



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2022 – 9:30 a.m. Davis Campus Bldg. D2 - Room 110
2750 University Park Blvd. Layton, UT 84401 | Hybrid Meeting

Trustee Members:

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

Excused:

Ms. Amanda Covington

Weber State University Representatives:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President
Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost
Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology (via Zoom)
Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs
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. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications
Dr. Yasmen Simonian, Dean of Dumke College of Health Professions (via Zoom)
Dr. Yimin Wang, Dean/Senior International Officer
Dr. Christian Hearn, Associate Professor/Electrical and Computer Engineering
Mr. Jason Francis, Associate Professor/Health Sciences Librarian
Mr. Joe Salmond, Sr. Media Developer
Mr. Alan Ferrin, Creative Academic Technology Solutions Senior Manager

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. Hannah Olsen, Presidential Leadership Fellow
Mr. Riley Swain, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Public Attendees:

Mr. Jeremy Shinoda (via Zoom)

Press:

No press were present

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m. by Chair Kearston Cutrubus. 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. March 22, 2022:**

Meeting minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on March 22, 2022, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Ms. Louenda Downs to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously.

b. April 8, 2022, Executive Committee:

Meeting minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on April 8, 2022, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Mr. Ben Ferney to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, with a second by Ms. Karla Bergeson, the motion passed unanimously.

Information**College Liaison Report:**

Vice Chair Karla Bergeson, serving as a liaison to the Dumke College of Health Professions, introduced Dr. Yasmen Simonian, dean. Dean Simonian gave a review of the college along with a presentation that included (a) official accreditation of the DNP program, (b) programs listed in the top five of WSU's top ten degree programs for the past five years, (c) spring 2022 graduation will include the first cohort from the nursing program, (d) an update on the PA program which has faculty and staff hired, with 450 students applying for 20 spots in the program, and (e) the study abroad project that took place in Ghana, Africa to create a safe place for children being rescued.

Challenges discussed included the need for more clinical sites and faculty lines to increase enrollment for the shortage of the healthcare workforce and offer continuing education. The legislature allotted \$2 million in funding to expand programs to allow for more nursing students. Using the summer semester in 2021 for the nursing program has expanded the WSU cohort by 96 students.

Special Topic – Internationalization of WSU:

Dean/Senior International Officer Yimin Wang gave a presentation on the Internationalization of WSU. Our basic model is called “comprehensive internationalization with global learning and perspectives with data-informed decision making.” Global partnerships have been strengthened and expanded even through the pandemic via Zoom. WSU currently has 86 robust streamlined international partners. Some are in the top 20 business schools in the world. This gives students opportunities to study at these institutions at WSU rates and allows their credits to transfer back to WSU. Weber State ranks 2nd in the state next to the UofU for international programs. The State Department ranks WSU among the top 20 masters’ universities in the United States for study abroad participation. Global learning can be incorporated into students’ schedules and it can be added to their transcript, even for those who are not able to study abroad. We use what we have on campus to integrate and nurture local-global connections and well-rounded functioning global citizens.

Faculty Presentation – Student Success in Engineering:

Dr. Christian Hearn gave a presentation on the engineering department. He expressed the need to change the perception of engineering technology at WSU with the local community and parents. The engineering program produces a high rate of employment in Utah and for Hill Air Force Base. There is a current need for many engineers in the local economy. Dr. Hearn attended WSU’s sister school, Hof University in Germany, during his sabbatical. During the trip, there was an assertive campaign by Germans to recruit technical engineers to assist their economy as there is a noticeable shortage of young technical engineers. There is a noticeable shortage here in Northern Utah as well. Several contractors are pursuing engineers for their companies, such as HAFB, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, BAE, and Boeing. WSU has nationally accredited programs in electrical, computer, and mechanical engineering. We have the most affordable in-person, ABET-accredited engineering degree program in the state. Over 180 of the 200 graduates are working locally in the economy with several moving on to pursue graduate degrees.

Issues addressed included the need to change the perception of engineering technology among the community, the need to be listed in the top 10 degrees at WSU, and better advertising for the visibility of the department.

Weber State University Reports

President’s Report:

President Mortensen shared a slide he used in his report to the Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee showing the engineering graduates’ employment statistics from Dr. Hearn’s report. He also shared that an education partnership agreement signing event with Hill Air Force Base and WSU will take place on April 28 at Davis campus. This is a really big deal! The president also introduced visiting Presidential Leadership Fellows, Mr. Riley Swain, and Ms. Hannah Olsen, who took a few moments to introduce themselves.

Other reports were reviewed in the packet without discussion.

Academic Policy Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Louenda Downs

Trustee Louenda Downs, chair of the Academic Policy Committee, commented on the incredible discussion at their meeting concerning the process and proposal steps that take place before action items come to the Trustees. Dr. Eric Amsel shared a chart showing the steps for these types of changes. Trustee Downs also indicated that the Academic Policy Committee meeting minutes from March 22, 2022, were approved during their meeting. She then turned the time to Provost Ravi Krovi, who proposed the following action items:

a. Action Items:

1. Program Name Change: Minor in Psychological Science

ACTION: On a motion to approve the program name change to Minor in Psychological Science by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Don Salazar, the motion was approved.

2. Organizational Change: Master of Education Program

ACTION: On a motion to approve the organizational change of the Master of Education Program to the Office of the Dean in Education, made by Mr. Ben Ferney, with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion was approved.

3. Graduate Degree: Master of Science in Systems Engineering

The Master of Science in Systems Engineering graduate degree involves in-system design and modeling. HAFB would like to see graduates with these skills. This new graduate degree stacks existing programs from undergraduate degrees and will benefit students in this program.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the new graduate degree: Master of Science in Systems Engineering, made by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion was approved.

Dr. Eric Amsel was asked to share the chart that was created, showing the proposal steps for program changes. The chart was shared with the Trustees with a brief discussion of the approval process.

4. Policy Items

i. PPM 1-13, Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws

Changes to this policy include (1) inclusion of adjunct faculty in certain senate functions (2) terms that faculty board members can serve, and (3) Faculty Senate should have minutes kept and shared moving forward. A discussion took place concerning the proposed changes, with more discussion in the future on this topic.

ii. PPM 4-21a, Awarding of Transfer Credit and Credit by Examination or Petition

Changes to this policy provide departments with more flexibility in course articulation.

iii. PPM 8-12, Dated Guidelines for the Ranking Tenure Review Process

The review process has moved from paper-based tenure credentials to digital processes. Because of this, dates are not a crucial portion of this process and have been removed from the policy. Questions from Trustees included (1) what does the process of evaluations entail, (2) are evaluations added to their portfolio, (3) is the peer evaluation done across campus or within their college/department, and (4) How are things weighted? Discussion ensued with answers to questions given.

ACTION: Upon a motion to approve the three PPMs, (1) PPM 1-13, Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, (2) PPM 4-21a, Awarding of Transfer Credit and Credit by Examination or Petition, and (3) Dated Guidelines for the Ranking Tenure Review Process, by Mr. Ben Ferney, with a second by Mr. Keith Titus, the motion was approved.

Business Committee

ACTION Items: Trustees Don Salazar

Trustee Don Salazar, Business Committee Chair, shared that the meeting minutes from the March 22, 2022, Business Committee were approved during their meeting. Clayton Anderson reported on national rankings at their meeting as well. He then turned time to Vice President Norm Tarbox to present the following action items for approval:

a. **Action Items:**

1. **PPM 10-2, Acceptable Use Policy**

Vice President Bret Ellis talked about the fluid and challenging security environments in the digital world. The policy states that personal email cannot be used for university business, and university email cannot be used for personal business. Questions were asked about this new policy and how it may apply to Trustees. Clarifications regarding such application will be presented at a future meeting.

All other action items were reviewed in the packet, with nothing additional to report.

ACTION: On a motion to approve all action items as one by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion was 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. Don Salazar, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion was approved.

Other

- a. The Board of Trustees' FY23 schedule was discussed and Trustees were asked to revisit the spreadsheet and respond with their availability to set dates for the upcoming year.
- b. Vice Chair Karla Bergeson requested that Provost Krovi explain the chart from the Academic Policy Committee meeting showing the process and steps for approval of various academic programs. Mr. Keith Titus shared the question he had raised during the committee discussion about the sequence of actions for an out-of-mission degree. Mr. Geoff Landward was asked to answer questions

regarding state statutes and Utah Board of Higher Education policies as well. Clarifications on the approval process will be presented at a future meeting.

Adjourn

With no other business or items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.