



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

January 25, 2021 – 9:30 a.m. Jack D. Lampros Hall for Teaching, Learning & Technology
Room 201 | Hybrid Meeting

Trustee Members:

Ms. Kearston Cutrubus (Chair)

Ms. Karla Bergeson (Vice Chair)

Mr. Brent Bishop

Ms. Amanda Covington

Ms. Louenda Downs

Ms. Karen Fairbanks (via Zoom)

Mr. Ben Ferney

Mr. Curtis Funk

Mr. Keith Titus

Excused:

Mr. Don Salazar

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 (via Zoom)

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

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. Rich Hill, General Counsel

Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications

Dr. Deborah Uman, Dean of Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities

Dr. Laura Thompson, Executive Director of Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action

Dr. Tamara Goldbogen, Beverley Taylor Sorenson Endowed Chair for Arts Learning

Guests:

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

Mr. Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commission of Higher Education & General Counsel at Utah System of Higher Education

Ms. Steffine Amodt, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Ms. Madilyn Topik, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Ms. Mellissa Hinrichs, 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 9:42 a.m. by Ms. Kearston Cutrubus, Chair. She welcomed all in attendance and asked for identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest after viewing the agenda. Hearing none, Chair Cutrubus then continued through the agenda.

Full Board Agenda Items

Meeting Minutes Approval

a. November 17, 2021:

Meeting minutes from the Full Board of Trustees meeting on November 17, 2021, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Ms. Louenda Downs to approve the meeting minutes from November 17, 2021, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously.

b. Executive Committee – January 18, 2022

Meeting minutes from the Executive Committee meeting on January 18, 2022, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Mr. Brent Bishop to approve the meeting minutes from January 18, 2022, with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion passed unanimously.

Information

College Liaison Report:

Trustees Mr. Ben Ferney and Mr. Keith Titus, as liaisons to the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities, introduced Dr. Deborah Uman, dean. Dean Uman gave a review of the college along with a presentation on the three p's; purpose, play & potential. She discussed the value of discipline and the efforts to expand access to co-curricular and extra-curricular activities for belonging, diversity, and exercise of body and mind. The Matthew S. Browning Center for Design is receiving upgrades. Dean Uman also reported on new programs in Dance Movement Therapy, and an AS in Sound Production/Recording.

Challenges discussed focused on teachers being front-line workers during the pandemic. Trustees were encouraged to support the Lindquist College of Arts & Humanities by acting as advocates and attending events.

Special Topic – Title IX Updates:

Dr. Laura Thompson gave a presentation on Title IX Updates. She showed several

lawsuit examples at other state institutions, which caused us to look at our internal processes with the Women's Center, Weber State University Police Department, Title IX coordinator, Legal Counsel, and AA/EO to ensure we are proactive in our efforts. She referenced the Strategic Threat and Response (STAR) Team that meets on a weekly basis and discusses any and all cases even not within our own university. There has been an increase in cases involving sexual harassment and sexual assault over 2020 with the reopening of campus. AA/EO conducted roughly two training presentations per month in 2021 to all new employees, academic departments' faculty and staff, division salaried and hourly employees, and to athletic coaches and staff. Dr. Thompson referred to USHE Title IX coordinators' quarterly meetings where model policy, resources, and collaboration are discussed. She answered Trustees questions on statistics at Weber State and culture and how speech fits into our culture. Fliers and messages are screened and approved for appropriateness.

Faculty Presentation – Worldwide Sabbatical Experiences:

A faculty presentation was given by Dr. Tamara Goldbogen, from the Lindquist College of Arts and Humanities on her sabbatical during the pandemic. Dr. Goldbogen shared the different experiences she had including, creating (a) a Theatre for the Very Young (TVY) piece in the University of Texas, (b) a virtual drama-based pedagogy winter intensive in Taiwan, (c) and an in-person Interdisciplinary Applied Drama Institute in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Foundational content was shared with people in different countries speaking different languages with the use of translators and Zoom for virtual communication. The Beverley Taylor Sorenson Arts program is doing work to influence the community. A total of \$135,000 in grants was submitted during her sabbatical, and the Arts Learning Collaborative received the Sorenson Legacy Award for Exemplary Arts Program and the Ogden Mayor's Award for Arts in Education.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report:

President Mortensen shared the following highlights from his report:

- a. Introduction of Presidential Leadership Fellows Ms. Steffine Amodt, Ms. Mellissa Hinrichs, and Ms. Madilyn Topik, who each took a few moments to introduce themselves.
- b. Congratulations were extended to the new Vice President of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Adrienne Andrews for her new role at the university.
- c. Preliminary findings from the diagnostic assessment conducted by Dr. Tim Rennick of the National Institute for Student Success (NISS) at Georgia State University included four challenges: (a) Lack of disaggregation between Associate and Bachelor students, (b) Persistent equity gaps for Pell-eligible and non-white students, (c) Under-coordinated financial aid and advising, and (d) Inadequate data resources.
- d. Activities surrounding the creation of the venture capital fund, for which the Board of Trustees approved an interlocal agreement at the Aug. 9, 2021, board meeting,

have been placed on hold. It is anticipated this will need to have a cooling-off period of at least six months, and further guidance has been requested from outside securities counsel. The reason for the hold is that the securities law private placement exemption we were relying upon has been temporarily eliminated due to a media article and associated LinkedIn posts advertising the fund.

