



Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
University Center, Western Colorado University

I. Call to Order

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

II. Attendance

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

Non-Trustees: Brad Baca (President), Kelsey Bennett (AVP Academic Affairs), Ashley Carlson (AVP Academic Affairs), Marlo Frazier (School of Graduate Studies), Paul Giberson (Director of Retention & Completion), Patricia Hartshorn (Interim Director of Restorative Justice and Title IX Coordinator), Ian Higgins (VP Finance & Administration), Greg Hinze (Deputy Athletic Director), Shelley Jansen (Director of CLI), Kelli Kelty (Politicalworks-zoom), Pat! Magee! (Faculty Senate Chair), Steven D. Parker (VP Inclusivity), Natalie Powell (Senior Assistant AG-zoom), Caitlin Rovner (EA to the President), Alex Sturde (Audio-Visual Technician), Jazz Tanner (Incoming Student Trustee), Leslie Taylor (VP Marketing & Enrollment Management), Miles VanHee (Athletic Director), Katie Walters (EA to the Provost), Marita Whalen (Equal Opportunity Officer), Tiffanie Wick (Director of Library), James Young (Campus Audio-Visual Manager), Jess Young (Provost).

III. Approval of the Agenda

An amendment to the agenda was offered to switch Discussion Topics A and B in order. A motion to approve an amended agenda was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Szczurek. The motion carried.

IV. Approval of Minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of March 21, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes for the Board of Trustees meeting of March 21, 2024 was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Wiens. The motion carried.

V. Review of Action Items from BOT Meeting of March 21, 2024

President Baca provided updates to the presented action items. No questions were asked.

VI. Action Items

A. Personnel Action and Information Items

A motion to approve the personnel recommendations as presented was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Blessman. The motion carried.

B. FY2024-25 Current Fund Budgets

VP Higgins provided an update of the FY2023-24 budget, including a summary of the additional resources the Board approved in March to support the Enterprise Resource Planning software (ERP) transition. He provided an overview of the proposed FY2024-25 budgets, and shared that the rural ask from Western, Fort Lewis, and Adams was approved. The proposed budget included a 3% increase in faculty and staff salaries, funding to support mandated cost increases, and a \$1.5M allocation for strategic initiatives to be determined by the senior leadership team. Net revenues for the FY2024-25 current funds budget is \$607K. Questions and discussion followed. A motion to approve the FY2024-25 current fund budgets as presented was made by Trustee Szczurek and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion carried.

C. FY2025-26 Capital and Controlled Maintenance Requests

VP Higgins provided an overview of state capital construction funding. Staff proposed that one capital construction project and three controlled maintenance projects be submitted as Western's FY2025-26 capital request. The request includes renovation of the Leslie J. Savage library (\$42.6M), a campus electrical upgrade (\$1.3M), campus roadway rehabilitation (\$2.9M), and phase two of the exterior lighting project (\$1.8M). No IT request will be submitted. A motion to approve the proposed controlled maintenance and capital priorities and authorize staff to continue to refine estimates and submit by requisite deadlines was made by Trustee Blessman and seconded by Trustee Buckley. The motion carried.

D. Trustee Policy Manual Revisions: Chapter 5

Provost Young and Assistant AG Natalie Powell presented a revised version of Chapter 5: Academic Affairs of the *Trustee Policy Manual*. The revisions included a new intellectual property policy and elimination of subsections that are no longer consistent with Colorado Department of Higher Education Policies or state law. In addition, proposed was removal of process details not commonly found in other institutions' manuals. Discussion followed, including expressed appreciation for the inclusion of an intellectual property policy and for simplification and clarity of the new chapter. Concern was expressed that the proposed policies did not allow Trustees approval authority to discontinue academic programs. A motion to require Board approval of academic program discontinuation was made by Trustee Szczurek and seconded by Trustee Gutierrez. The motion failed in a rollcall vote. A motion to approve the revised Academic Affairs Chapter 5 of the *Trustee Policy Manual* as presented by staff was made by Trustee Buckley and seconded by Trustee Hamner. The motion carried on a rollcall vote.

E. Resolution of Appreciation

President Baca presented the following Resolution of Appreciation to the Board. A motion to approve the resolution was made by Trustee Blessman, and seconded by Trustee Buckley. The motion carried. The resolution was signed by Chair Pribyl and President Baca.

Resolution Of the Board of Trustees of Western Colorado University

Whereas, Kelli Kelty, a senior associate at Politicalworks, has been the lead legislative liaison for Western Colorado University since 2014; and

Whereas, Kelli Kelty's exceptional expertise in political strategy and communication has significantly contributed to the advancement of Western's goals and objectives, providing invaluable guidance and insight that has proven integral to our legislative success; and

Whereas, Kelli Kelty's passion for education, advocacy, and public service has served as an inspiration to colleagues, placing her as one of the most highly regarded lobbyists within the Higher Education Legislative Liaison group, affectionately known as HELL; and

Whereas, Kelli Kelty has been instrumental in facilitating meaningful partnerships and collaborations between Western Colorado University and various stakeholders, including other institutions of higher

education, effectively enhancing Western's visibility and impact on a local, regional, and statewide level; and

***Whereas**, during the 2024 regular session of the Colorado General Assembly, Kelli Kelty led a collaborate advocacy effort to establish a rural funding component within the higher education funding model, securing an increase in operational funding of \$4.5 million for Western, the largest increase in funding in our 123-year history; and*

***Whereas**, this funding increase will allow Western the ability to initiate measures that will improve student success and outcomes and will help realize Goal 4 of Western's strategic plan "Ensure Financial Strength and Support Enrollment Growth"; and*

***Whereas**, the Board of Trustees wishes to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Kelli Kelty and the entire Politicalworks team for their outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to excellence as Western's legislative liaisons;*

***Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Board of Trustees of Western Colorado University declares May 3, 2024 as "Kelli Kelty Appreciation Day" and extends its deepest appreciation to Kelli Kelty for her exemplary contributions and tireless dedication to advancing the mission and vision of our institution; and*

***Be it further resolved**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kelli Kelty as a token of our sincere appreciation and be it further noted in the official records of the Board of Trustees.*

***Passed and Adopted**, this third day of May, two thousand and twenty-four.*

F. Election of Officers for 2024-25: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer

A motion to reelect Trustee James Pribyl as Chair, Trustee Kara Buckley as Vice Chair, President Baca as Secretary, and VP Higgins as Treasurer of the Western Board of Trustees was made by Trustee Gutierrez and seconded by Trustee Wiens. The motion carried.

VII. Discussion Topics

A. Alternative Funding Sources and Unique Programs

The administrative team of Laura Kerr, Director of Sponsored Programs and Grants, Greg Hinze, Deputy Director of Athletics, Shelley Jansen, Director of Center for Learning and Innovation, and Marlo Frazier, Executive Director of Graduate Studies were introduced by Provost Young who described how each of the programs contributed to the strategic plan and to the Education and General fund. Each staff member provided an overview of their program, how the program supported the strategic plan, and provided both indirect and direct value to the institution and broader Gunnison Community.

B. Enrollment Report

Vice President Taylor provided a written report on the current status of admitted and deposited students. Her oral presentation focused on the deposit gaps for first-generation, underrepresented minority, and Colorado resident students. She illustrated the impact of the FAFSA delays on deposits for those populations and the strategies in place to focus on narrowing the gaps.

Lunch with newly tenured and emeritus faculty

VII. Discussion Topics cont.

C. Elevate Western Campaign and Advancement Update

VP LaPlante Mike reported on Advancement activities since the last meeting including our Career Services team hosting a spring career fair (35 companies), Alumni Relations April launch of a new online platform for the Westerner Alumni Magazine, and the successful execution of the Foundation's 4th annual Mountaineer Gala, which set a record by raising over \$200,000. The Foundation team continued its operational improvements by establishing a new scholarship policy as well. The Elevate

Western Campaign continues to make strides towards it's \$80M goal by eclipsing the \$67M mark (84% to goal).

VIII. Written reports

A. Campus Updates

IX. Oral Reports

A. President

President Baca shared that Western's authority to offer an Associate of General Studies (AGS) degree per the Colorado Re-Engaged (CORE) initiative was approved by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), allowing Western students who stopped out and completed at least 70 hours to earn an AGS degree as early as this fall. The Geosciences Graduate Certificate was also approved by the HLC. Western will host the CU Board of Regents and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education over the summer. He provided updates on the Masonic Lodge, and reported that a taskforce will be launched to look at programmatic opportunities.

B. Board Chair

Chair Pribyl thanked Student Trustee Engleman for her contributions to the Board, and for her representation of the Student Government Association (SGA).

C. Student Trustee

Student Trustee Engleman introduced Jazz Tanner as the incoming Student Trustee. She also referenced the officers elected in the SGA. A significant change to the constitution is that a Grad Student Advisor will be added to the SGA, so representation across campus via shared governance will be ensured. She also reported on the results of a survey that was sent to gather feedback from students on the SGA. Students are interested in events that represent a diversity of perspectives, promote community involvement, and would like these to be better promoted/advertised. Students also would like to see how best to balance all areas of their experience, including mental health. Students reported that the SGA supports diverse groups and a feeling of inclusion.

Incoming Student Trustee Tanner introduced herself to the Board.

D. Faculty Trustee

Faculty Trustee Mason thanked the Board for their trust in the shared governance process. He reported on end-of-year activities, including finals and grade submissions. More than 40 summer courses are being offered, and the supplemental income faculty will receive from these is essential for meeting cost-of-living demands.

E. Faculty Senate Chair

Faculty Senate Chair Magee! reported that shared governance elections are complete, with most service roles filled. The majority of Senate seats are also filled. A new taskforce working on an improved faculty evaluation system has been formed. Faculty Senate has approved new Leave Policies, aligning these with state and federal laws, and these changes appear to be faculty- and staff-centric. Bylaws regarding the restructuring of the General Education committee have also been passed. Chair Magee! also reported on sustainability efforts, and made recommendations for Western to prioritize this work in order to reach the goal of meeting carbon neutrality by 2050. He recommended achieving 40% reduction by 2028, at the end of the Strategic Plan.

F. Administrative Leadership Council Chair

Paul Giberson presented on behalf of ALC Chair, Craig Beebe. He reported on the ALC's activities, including the Distinguished Mountaineer Awards, where exceptional staff and faculty are acknowledged, including teams. Years of service are also acknowledged at this event. The Staff Senate Working Group expanded from only ALC members to include staff from other departments representing both administrative professionals and state classified staff. The group is currently drafting a constitution and bylaws to continue exploring viability of a Staff Senate at Western. The Employee Enhancement Experience (E3) launched their monthly newsletter. The newsletter includes local business specials, provides reminders about employee benefits, introduces our newest employees, and highlights noteworthy events.

G. Athletic Director

Director Van Hee provided updates on athletic performances. He also shared data about the Student-Athlete Portal, which was requested during the February Board Meeting. Use of the portal in 2023-2024 has decreased, so retention is up for this student-athletes. The results of the Student-Athlete Survey have been shared with coaches and staff.

H. Attorney General/Legal Report

Assistant Attorney General Natalie Powell reported back to the Board on two inquiries from the Board's March meeting. First, Ms. Powell reported that the CU Board of Regents is continuing discussion on banning permitted concealed carry firearms on campus, but had not made a decision. She also reported that pending Senate Bill 24-131, if passed, may prohibit concealed-carry on college and university campuses statewide. Second, Ms. Powell discussed SB 24-157 regarding changes to Colorado's open meetings law, and that those changes do not appear to impact the Board. Lastly, Ms. Powell updated the Board that the Department of Education recently published its amendments to the Title IX regulations. Those regulations take effect August 1, 2024. The Attorney General's Office will be working with Western to update our policies prior to August 1st.

I. Legislative Report

Kelli Kelty provided a recap of the 2024 legislative session, highlighting the higher education funding outcomes, including funding for the rural ask and the Crawford Hall renovation, as well as other pieces of legislation impacting Western.

Chair Pribyl read the Resolution of Appreciation to Kelli Kelty

X. Public Comment

No public comments were submitted.

XI. Set Next Meeting's Agenda: June 27-28, 2024

XII. Other Business

No other business was raised.

XIII. Adjournment

Chair Pribyl adjourned the meeting at 3:01pm.