Chichester (North Slope Capital Advisors), Laurel Fisher (ALC Representative), Ian Higgins (VP Finance & Administration), Mike LaPlante (VP Advancement), Gary Pierson (Dean of Students), Caitlin Rovner (EA to the President), Leslie Taylor (VP Marketing & Enrollment Management), Nick Taylor (North Slope Capital Advisors), James Young (Campus Audio-Visual Manager), Jess Young (Provost).

III. Approval of the Agenda

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

IV. Action Item

a. FY2025-26 Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates

VP Higgins presented proposed tuition, fees, room and board rates for FY2025-26. Proposed tuition rate changes comply with current caps submitted by the Governor's office for resident undergraduate students. Other proposed changes are consistent with information presented at the February Board meeting. The General Assembly has not yet set appropriation budgets for higher education which may require that tuition rate changes be revisited.

A motion to approve the requested increases to tuition, food service charges, housing charges, mandatory student fees, and other fees for FY2025-26 was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Blessman. Discussion followed. The motion carried.

V. Discussion

a. Long Term Housing Update: Bond Financing Overview

VP Higgins introduced Steph Chichester and Nick Taylor. VP Higgins provided an overview of the financial pro-forma, including rental rates, projected occupancy rates, and annual operating costs for the planned 36-unit housing project. Western's capital advisors, Steph Chichester and Nick Taylor from North Slope Capital, reviewed financing options including the recently completed request for information for direct placement of the loan with a bank. Discussion followed with the Board supporting continued work towards securing the funding through a direct placement with a bank.

b. Vice President of Advancement / Executive Director of the WCU Foundation

President Baca provided an overview of the search process for the Vice President of Advancement / Executive Director of the WCU Foundation position.

VI. Adjournment

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 10:01am.