

Minutes
Weber State University
Board of Trustees Retreat
August 22, 2013

Members Present:

Mr. Alan E. Hall, Chair
Ms. Karen Fairbanks
Mr. Scott Parson
Mr. Steven E. Starks
Mr. Jeff Stephens
Mr. Kevin Sullivan

Newly Appointed Members Present:

Ms. Bonnie Clark
Mr. Nolan Karras - by telephone
Mr. Andre Lortz
Mr. David Wilson

Weber State University Officials Present:

Dr. Charles A. Wight, President
Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Services
Dr. Brad Mortensen, Vice President for University Advancement
Dr. Jan Winniford, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Mike Vaughan, Provost
Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology
Mrs. JoAnne Robinson, Executive Assistant, President's Office

Welcome

Mission and Vision
for Weber State
University

- I. The meeting convened at 10:28 a.m.
- II. Chair Alan Hall welcomed those present and roll call was taken. Newly appointed Trustee Nolan Karras was present by telephone.
- III. President Charles Wight introduced the current Weber State University mission statement and stated that he thought it was a little long. Everyone should be able to memorize the statement but the process to revise the statement is complex and must be approved by the State Board of Regents.

President Wight stated that under former President Ann Millner, the university adopted three core themes: learning, community and access. He added that he would organize the anticipated accomplishments of his presidency using those themes.

Learning - President Wight stated that amazing things are happening at Weber State University. He spoke before the Higher Education Appropriations legislative committee on August 21 and shared quality metrics on how this university is doing. WSU takes students from where they are and starts them on a pathway to enter the workforce or continue to graduate studies. We will be thinking about ways to teach curriculum. The average class size at WSU is just over 20 students. We are effective in teaching and financially responsible.

Community - WSU students have contributed thousands of hours of community service, partnering with all sorts of organizations. We plan to make closer connections with Ogden City. H. Aldous Dixon made the initial arrangements to purchase the land where the university now stands and move it out of downtown Ogden. President Wight will be partially undoing that. WSU has a building downtown containing 18,000 square feet on three floors. This space will house a bookstore and café, classrooms for Continuing Education and a small business incubator. This incubator will focus mostly on commercial mobile applications for all sorts of businesses.

President Wight and Mayor Caldwell are working on many different partnerships, including arts events in downtown, the Weber County recreation master plan, and a community education center to help people in Ogden and particularly the Hispanic community navigate the admission process.

Access - President Wight expressed the importance of keeping the cost of education reasonable, particularly for need-based scholarships. The Dream Weber scholarship provides that if a student is qualified for a Pell grant in any amount and has a household income of \$30,000 or less, that student is eligible for a package of federal, state and university money to cover eight semesters of university courses. That means that commitment and not money is now the biggest barrier to a higher education. President Wight intends to focus on raising new forms of private money and really pushing the access component of being able to attend Weber State University.

President Wight stated that he is a big proponent of making changes that help the university more accurately reflect the diversity of our community. The number of Hispanic students has doubled, but the fraction of Hispanic students doesn't nearly represent the number of graduating high school seniors or the general population of the area. He hopes to recruit and retain more Hispanic students and staff.

President Wight advised the Trustees that he has asked the administration to look at changes to university policies to accomplish two goals. The first goal is an anti-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation and gender identify that will bring the university into harmony with other higher education institutions and federal policies. The second goal is to extend most of our employee benefits to domestic partners. One purpose is to increase our ability to recruit new faculty of high quality. WSU has already lost a promising faculty member. Those changes will be presented to the board at a later time.

Trustee Karen Fairbanks asked if these policies would benefit just faculty and staff or do they also benefit students?

President Wight replied that the employee benefit policies will apply only to faculty and staff, but the anti-discrimination policies apply to students as well.

Trustee Steve Starks asked what that means for students?

President Wight answered that he didn't know of any issues with regard to admissions, but we could experience issues like additional expense for gender neutral restrooms, and other things like that. David Wilson, WSUSA President, added that discussions at institutes he had attended also included gender-neutral floors in student housing.

Committee Assignments

IV. The following Trustee committee assignments were made:

Community Partnerships and Economic Development

Steve Starks, Chair

Karen Fairbanks

Alan Hall

Scott Parson

Jeff Stephens

Kevin Sullivan

Finance/Business

Scott Parson, Chair
Alan Hall
Nolan Karras
Steve Starks
David Wilson

Personnel and Academic Policy

Kevin Sullivan, Chair
Bonnie Clark
Karen Fairbanks
Andre Lortz
Jeff Stephens

Audit Committee

Nolan Karras, Chair
Alan Hall
Kevin Sullivan

Honorary Degree Committee

Andre Lortz, Chair
Alan Hall
Jeff Stephens

University Planning Council

Alan Hall

WSU Foundation Board

Scott Parson

Applied Technology Colleges

Kevin Sullivan - Ogden/Weber
Karen Fairbanks - Davis

Athletic Board

Alan Hall

Investment Committee

Nolan Karras
Steve Starks

December
Commencement

- V. Chair Alan Hall announced that Joné Koford has agreed to be the speaker at the December commencement. Ms. Koford is currently

the chair of the Weber State University National Advisory Council and has had a long career in Health Care Management.

On a motion by Scott Parson and seconded by Karen Fairbanks, Joné Koford was approved unanimously as the speaker for the December Commencement program.

Other Business

- VI. Trustee Scott Parson requested that meetings be sent out as calendar appointments and changed, if necessary, rather than sending out new appointments. He asked if the university had looked at any commercial board packages. Chair Alan Hall said we could start where we are and then determine if we need to look at one of the commercial packages.

Adjourn

- VII. The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:



JoAnne Robinson, Secretary
WSU Board of Trustees

Administrative Approval:



Charles A. Wight, President
Weber State University