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Board of Trustees Minutes, January 21, 2011

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 21, 2011

**Open Board Meeting ~ 1:30 p.m. (TAW 215 B&C)
Executive Session ~ 12:30 p.m. (TAW 215 A)**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Neil McReynolds, Vice Chair
Jo Ann Kauffman
Mark Mays
Kris Mikkelsen
Paul Tanaka
Amanda Zeller
Ines Zozaya-Geist

Call to Order, I.

Vice Chair McReynolds, acting as Chair of the Board, called the January 21, 2011 regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order. He announced that the Board would convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110 for the following purposes: (g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; (i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation or potential; and/or under RCW 42.30.140 to plan or adopt a strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress. He announced that executive session would last approximately one hour, that no final action would be taken during the executive session, and that at the conclusion of the executive session the Board would convene into open session.

Quorum, II.

A quorum was present. Chair Ortega was not able to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Executive Session, III.

Vice Chair McReynolds stated that executive session was held for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110 and/or 42.30.140 as previously scheduled. He stated that executive session ended at 1:15 p.m. and that no action was taken during executive session.

Reconvene Open Board of Trustees Meeting

Vice Chair McReynolds called the open session of the January 21, 2011 regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 1:40 p.m.

Vice Chair McReynolds announced that the Hargreaves Hall room in which the Board meeting is taking place today, is named after Dr. Walt Powers and his wife for their significant contribution as well as all they have done for Eastern over many years.

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

President Arévalo reported that since the last Board meeting he has been engaged in efforts to gear up for the legislative session. He has met with legislators and has identified key issues that Eastern will talk with the legislature about during their session. The session started two and one half weeks ago, and President Arévalo has been in Olympia each of those weeks. Legislators are currently preparing to approve supplemental cuts to the current biennial budget, and then they will move on to the business of the next biennium.

President Arévalo introduced Dr. George Frederickson, President of Eastern from 1977 to 1987, who is in attendance for the Board meeting today. He explained that Dr. Frederickson was the president who laid the long term framework for what Eastern looks like today. He is the individual who was responsible for Eastern getting into the NCAA and the Big Sky Conference. Eastern is thankful for all the work Dr. Frederickson did for the university.

National Championship Division 1 Football Team Recognition –
President Arévalo introduced Bill Chaves, EWU Athletic Director.

Mr. Chaves acknowledged and thanked Dr. Frederickson, stating that he laid the groundwork for what transpired two weeks ago in Frisco, Texas.

Mr. Chaves presented the National Championship Division 1 trophy to the President and Board of Trustees, stating that he couldn't be more thankful for everyone's support of the football team and the athletics program. He mentioned that the trophy will be presented to the public at tonight's event. Coach Baldwin, the football players, and Doris Munson were asked to come to the front of the room. Ms. Munson reported that the faculty were so impressed with the performance of the football team that the Faculty Senate passed a resolution to congratulate them. Ms. Munson read the resolution. Mr. Chaves introduced National Coach of the Year, Coach Beau Baldwin.

Coach Baldwin thanked the president and the board for having the football players and himself at today's meeting. He shared that it is an honor to be at this Board of Trustees meeting. He also thanked the Faculty Senate for their recognition and honoring of the football players. He expressed that this is something special and it is special to be able to say thank you to so many people who had a hand in this accomplishment. Coach Baldwin acknowledged Dr Frederickson for his work that paved the way. He explained that he brought the seniors today, as this is a special group on the field as well as in the classroom. This has been an amazing year on the football field with a number of games that came down to the wire, and this group of players put their hearts into every game and came out on top. Each player introduced themselves, sharing information such as their academic major.

Vice Chair McReynolds congratulated Coach Baldwin and the seniors, expressing that their leadership has reflected positively on the entire university and it has helped to showcase the quality at EWU. He stated that he is impressed with what they do in the classroom and encouraged them to keep this up.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Board Chair Report, IV.B.1.

Vice Chair McReynolds reported that the trustees had a work session this morning where they discussed the statewide and university budget situations. This was a very important session, and the trustees had excellent discussions. He explained that this will be a crucial legislative session regarding budgets, and he encouraged people to assist as Eastern tells its story in Olympia.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.2.

Trustee Mays reported that the meeting was abbreviated to accommodate the work session. The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

- Ethics in Research Policy – this was the second time the committee discussed this policy which brings the university into compliance with federal policies. The committee voted to approve this policy.
- Course in Spanish for Professionals – this new course assists professionals such as pharmacists and social worker regarding key ways they can communicate more effectively with their constituents.
- Quarters or Semesters – The committee discussed the benefits and consequences of each system. Discussed in detail the trends toward semesters, with 92 % of universities using this type of schedule. After wanting to make sure faculty were involved with the opportunity to discuss and provide their thoughts and comments, the Academic Affairs Committee did approve to move forward with the semester plan, although this was not a unanimous decision partly due to concerns about community colleges being on the quarter system and wanting to ensure that EWU can work collaboratively and successfully with transfer students. The committee moved to bring this to the full board for action, and to bring resolution to this topic when funding opportunities can be found, in consideration of the sentiments expressed by the Faculty Senate.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.3.

Trustee Tanaka reported that the committee discussed the following topics:

- Charitable Gift Annuity Policy 1st read – this policy was also heard in the B&F Committee. One significant element of this policy is that the board will delegate to the President and his designee the authority to approve Charitable Gift Annuity Agreements that meet certain specifications such as gifts that are all cash.
- Government Relations – discussed that this year's legislative session is a long session of 105 days, and the budget will dominate this session.
- Positive Impact of the EWU Football Team's National Championship – Discussed the impacts to the university, the broader community, and the region that this football team's national championship is having. This football season and performance by the team has inspired a great deal of pride in the university for a great many people. This kind of visibility and recognition is an indication of the talent and success of the team, and the university as a whole.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.4.

Trustee McReynolds reported on the following topics discussed at the meeting:

- Investment Advisory Committee Role and Responsibilities – the advisory committee is comprised of both EWU Board members as well as community members with expertise in the financial arena. The role involves both the enhancement of investments and also the need to protect the university's resources as well. The committee reviews investment programs and makes recommendations to the full board for any action necessary. The university works with an outside investment management firm, Common Fund, and the advisory committee hears a report from them on a quarterly basis.
- Charitable Gift Annuity Policy – both the Investment Advisory Committee and the Business & Finance Committee reviewed this policy and will plan to approve the policy in March.
- Housing & Dining Fund FY 2011 Budget Amendment – the Business & Finance Committee held a special meeting in mid-December to discuss the housing and dining long term improvement plan. The committee will recommend to the full board that Eastern move ahead with phase 1 of that plan as well as the FY 2011 budget amendment to begin funding.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.5.

Trustee Kauffman reported that the following topics were discussed at yesterday's brief meeting:

- S & A Fee Guidelines – Vice President Foster and Laurie Connelly explained these guidelines to bring the S & A Fee processes for setting the fees in line with state laws. The committee recommends approval of the guidelines by the full board.
- Strategic Enrollment Activities – The committee received information regarding the comprehensive strategies being employed to manage enrollment at EWU. These involve items such as changing the application deadline, working on course repeats, tuition waivers, housing plans, military service center, and other strategies for improving success for students.
- Enrollment – freshmen applications are up 14% compared to last year and transfer applications are up 5% compared to last year.
- Athletics – Bill Chaves shared that the academic success of EWU athletes is impressive, with an overall average GPA of 2.9. He also discussed the athletic success of the football team. One student, Jeff Minnerly, received a special award for having the highest grade point average of the athletes who participated in the National Championship Football game. This award was presented during the game in Frisco, Texas.

