

3-23-2006

Board of Trustees Minutes, March 23, 2006

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

March 23, 2006

**Open Public Session at 1:00 p.m.
Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.
TAW 215**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Kris Mikkelsen, Chair
Paul Tanaka, Vice Chair
Gordon Budke
Jo Ann Kauffman
Neil McReynolds
Stacey Roestel
Ines Zozaya-Geist

Trustees not in Attendance:

Bertha Ortega

Call to Order and Quorum, I. and II.

Chair Mikkelsen called the meeting to order and noted a quorum is present, though Trustee Ortega was unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts.

Executive Session, III.

Chair Mikkelsen announced that the Board would convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1) and/or RCW 42.30.140 for the following purposes: (g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; and/or RCW 42.30.140 to plan or adopt the 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 which is exempt pursuant to 42.30.140. Chair Mikkelsen anticipated that the executive session would last approximately one hour and she announced that no action would be taken during the executive session.

Reconvene

Chair Mikkelsen reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

- Interim President Levin-Stankevich personally thanked Chair Mikkelsen and the entire Board for all their support during this transition year, as well as during the previous ten years. He thanked the President's Staff, President's Cabinet, Associated Students, Faculty Organization, Classified staff and Administrative Staff for pulling together and working collaboratively for the good of the university and our students.
- Dr. Levin-Stankevich stated that he is proud of the administration and staff who kept the university moving this past year in terms of the strategic plan, enrollment, the comprehensive campaign, financial health of the institution, and numerous additional areas. He thanked Jeff Gombosky for the work he has done with the legislature. He thanked Mary Voves for stepping up to take on the additional role with Advancement, and reported that this has been the most successful fundraising year ever at Eastern. He thanked Dr. Dalla, Dr. Larry Briggs, and all who stepped up to take on interim roles in order to continue the momentum of the university.

Dr. Levin-Stankevich gave updates on several important campus community related topics:

- Diversity Work Sessions will be on May 4 and May 18, and will focus on faculty/staff issues and learning/community culture, respectively;
- A first responders program is being organized by two previous students, AnaMaria Martinez and Nicole Devon;
- Carlos Maldonado is ill and our prayers are with him and his family. Lisa Poplawski has agreed to serve as chair of the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity in Carlos' absence.
- Strategic planning activities have continued and the President's Cabinet has identified five performance priorities: academic quality, learning environment, and improving student enrollment, retention and graduation rates. The campus will develop key performance indicators around these priorities and will develop campus, college and department plans around achieving those indicators.
- Community relations during this past year has moved forward. We have increased momentum with friends, contributors, legislators, and with WSU around the Riverpoint Campus. The impending move of Communications Disorders and recent discussions about an EWU building location at Riverpoint, are indicators of an improved relationship between Eastern and WSU. Separately, a new memorandum of understanding will be signed regarding the programmatic details of the Bellevue campus.
- The entire community and Board members are invited to Get Lit!
- Dr. Levin-Stankevich is extremely pleased to make an important announcement for the first time today - regarding the Presidential Speaker Series. The Presidential Speaker for this year is Madeline Albright, former Secretary of State and the first female secretary of state. She will speak at Eastern on May 24 at 1:30 (free public speech) in Reese Court, and will spend the day on campus. Prior to coming to Eastern, she will be traveling on a book tour.

Dr. Levin-Stanekovich shared that it has been his privilege to work at Eastern for the last ten and a half years. He came here to help students succeed, and he has fond recollections of many Eastern students and is reminded that students are what this is all about. He told of a time years ago when he attended a counselor program in Bellingham. One of the counselors stood up and said she had something to say about Eastern, as her daughter had been attending EWU. She spoke of how her daughter had been timid and lacking in self confidence when she started college, but when she finished her degree and left Eastern she was a confident and professional person. This says a great deal about what happens to students who attend Eastern Washington University.

In closing, Dr. Levin-Stankevich shared that when he first came to Eastern he expressed to the Board that he tries to live his life according to the definition of a B-2 Visa holder, and that is, a temporary worker of extraordinary merit. He hopes he has lived up to this over the last ten and a half years.

Chair Mikkelsen shared that she hopes Dr. Levin-Stankevich knows how much the Board honors and recognizes his many years of service at Eastern, most especially this last year, and appreciates all that he has done. She read a special resolution for Dr. Levin-Stankevich. Refer to the Resolution.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.1.

Mr. Budke reported that the committee received reports from Deans Shields, Briggs, and Coelho. They discussed what needs to be done to recruit and retain students here at Eastern. The committee heard from Bill Stimson of the Student Publications Board. Brian Levin-Stankevich discussed the athletic review. A report was given on the diversity grants, and the staff is hoping to finalize the hiring of the new faculty fellow for diversity very soon. Mr. Budke also reported that he was appointed to the Early Head Start Governing Board, and now he finds himself the chair of that board. There is a new emphasis how these funds are spent and on accountability of reporting. There are several EWU folks on the board, and it represents another facet of Eastern's outreach into the community. Chair Mikkelsen thanked Mr. Budke for serving on this board and stated her confidence that he will do a good job.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.2.

Mr. McReynolds reported that the committee focused on fundraising, the Presidential rollout plan, and the legislative report. Fundraising is an interesting challenge as EWU raised more funds this year than last year (2 ½ million), but those funds came from fewer donors. The campaign is behind schedule due to the university not having a Vice President for Advancement. Kat Langeheim presented a document outlining the funding priorities for the campaign. Copies of that document will be sent to Board Members. Mr. McReynolds noted that he is encouraged with how the staff have stepped up and are accomplishing effective results.

Eastern's new president arrives on April 1 and the roll out plan is coming together well with input from Dr. Arévalo and the Gallatin Group. The largest challenge has been to establish priorities for the president's time during the first one hundred days. His first week includes the alumni and foundation meetings and events in the Seattle area.

The Committee spent time reviewing Jeff Gombosky's legislative session report. One important aspect is the priority established by the legislature in the areas of higher education science and technology over the next three years. A bill was passed and signed by the governor yesterday that extends WSU Tri-Cities to a four year institution, and this could have impact on EWU. Also, as part

of their efforts to increase four year offerings in the state, the legislature has added additional full time equivalent students at the university center in Everett.

Mr. McReynolds asked Jeff Gombosky to report to the Board the budget implications of the legislative session and also to discuss what will happen between now and January. Jeff reported that Eastern saw positive developments with supplemental and capital budgets as follows: \$158,000 in additional funds have been awarded to deal with increased energy costs; Patterson and Martin/Williamson received capital dollars for pre-design; and \$935 million dollars has been put in reserve for the 2007-09 legislature. The next biennium will be the last biennium when Evans/Gardner funds will be available for higher education as part of the capital budget. In regard to the coming year, the Washington Learns steering committee plan for fundamental educational reform will be released in December 2006. The new chair of the Higher Education Advisory Committee, Denny Heck, has set an aggressive time line for developing preliminary recommendations with regard to higher education by June of this year. This reform will involve partnerships between community colleges and four year institutions, as well as the pilot project for applied baccalaureate programs in the community colleges.

Mr. McReynolds complimented the great job Mr. Gombosky has done in representing the university in Olympia, as he has received positive feedback from legislators and other state officials across the state regarding Mr. Gombosky's work.

Mr. McReynolds also reported on a new effort that has been launched in the Puget Sound area called the Higher Education Working Group. This is an economic development effort involving a four county area, and it is making an impact state wide. It is a joint effort of elected and appointed officials and private leaders throughout the state. The major focus has been to increase the number of higher education graduates in the areas of science, math and technology. Another area they are focusing on is the Priest/Jarrett proposal for a new way to deliver higher education and organize the higher education system. At their next meeting Jim Sulton of the Higher Education Coordinating Board and Phyllis Kinney, Chair of the House Higher Ed Committee will be presenting. Of particular interest at that meeting will be the topic of the electrical engineering degree at North Seattle Community College that has been bogged down with the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.3.

Mr. Tanaka reported that they had an excellent committee meeting this morning. One result of the meeting is a confirmation of the Board's continued commitment to the recreation center project. A lot of good information and good questions have been raised, and some questions still remain, but the sense of the Board and Committee is that the project will move forward at this point. The floor plan option that is being moved forward has been reviewed by ASEWU, receiving a majority vote, and accommodates most of the changes students were looking for. The Committee is firm on sticking with the \$55 student fee that students voted for. At the May 19 Board meeting, the Board will receive final briefings on the financial review compiled by a financial advisor. The final decision about the project will be made at the June 24 Board meeting, at which time the sale of bonds would be authorized if the project is approved. Mr. Tanaka thanked Rick, Mary, and Toni for the work they did on design, use, and the financial aspects. He thanked Alicia Kinne and the Associated Students for their part and for partnering with the university on this project. The committee heard comments from visitors, and Mr. Tanaka thanked them for taking their time to come and give their input. In summary, there is strong confirmation from the board that they want to proceed with the project.

Another topic heard at the committee meeting was the state auditor's 2005 report. This was a very clean audit, and the auditors were very complimentary of the university and of Toni and her staff.

The Committee heard a first review of a new investment policy, and it will be discussed at subsequent meetings.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Ms. Kinne and all the other students for participating in the board meetings and for working so hard on this project. She commented that the students have contributed to this having been a healthy and helpful process.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.4.

Ms. Zozaya-Geist began her report by stating how impressed she is with the energy of the Eastern students, and especially Ms. Kinne. The Student Affairs Committee received informative reports from ASEWU President, Alicia Kinne, and the Interim Athletic Director, Pam Parks. Pam informed the Trustees that Eastern's student athlete APR rating is quite high, and she also told of the athletes' involvement in community service such as reading to children, Shriner's Hospital activities and telethons. Trustee Zozaya-Geist will distribute the APR rating information to Board members, as it is good information to communicate to the community.

A review of the implementation plan for the Health & Wellness program was given by Michelle Pingree and Rob Quackenbush. The first year will be augmenting services and the second year will focus on psychiatric services and assessment. They have discussed making sure parents receive the information about this program in addition to the students receiving it. The student fee piece of this program will be brought forward at the May Board meeting.

A report on diversity was given by Ila McKay, a graduate assistant helping with the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity. The next diversity work session is May 4 with a focus on faculty and staff issues, and then the May 18 session will focus on community learning and culture.

Vice President Ponder updated the Board regarding the Dean of Students search, parent phon-a-thon (\$26,000 raised this year), and a program on student retention which John Brackston presented.

Joint Governing Board, IV.B.5.

This state higher education working group will be meeting this spring with the Council of Presidents. The agenda will be shared with the Board when it is available.

Presidents' Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Dr. Winkle began her report by asking Tony Flinn, President of the United Faculty of Eastern, to speak to the Board. Dr. Flinn expressed his grief that an agreement was not reached before Dr. Arévalo's arrival. Dr. Flinn delivered a petition to the Board signed by faculty members encouraging the Board to reach an agreement. He stated that his second purpose is to deliver an invitation to the Board to come to a tea with faculty union members and faculty so they can share with the Board the quality of education at Eastern and so they can talk with the Board about raising faculty salaries and working on the work load issue.

Dr. Winkle continued her report, informing the Board that one of the most important motions passed by the academic senate was to reinstate a faculty representative to spend the winter in Olympia. They are working with the administration on this, and hope to get someone on board for the next session.

Dr. Winkle is on an ad hoc committee working to develop key performance indicators for Eastern. Dr. Winkle thanked Dr. Levin-Stankevich for all he has done on campus and for the university. She expressed the appreciation of the Faculty Organization for everything he has done.

Trustee Tanaka addressed Dr. Flinn and stated that he appreciates the offer to have tea and discuss contract related issues. Mr. Tanaka stated that the Board obviously cannot do this, nor can they negotiate directly with the faculty union. Mr. Tanaka reiterated that the Board has a delegation assigned to negotiate with Mr. Flinn and the union, and that once the contract negotiations are complete he and/or other Trustees would be glad to have tea.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

Mr. Nelson reported that a proposal for Classified Staff negotiation ground rules has been developed, and negotiations will begin next month.

Mr. Nelson stated, on behalf of the Classified Staff, that they endorse and thank Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich for all of the efforts he has made toward the Classified Staff during his time here.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Ms. Kinne reported that Eagle Entertainment has maintained record attendance numbers at their events this year, and she has heard only positive comments from parents and students at Family Weekend. Ms. Kinne hopes this marks the end of the controversy about the recreation center. She is very very proud of the Associated Student Council and the students as a whole – as well as the administration for listening to students and making suggested changes. Ms. Kinne expressed that this has meant a great deal to her and to other students.

ASEWU has drafted a mission statement including an ethics statement, to serve as guiding principles for the council.

Chair Mikkelsen commended Ms. Kinne on her extremely professional handling of the recreation center situation. She stated that she did a great job and the Board is impressed.

Special Reports, IV.D.

2005 University Audit, IV.D.1.

Chair Mikkelsen reported that a full report of the audit was given by the state auditors at the Business & Finance Committee meeting, the Board met in executive session with the state auditors, and Trustee Tanaka reported on the audit earlier in the meeting. She asked if anyone has questions regarding the audit. No questions were asked.

Recreation Center Update, IV.D.2.

Ms. Voves expressed that Trustee Tanaka gave an excellent update on the status of the recreation center in his report. The Business & Finance Committee spent two hours exploring the issues related to the center in order to come to closure about the controversies and issues. The Committee came out of the meeting with a clear commitment on the model and the fee. The next step is to come back to the Board at the next meeting with even more information and information about the bond.

NW Commission on Colleges & Universities, IV.D.3.

Dr. Kiser, Director of the EWU Teaching and Learning Center, is the liaison between the university and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Dr. Kiser reported that this ten year

accreditation is extremely important and everyone should be concerned with it and should be responsive to requests of the accreditation commission for information. Their time on campus is extremely short, and includes the writing of their report while they are here the week of April 18.

Dr. Kiser pointed out that there is a role for the trustees in this process. Standard Six relates to governance and administration, and the commission will meet with the trustees to discuss Eastern's performance of this standard. Dr. Kiser distributed a copy of Eastern's accreditation self-study document to the trustees, which is available on the web site. The document contains an executive summary (section 2), a brief summary, and the self-study details for each standard.

Invitations have been extended to the Board to meet with the evaluation team during their visit, on April 19 at 8:00 a.m. in PUB 206 and on April 19 at 10:00 a.m. in PUB 261.

Dr. Dalla summarized that a large group steering committee worked for two years to put together this self study as well as to develop an assessment process to keep this information current so the next 10 year accreditation will go smoothly and the information will already be current. Numerous staff, faculty and deans were involved in this process.

Interim President Levin-Stankevich commented that this is an extraordinary amount of work to coordinate the performance indicators and the requirements of the various departments on campus. He found it rewarding to know that the auditors use the accreditation info to supplement their work as well. He believes the effort and results of this study will pay off for many years to come.

Diversity Initiative Update, IV.D.4.

a. Benchmarking

This benchmarking process will document the diversity related efforts Eastern is currently engaged in and will enable the university to measure progress from this point forward. Dr. Levin-Stankevich thanked Mary Jane Brukardt for coordinating this process. The benchmarking document is available on the EWU diversity web site at www.ewu.edu/diversity

b. Diversity Open Forum

The last work session focused on student perspectives and issues that directly effect students. The notes from this session are available on the web site. Also, the idea of a first responders group is being explored so students can feel safe to express their concerns, complaints, and problems to designated responders who are trained to listen and take the concerns forward to the proper area of the university. The next work session will be in May and will focus on staff and faculty issues.

c. Diversity Grant Program

This year's program was quite successful, with twelve out of sixteen proposals funded. Trustee Kauffman and several students, staff and faculty were on the grant selection committee. Four of the applications were student proposals, for which the Associated Student Government gave 50% matching funds. The projects were very thoughtful and interesting. Later in spring quarter there will be a time for grant recipients to share the results of their projects which range in topics from a faculty exchange to speakers on campus. One student project, Dusk 'til Dawn, allows student clubs to submit proposals to provide evening activities for students.

A Faculty Fellow for Diversity candidate is on campus today.

Trustee Kauffman thanked Lynn Harty and others for making this process go smoothly. Ms. Kauffman expressed to the Chair that she wants to make sure she is fulfilling the Boards expectations regarding her role as the diversity representative of the Board. She is open to invitations to meetings and projects.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the February 3, 2006 Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Minutes of the January 9, 2006 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.2.

Minutes of the December 29, 2005 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.3.

Minutes of the December 14, 2005 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.4.

Minutes of the November 15, 2005 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.5.

Minutes of the November 8, 2005 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.6.

Motion 3-01-06: Motion by Trustee Budke that the Board approve the consent action items as presented.

Seconded by Trustee Roestel.

Motion carried.

Personnel Actions, VI.

Motion 3-02-06: Motion by Trustee Budke that the Board approve the personnel actions as presented.

Seconded by Trustee Kauffman.

Motion carried.

Old/New Business, VII.

No old/new business was brought forward.

Adjournment, VII.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Kris Mikkelsen, Chair

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary