



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.

John A. and Telitha E. Lindquist Alumni Center | William H. Child Garden Room
Hybrid Meeting

Trustee Members:

Ms. Kearston Cutrubus (Chair)
Ms. Karla Bergeson (Vice Chair)
Mr. Brent Bishop (via Zoom)
Ms. Amanda Covington (via Zoom)
Ms. Louenda Downs
Ms. Karen Fairbanks
Mr. Ben Ferney
Mr. Curtis Funk
Mr. Don Salazar
Mr. Keith Titus (via Zoom)

Excused:

Weber State University Representatives:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President
Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost
Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology
Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement
Ms. Adrienne Andrews
Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board
Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Chemistry
Dr. Gail Niklason – Staff Association Council Chair/Executive Director, Office of Institutional Effectiveness
Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Bryce Barker, Director of Internal Audit (via Zoom)

Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications

Dr. Wendy Holliday, Dean of the Stewart Library

Dr. Amy Buckway, RN-BSN Program Director/Associate Professor, Nursing

Dr. Leslie Park, Executive Director, Student Success Center

Dr. Sandra Fital-Akelbek, Professor/Chair/Mathematics

Dr. Eric Amsel, Associate Provost and Professor of Psychology

Ms. Aubrey Lord, Administrative Associate, Provost's Office

Mr. Allen Lore, Director/Continuing Education IT

Mr. Weston Larsen, Computer Network Specialist

Guests:

Ms. Jesselie Anderson, Board Member, Utah State Board of Higher Education (via Zoom)

Ms. Anna Greenwood, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Ms. Catherine Sanchez-Guadarrama, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Public Attendees:

Mr. Jeremy Shinoda, Ogden City Diversity Commissioner (via Zoom)

Press:

No press were present

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Ms. Karla Bergeson, Vice Chair. She welcomed all in attendance and asked for identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest after viewing the agenda today. Hearing none, Vice Chair Bergeson then reminded meeting attendees that microphones are all around us and recording everything including conversations in the room, as the meeting is publicly recorded. She then continued through the agenda.

Full Board Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval (October 26, 2021):**

Meeting minutes from October 26, 2021, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Ms. Louenda Downs to approve the meeting minutes from October 26, 2021, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously.

Information**College Liaison Report:**

Trustee Brent Bishop, as liaison to the Stewart Library, introduced Dr. Wendy Holliday, dean. Dean Holliday gave a review of the library and reported on how they are assisting students, using the textbook lending library, and improving conditions of learning.

Trustees were encouraged to support Friends of the Stewart Library. The goal of this organization is to engage the community and faculty to support the library and help special collections have a history of the Ogden area while bringing it to the community

Special Topic – Retention and Completion Strategies:

Provost Ravi Krovi gave a presentation on Retention and Completion Strategies. He referred to the Student Success Steering Committee, who sits on the committee, and their six focus areas. Also included in the provost's report were key goals for 2025-26, retention initiatives in quantitative literacy and math placement, and early response technology initiatives. Dr. Sandra Fital-Akelbek and Ms. Leslie Park joined in the presentation discussion on these topics. Early response technology initiatives were also discussed and program data shared with the trustees. Starfish was discussed along with examples of how it functions.

Faculty Presentation – Dumke College of Health Professions:

A faculty presentation was given by Dr. Amy Buckway from the Dumke College of Health Professions on retention and graduation. Dr. Buckway shared the following in her report: Number of degrees awarded from 2017-2021, discussion of the quality of students DCHP works with and graduates from its program, retention rates, and retention strategies.

Meeting Minutes Review:

Meeting minutes were reviewed from the Conflict of Interest Committee meeting on Oct. 6, 2021 and the Community Relations committee on Oct. 27, 2021. Vice Chair Bergeson thanked the committees for preparing and sharing the minutes.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report:

President Mortensen shared the following highlights from his report:

- a. Introduction of Presidential Leadership Fellows Ms. Anna Greenwood and Catherine Sanchez-Guaterrama.
- b. Updates on students of color with the sit in at Shepherd Union after signs were posted on the building. A statement was sent to campus concerning this situation. John Kowalewski, Provost Krovi and President Mortensen spent time listening and holding meetings to hear student needs and how we can communicate better with them. The equity review report from Dr. Reggie Blaylock was also shared with them.
- c. Our strategic plan needs to add more equity components to determine goals and metrics.
- d. Staff are asking for assistance on how to handle issues. We need to identify spaces where staff are being conflicted and not able to voice what they are dealing with. Adrienne Andrews, Vice President Perozzi, and Provost Krovi have committed to being advocates in this process as we work to make progress on these fronts.
Vice Chair Bergeson stated: "We support the university's actions and do not support racism on any level. If there are ways to make improvements, get them done. We support transparency and change." Ben Ferney has been tireless in his efforts to be an advocate with the students.
- e. Questions were asked by the trustees concerning winter convocation. Betsy Mennell gave information on the schedule and reiterated that it will be held one day only, on Dec. 17, 2021. Email instructions will be coming from Becky Thompson to the trustees.