Organization Presidents' Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Ms. Doris Munson reported that the Faculty Senate has met once since the last board meeting. At their meeting, the Faculty Senate passed the resolution congratulating the EWU football team. The faculty legislative committee put out a call for information regarding the ways EWU faculty and students are participating in positive community involvement projects. These have been shared with David Buri and President Arévalo so EWU has positive things to report to the legislature.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

Mr. Beghtol introduced himself, as he is the newly elected president of the classified staff union and this is his first Board meeting as president. The classified staff held their general meeting last night, with attendance being much higher than normal due to concern about the governor's proposal to cut

classified staff wages by 3%. The state Office of Financial Management turned away the classified staff contract that was negotiated with Eastern and approved this past September. Mr. Beghtol hopes that the university and union can develop a proposal that will be more acceptable to OFM. The members are concerned that there might be layoffs if OFM doesn't approve an agreement. Vice Chair McReynolds congratulated Mr. Beghtol on his presidency.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Mr. Justin Terry, ASEWU President, began by telling a story. He was on his way to his physics class one day after the national championship game and there were some high school students visiting EWU that day. He overheard one of them saying to his friends, "Did you see him? That was Bo Levi!" Justin then saw Bo Levi, wearing his Eastern letterman's jacket, walking down the hall. Justin was impressed to see how powerful athletics can be in getting young people excited to attend Eastern. Mr. Terry reported that the ASEWU officers are now more comfortable with their positions and responsibilities, and they are actively working to accomplish goals.

Mr. Terry explained that good progress has been made this year in regard to the Graduate Affairs area, as well as the work on the S & A Fee Guidelines.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the December 16, 2010 special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

***Motion 1-01-2011:** Motion by Trustee Zeller that the Board approve the Minutes of the December 16, 2010 special Board of Trustees' Meeting.*

Seconded by Trustee Tanaka.

Motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

EWU Policy 305-04, Ethics in Research, V.B.1.

Laurie Connelly explained that the changes to this proposed amended policy, as previously indicated, are in order to comply with federal and state regulations. She stated that EWU has been in compliance with the regulations, but the policy hadn't been updated until now. The policy in general is to designate a reporting procedure regarding financial conflicts of interest, a training component, as well as a research training component for NSF Grants.

Trustee Mays reported that the Academic Affairs Committee discussed this policy as a first and second read, and recommends that this policy be approved.

***Motion 1-02-2011:** Motion by Trustee Mays that the Board approve EWU Policy 305-04, Ethics in Research.*

Seconded by Trustee Mikkelsen.

Motion carried.

S & A Fee Guidelines, V.B.2.

Vice President Morgan Foster explained that these are basic guidelines and the Revised Code of Washington requires that they be approved by the Board of Trustees. These guidelines give more autonomy to the Services & Activities Fee Committee, and they ensure that the S & A Fee Committee is the group that makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The guidelines ensure more transparency and accountability, they are consistent with the guidelines at other Washington universities, and they have been reviewed by the attorney general's office.

Motion 1-03-2011: *Motion by Trustee Kauffman that the Board approve the S & A Fee Guidelines. Seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist. Motion carried.*

Quarters or Semesters, V.B.3.

President Arévalo explained that the idea of moving to semesters was also considered in 2008, which resulted in a preliminary report from the president to the board in 2009. The latest task force report was presented to the board in November 2010. President Arévalo stated that the Academic Affairs Committee had a long discussion about the advisability of moving from quarters to semesters. During this committee, the president outlined for the board the significant items that lead him to recommend the move from a quarter to a semester based calendar system. The report to the Board outlines the benefits to the institution, which will be many. The president reported that the Board Academic Affairs Committee expressed that they are supportive of moving forward with a plan to move toward a semester system. President Arévalo recommends that the full Board to approve such an action.

Motion 1-04-2011: *Motion by Trustee Mays to move forward in consideration of transition toward a semester plan, and Board of Trustees support for that direction of change. Seconded by Trustee Kauffman. Motion carried.*

Discussion –

Trustee Mays stated that he would like to reassure everyone that this has been given a great deal of thought and consideration and that this is not a hasty decision. He reiterated that this has been discussed in several other forums and venues prior to today.

Trustee McReynolds stated that his concern is that the university may face future enrollment challenges and he would not want a change such as moving to semesters to negatively impact the relationship with nor the number of students who transfer from Spokane Community Colleges. He mentioned that he would want to know whether Spokane Community Colleges is seriously considering a change to semesters. Trustee McReynolds also expressed concern about the legislature's reaction to a costly project such as this during these budget reduction times.

Trustee Tanaka stated that he agrees with the concerns expressed. He does see one mitigating factor, which is that President Arévalo has talked about an eighteen month ramp-up period before the final decision is made at which time there will be more details regarding the costs and benefits as well as

more information from the Spokane Community Colleges about their situation. While he concurred with the concerns, he supported the motion to provide policy guidance to the president to enable him to do more research.

Trustee Kauffman stated that, regarding the concern about the difficult budget times, this is an opportunity to make some transformational decisions that could put Eastern on a more competitive footing and perhaps reduce the university costs of registration by reducing to two semesters rather than three quarters. Trustee Kauffman extended appreciation to Dr. Arévalo and his leadership team for the variety of strategies that have taken place over the past several years to deal with the impending budget situations. Other institutions are scrambling to make cuts now, while Eastern has been trying to improve, consolidate and streamline, and the semester strategy seems to fall into this category of becoming more efficient.

Trustee Mays restated the motion.

Motion Carried.

Phase 1 – Long Term Housing & Dining System Improvement Plan, V.B.4.

Vice President Voves reported that the Board Business & Finance Committee held a special meeting on December 13, 2010 to discuss the future of the long term housing and dining improvement plan. At that time the committee reviewed several recommendations regarding housing and it was determined that the committee would recommend to the full board the construction of a new residence hall at the cost of 25 million dollars plus financing and the issuance of housing and dining bonds to cover that project.

Trustee McReynolds stated that the Business & Finance Committee approved the following motion in regard to this item:

Motion 1-05-2011: *Motion by Trustee McReynolds that the Board approve Phase 1 of the Long Term Housing & Dining System Improvement Plan, which includes the construction of a new residence hall at the cost of \$25 million dollars plus financing costs and issuance of Housing and Dining system bonds to fund the project.*

Seconded by Trustee Mikkelsen.

Motion carried.

Housing & Dining Fund – FY2011 Budget Amendment, V.B.5.

Vice President Voves explained that the Business & Finance Committee also discussed the following information at their special meeting on December 13, 2010: the university will not be selling bonds until much further into the project, however, it is necessary to plan and design the project. An RFP has been posted and the university has narrowed the selection process to four potential architectural firms. The request before the Board is for approval to amend the budget allowing to use one million eight hundred thousand dollars (\$1,800,000.00) of fund balance from the housing and dining fund to pay for engineering and design costs for the new residence hall project.

Motion 1-06-2011: *Motion by Trustee McReynolds that the Board approve the Housing & Dining Fund FY2011 Budget Amendment in the amount of one million eight hundred thousand dollars to use reserves to provide interim financing to fund architectural and engineering costs of the construction of a new residence hall.*

Seconded by Trustee Tanaka.

Motion carried.

Trustee Zozaya-Geist thanked the Business & Finance and Student Affairs staff for providing the board with numerous plans and a great deal of information regarding the housing and dining long term plan. This was very helpful.

Trustee Mays acknowledged that there is tremendous amount of work involved in every task and project taken on by the staff of the university. He stated that he wants everyone to know that he understands how much work is involved and how hard people are working here at the university and he sincerely appreciates everyone's efforts.

Adjournment, VII.

Vice Chair McReynolds adjourned the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Neil McReynolds, Vice Chair
Board of Trustees

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary