



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

November 17, 2022 – 9:30 a.m. Stewart Library, Hetzel Hoellein - Room 321
3850 Dixon Parkway, Ogden, UT 84408 | Hybrid Meeting

Trustee Members:

Ms. Kearston Cutrubus (Chair) via Zoom
Ms. Karla Bergeson (Vice Chair)
Mr. Brent Bishop
Ms. Louenda Downs
Ms. Karen Fairbanks
Mr. Rob Higginson
Ms. Ashley Potokar
Mr. Keith Titus
Mr. Don Salazar

Trustees Excused:

Ms. Amanda Covington

Weber State University Representatives:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President
Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology
Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost
Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Dr. Jeff Hurst, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board
Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Ms. Aubrey Lord, Staff Advisory Council Chair, Administrative Associate
Mr. Jason Francis, Faculty Senate Chair, Assoc. Professor/Health Sciences Librarian (via Zoom)
Ms. Stephanie Hollist, General Counsel
Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications

Dr. Kristin Hadley, Dean, Moyes College of Education

Dr. Kathleen Cadman, Associate Professor, Nursing

Ms. Laura Thompson, Executive Director of AA/EO

Mr. Will Pridemore, Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Support Services

Ms. Kayla Morgan, Interim Assistant Athletic Director & Senior Woman Administrator

Mr. Tim Crompton, Associate Vice President for Athletics, Athletic Director

Guests:

Mr. Geoff Landward, Deputy Commissioner, Utah Board of Higher Education

Ms. Rochely Negron, WSU Presidential Leadership Fellow

Ms. Reece Richardson, WSU 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 9:42 a.m. by Vice Chair Karla Bergeson, who conducted the meeting on behalf of Chair Kearston Cutrbus, who was ill and joined the meeting virtually. Vice Chair Bergeson welcomed all in attendance and asked for identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest after viewing the agenda. Hearing none, Vice Chair Bergeson then proceeded with the meeting agenda.

Full Board Agenda Items**Meeting Minutes Approval:**

- a. **October 18, 2022, Board of Trustees Meeting:**
Meeting minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting on October 18, 2022, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

- b. **October 24, 2022, Executive Committee Meeting:**
Meeting minutes from the Executive Committee meeting held on October 24, 2022, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Trustee Louenda Downs to approve the minutes from the October 18, 2022, Board of Trustees meeting, and October 24, 2022, Executive Committee meeting, with a second by Trustee Karen Fairbanks, the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Trustees Change of April 18 Meeting to April 27, 2023:

Vice Chair Bergeson proposed that the Board of Trustees meeting scheduled on April 18, 2023, be rescheduled to April 27, 2023, due to President Mortensen's involvement with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Capital Forum held in Washington D.C. during that time.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Trustee Dan Salazar to approve the proposed Board of Trustees Meeting date change from April 18, 2023, to April 27, 2023, with a second by Trustee Louenda Downs, the motion passed unanimously.

Information**College Liaison Report:**

Trustee Louenda Downs, and Trustee Ashley Potokar, serving as liaisons to the Moyes College of Education reported on the college. Trustee Potokar, who is also a graduate student in the college, shared the vision of the college and introduced Dr. Kristin Hadley, Dean of the Moyes College of Education. Dean Hadley gave a review of the college along with a presentation that included student enrollment statistics in majors and minors, goals for the new structure for the new graduate studies in education program, and

outreach in the community. With a \$2.8 million grant, the McKay building renovation plans are in the design phase with many needed upgrades. During construction, the children's school will be held in a vacant child care building which will be leased. Concerns with lower enrollment trends in health promotion were addressed.

Special Topic – Title IX:

Mr. Tim Crompton introduced the topic of Title IX in athletics at Weber State University. He turned the time to Mr. Will Pridemore and Ms. Kayla Morgan, who shared an analysis listing three participation opportunities for students consisting of (a) providing participation opportunities for women and men that are substantially proportionate to their respective rates of enrollment of full-time undergraduate students, (b) demonstrating a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the underrepresented sex; or (c) fully and effectively accommodating the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex. Female and male student-athletes must receive athletics scholarship dollars proportionate to their participation rates. We are not currently facilitating opportunities for name, image, and likeness (NIL) for athletes at Weber State. They are finding opportunities on their own. A laundry list of equitable benefits athletes receive was shared. Many new facility upgrades are being done to improve women's sports.

Ms. Laura Thompson introduced Ms. Alexandra Babilis, the new deputy Title IX coordinator at WSU. They discussed a new reporting reference sheet at the university. Campus-wide training is being conducted. The 50th anniversary of Title IX was celebrated in June 2022. USHE has issued a 28-page response to the regulations proposed by the US Department of Education.

Faculty Presentation – Dual Function Sabbatical: Belize:

Dr. Kathleen Cadman gave a review of her dual function sabbatical that included working on a partnership with another institution and research in Belize. Belize was ideal for this as its location is attainable and it is an English-speaking country. This is beneficial for student interaction with citizens in the Study Abroad program, with a planned trip in 2024. Dr. Cadman's research was on depression and suicide where she worked with mental health professionals.

Institutional Email:

Acknowledgment was made that WSU Trustees have received training and are set up for Weber email accounts. From here forward, institutional email will be used for correspondence.

USHE Legislative Audit Report:

Deputy Commissioner Geoff Landward discussed the USHE legislative audit report. Over the last year, the legislative auditor has been conducting audits on the new USHE system and strategic plan. A review was conducted at the two-year mark to see how things are going and where improvements can be made. The audit is calling for better Utah Board

of Higher Education governance in general and to find better outcomes for institutions to improve Utah's ranking among other states. Discussion took place about different methods of improvement in data-driven decisions, policy, metrics, and measuring outcomes that the Utah Board of Higher Education is considering incorporating. There are many new faces on the Utah Board of Higher Education this year, which has 18 members. Legislation may lower the size of the board which would change how it functions. Institution presidents and boards of trustee chairs have been asked to serve on a committee headed by Senator Ann Millner to suggest possible legislative changes. Tuition setting was discussed with concerns about increases and parity among institutions. The Utah Board of Higher Education will likely ask for more accountability from institutions in several areas.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report:

President Mortensen highlighted several parts of his report, including accolades given to the IT division for the completed cloud migration effort which was a success. The president displayed the NWCCU award that was earned by the university, along with a \$2500 cash prize that will be put into the Wildcats Scholarship Fund. The president introduced visiting Presidential Leadership Fellows, Ms. Rochely Negron, and Ms. Reece Richardson, who took a few moments to introduce themselves and share their Weber State story.

Alumni Association Report:

The Alumni Association report was given by Trustee Rob Higginson who reported that the WSU Salutes event was a fantastic evening with so many amazing stories that were shared.

Staff Advisory Council Report:

The SAC report was given by Chair Aubrey Lord, who reported that the council was recently re-staffed with IT support.

WSUSA Report:

Trustee Ashley Potokar gave a WSUSA report that things are going well with many great student events taking place.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming Events were reviewed in the packet without discussion.

Academic Policy Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Louenda Downs

Trustee Louenda Downs, chair of the Academic Policy Committee, turned the time to Provost Ravi Krovi, who proposed the following action items:

a. Action Items:

1. Program Review: Anthropology

Provost Krovi discussed the anthropology program review indicating that the program fills a general education need. An explanation was given about the program including a recommendation for a capstone experience to be added. There is a general decline in the number of graduates. There will be a five-year review of the program, with the potential for reconsideration of the timeline after further monitoring.

2. Program Review: Philosophy

Provost Krovi discussed the philosophy program review which reflects a declining trend in the college and in the country. There is consideration to move this to a minor program to keep the benefits it offers students. There will be a five-year review of the program, with the potential for reconsideration of the timeline after further monitoring.

ACTION: On a motion to approve both the program review for anthropology and the program review for philosophy by Trustee Keith Titus with a second by Trustee Ashley Potokar, the motion was approved.

b. Information Items:

- 1. Academic Policy Committee Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2022**
- 2. Utah System of Higher Education New Academic Degree Program Approval Process**

Information items were reviewed without any discussion.

Business Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Brent Bishop

Trustee Don Salazar, chair of the Business Committee, turned the time to Vice President Norm Tarbox, who reviewed the following action items:

a. Action Items:

1. Financial Report (September 2022)

The voluntary separation incentive program was discussed. Finances are in good shape despite reduced enrollment. The university is in good shape moving forward.

2. WSU Auxiliary Enterprises Annual Report

The WSU auxiliary enterprises report had nothing new listed other than the two-year period for HEERF funding will end after this reporting period.

3. WSU Housing Services Proposed Rates

The housing services proposed rates are a modest but necessary increase due to inflation with comparisons benchmarked to other institutions in the state.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the three action items of the financial report, WSU auxiliary enterprises annual report, and WSU housing services proposed rates made by Trustee Louenda Downs, with a second by Trustee Rob Higginson, the motion was approved.

Trustee Salazar presented the following consent calendar items for approval:

b. Consent Calendar Items:

- 1. Monthly Investment Report (September 2022)**
- 2. Personnel Report (September 2022)**
- 3. Early Retirement**

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar items by Trustee Karen Fairbanks with a second by Trustee Ashley Potokar, the motion was approved.

c. Information Items:

- 1. Business Committee Meeting Minutes – October 18, 2022**
- 2. Women in Sports Endowment**

Information items were reviewed without any discussion.

Closed Meeting Session:

A motion to move to a closed meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of individuals was made by Trustee Louenda Downs with a second by Trustee Don Salazar. Vice Chair Bergeson listed the name of each board member who indicated their vote by stating “yay.” The vote was unanimous to move to a closed meeting session.

Following the closed meeting session, reminders were given to the Trustees concerning the fall commencement spreadsheet signups and the combined Trustee/Utah Board of Higher Education breakfast being held Nov. 18, 2022, in SU 404 at 7:30 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.