Alumni Report:

Trustee and Alumni President, Curtis Funk, welcomed everyone to the home of the Alumni Association in the John A. and Telitha E. Lindquist Alumni Center. He gave praise to the leadership for the Alumni Association, including Nancy Collinwood.

Staff Association Council (SAC) Report:

Staff Association Council (SAC) Chair Gail Niklason discussed the SAC report. SAC is working to amplify the voice of staff to make sure they have a place to be heard and deal with challenges they are facing. Improvement with child care for staff that have children in university care is being facilitated.

WSUSA Report:

Trustee and WSUSA President, Ben Ferney reported that 1- One of the PLF's sang last week and has an incredible voice. He was hoping she would be in attendance today to give her a shout out. 2- Student fee recommendation committee has been formed with students and faculty with training taking place next week. 3- Student Senate passed a bill and accepted a petition to create a LGBTQ+ Student Senator position to join the existing Student Senate leadership. This is being processed through the student body Supreme Court and required 314 signatures to pass. President Ferney recognized the bravery of the students who participated in the Shepherd Union sit in. The students appreciate President Mortensen and that he is listening and taking notes when they speak. They feel he is so focused and tirelessly selfless in his efforts.

Vice Chair Bergeson asked that if Ben can think of ways for the trustees to better understand students or assist him in his role, to let us know.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were listed for review with questions on the format for winter graduation. Vice President Betsy Mennell reiterated that graduation will be one day only on Dec. 17, with convocations held with separate colleges. Trustees and administrators will be used as much as possible to participate with the different colleges. ROTC students will be joining USU for their partnership at the Brigham City campus. A schedule will be sent out soon to the trustees by Becky Thompson.

The Utah Board of Higher Education dinner and review for President Mortensen will be November 18 in Shepherd Ballroom C.

Business Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Don Salazar

- a. WSU Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report**
The Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report was reviewed without any discussion.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report made by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion was unanimously approved.

- b. WSU Housing Services Proposed Rates – August 2022 through July 2023**
WSU housing services proposed rates of a 2.5% housing increase and 3.3% dining increase for the University and Wildcat Villages. Discussion concerning how occupancy and increases are determined took place.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the WSU housing services proposed rates for August 2022 through July 2023 made by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Ms. Kearston Cutrbus, the motion was unanimously approved.

Consent Calendar

The consent calendar items were reviewed by the Board of Trustees. Vice President Norm Tarbox gave a brief financial report. This report may change to quarterly rather than a monthly report in the future as recommended by trustees. It may be treated as a regular action item depending on time.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Mr. Don Salazar with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Information Items

Information items were reviewed without discussion.

Academic Policy Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Louenda Downs

- a. There were no action items to report from the committee for this meeting. The meeting minutes from Oct. 26, 2021, were reviewed without discussion.

Other

Other items discussed:

- a. President Mortensen mentioned that the Honorary Degree Committee met last Friday, Nov. 12, 2021, and forwarded nominees for 2022 honorary degrees and commencement speakers. President Mortensen has not had the opportunity to check with nominees on availability and hopes to present names in January for Board approval.
- b. President Mortensen discussed an upcoming meeting on Monday, Nov. 29, 2021. A Joint Legislative Breakfast will be held at Davis Campus where legislators have been invited to attend prior to the 2022 sessions. This is the first time an event combining all seven school districts and higher education institutions together for a meeting has taken place. Being united together as one voice and showing our ability to work together with our partnerships will be a powerful statement.
- c. Dr. Tia Brown McNair will be the keynote at the Jan. 13, 2022, Student Success Speaker Series. A lunch meeting with the trustees has been scheduled that day prior to her speaking.
- d. WSU is hosting a post-season volleyball tournament for the first time in history this weekend. The team is doing extremely well.
- e. Betsy Mennell discussed a pre-game dinner being held at the Dee Events Center on Dec. 18, 2021, for the BYU vs. WSU basketball game. Local legislators and trustees are invited to attend.
- f. Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair, reported that there are many things committees are working on at this time. There has been a lot of conversation to make sure our students are all feeling welcome and have a place on campus. There is a great deal of support coming from faculty.

Adjourn

With no other business or items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.