- e. We are trying to keep things open on campus that have been previously scheduled with COVID-19, despite the highest case counts ever. The Utah Department of Health has set up testing in the Dee Events Center parking lot Monday-Friday. We are also conducting our own testing on campus in the Shepherd Union. Events parking lot Monday-Friday, with testing being done on campus.

Alumni Report:

Trustee and Alumni President, Curtis Funk, had no additional comments on the Alumni Association Report.

Staff Association Council (SAC) Report:

Staff Association Council (SAC) Chair Gail Niklason discussed salary comparison reports for staff that are being conducted. The council is looking forward to hearing the results of this study.

WSUSA Report:

Trustee and WSUSA President, Ben Ferney reported that the Davis campus representative was impeached due to a list of concerns from students. WSUSA Supreme Court went through due process with the committee. The position is vacant for the spring semester.

Faculty Senate:

Faculty Senate Chair, Laine Berghout was asked to report on faculty. He discussed that it is difficult to make determinations on how to handle courses with the pandemic. Faculty are struggling and there is not a uniform answer as the dynamics of each course are different. Faculty have been encouraged to make the best decision for the students based on the course and the dynamics involved.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were listed for review without discussion.

Academic Policy Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Louenda Downs

Trustee Louenda Downs shared the discussion from the committee related to what the charge of the Trustees is. Item VI on the agenda, FY22 Course Fee Proposals, has been held and will not have action taken today and will be tabled until the next meeting. Ravi Krovi reviewed and proposed the following action items:

a. Certificates:

- 1. Paraeducator Certificate of Proficiency**
- 2. Certificate in Sustainable Land Use Planning**

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Paraeducator Certificate of Proficiency and the Certificate in Sustainable Land Use Planning made by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Wasatch Writers Center

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Wasatch Writers Center made by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Ms. Amanda Covington, the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Fashion Merchandising Minor Program Discontinuance

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Fashion Merchandising Minor Program Discontinuance made by Mr Curtis Funk, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion was unanimously approved.

d. Program Reviews

- 1. English**
- 2. Health Sciences**
- 3. Mathematics**
- 4. Management Information Systems**

ACTION: On a motion to approve the four Program Reviews made by Mr. Keith Titus, with a second by Ms. Amanda Covington, the motion was unanimously approved.

e. Department Chair Recommendation – Dr. MaryBeth Willard

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Department Chair Recommendation of Dr. MaryBeth Willard made by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a

second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion was unanimously approved.

f. 2022-23 Sabbatical Requests

Questions about sabbatical requests were answered by Provost Krovi concerning what they are, benefits to and financial commitments for the college, the application and vetting process, and approvals. The scope of work needs to be relevant to the faculty member's area of study. Faculty and students both benefit from professional development. Provost Krovi shared that deans ranked the sabbatical proposals from each of their colleges, and 30 of the 37 proposals have been brought forward for approval. We compete against other institutions to hire and retain faculty, and providing sabbaticals is one element to develop and keep the best faculty we can have.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the 2022-23 Sabbatical Requests made by Mr. Ben Ferney, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion was unanimously approved.

g. Information Items

1. Information items included the Academic Policy Committee meeting minutes from November 17, 2021, which passed.
2. Discussion included concerns that meeting materials are not getting out soon enough to Trustees, which limits the time they have to review everything in the packet.

Business Committee

ACTION Items: Vice Chair Karla Bergeson

Vice Chair Karla Bergeson served as the Business Committee Chair on behalf of Mr. Don Salazar, who was excused from the meeting. Vice President Norm Tarbox presented the following action items for review and approval:

a. Financial Reports, Quarterly Reports, and Coaches Salaries

1. **Financial Reports (October/November 2021)**
2. **Quarterly Construction Report**
Many construction projects are currently underway and being developed.
3. **Quarterly Athletic Report**
Vice President Tarbox talked about goals the athletic department has for all student-athletes.
4. **Coaches Salaries**

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Financial Reports, Quarterly

Construction Report, Quarterly Athletic Report, and Coaches Salaries made by Ms. Amanda Covington, with a second by Mr. Brent Bishop, the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar items were reviewed by the Board of Trustees without discussion.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Mr. Curtis Funk, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion was Unanimously approved.

c. Information Items

Information items were passed during the Business Committee meeting. It was mentioned that the board relies on the committees to drill down and ask questions in their meetings, as all cannot be in attendance during both committee meetings.

Closed Meeting Session

A motion to hold a closed meeting was made by Vice Chair Karla Bergeson, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs. Trustees Kearston Cutrubus, Karla Bergeson, Karen Fairbanks, Amanda Covington, Louenda Downs, Brent Bishop, Curtis Funk, Ben Ferney, and Keith Titus voted unanimously to continue with a closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of individuals and to discuss strategy regarding pending or reasonably imminent litigation.

ACTION: A motion to adjourn the closed session and move into open session was made by Ms. Louenda Downs with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney. The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to end the closed session and move into open session.

Other

No other items were brought forth for discussion.

Adjourn

With no other business or items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at noon.