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Board of Trustees Minutes, March 23, 2012

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Regular Meeting
March 23, 2012**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Bertha Ortega, Chair
Jo Ann Kauffman
Mark Mays
Kris Mikkelsen
Patrick Spanner
Paul Tanaka
Robert Whaley
Ines Zozaya-Geist

Call to Order, I.

Chair Ortega called the March 23, 2012, regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 11:30 a.m. She announced the Board would convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1) for the following purposes: to consider the minimum price at which real estate will be offered for sale or lease; and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement of actions, litigation or potential.

She further announced that executive session would last approximately 60 minutes, that no final action would be taken during the executive session, and that at the conclusion of the executive session the Board would reconvene into open session at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Quorum, II.

A quorum was present. All trustees were in attendance.

Executive Session, III.

Chair Ortega stated that executive session was held for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110(1) as previously scheduled. She stated that executive session ended at 12:40 p.m. and that no action was taken during executive session.

Board Committee of the Whole

Gateway Project Proposal

Vice President Mike Westfall introduced guests from Parametrix, who provided a presentation of the proposed multi-use building. Overall, trustees were supportive of the proposal.

Reconvene Open Board of Trustees Meeting

Chair Ortega called the open session of the March 23, 2012, regular meeting of the Eastern Washington Board of Trustees to order at 1:59 p.m.

IV. Reports

University President's Report, IV.A.

President Arévalo explained his report would be brief, especially given that the legislature has made no final decisions as far as where we will go in terms of a budget. He was hopeful, however, that we may not see any more cuts this year. He has spent a considerable amount of time in Olympia over the past two to three months advocating on behalf of the University. Given its relation to health and science-related activities, he also reported on his participation in a Providence Health Care and Empire Health Foundation assessment of health needs and priorities in the Spokane area. The purpose was to identify what direction and priorities Providence Health Care, Empire Health, and the Spokane County Health Department should take to assess and solve some of the health issues found here in Spokane. Dr. Arévalo reported he would keep trustees further abreast of some of those activities the group will be engaged.

Dr. Arévalo noted that February was Black History Month, and the EWU Africana Education Program offered a significant number of program activities associated with the celebration. He attended a number of those presentations, and they were very well received in terms of participation by the students on our campus. Dr. Arévalo also reported on Strategic Planning activities noting that administration has initiated a process for developing strategic action plans at a department and division level. He also mentioned the kick-off event in the next phase of academic planning--an April 13 lecture and presentation by Dr. Mark Millron, who is considered a futurist in terms of thinking critically about new directions for higher education. Dr. Millron will be joining us, and trustees are invited. We hope to bring together 300 to 400 faculty and staff to hear the presentation and then they will receive some direction for how we anticipate the development of action plans within units will occur over the next three to four months.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Board Chair Report, IV. B.1

Chair Ortega reported that as we near the end of the academic year, the Board will begin planning for their retreat in June. The Board also looks forward to and will prepare for the NWCCU site team visit in April. She also expressed her appreciation about the positive budget news and the potential for minimal or no cuts.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV. B.2

Chair Mark Mays reported on topics at the Academic Affairs Committee meeting beginning with the Learning Commons Initiative. This is a blended learning space that supports the entire student learning experience, including their technology needs, their collaborative learning needs, and their personal development. The mission of the EWU Learning Commons is to provide a collaborative intellectual setting that inspires excellence in learning. This creates a situation for students to come together to gather resources in a very flexible format. As Chair of the

Academic Affairs Committee, one of Dr. Mays' personal values and priorities is to encourage innovation, and he noted this initiative defined an innovative approach that we will hear more about as time goes on.

Dr. Mays reported that most of the committee meeting focused on the mathematics program and the decision to terminate the Masters of Science in mathematics after an extensive review process. The Board is most focused on the process--that it is fair and transparent and all are provided an opportunity to be heard. Dr. Barbara Alvin, Department Chair, is passionate about her belief in what the department is trying to accomplish and acknowledged things have needed to be done differently for some time and is working on some beginning steps. One of the issues was that quantitative and mathematical skills should be addressed at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Moreover, we want to be sure that we are teaching our students math at a conceptual level, not just a functional level. Regarding developmental math, ASEWU President Oscar Ocaña requested that one of the first priorities to address was looking again at how undergraduate math could be seen as a foundation for the graduate program. Therefore, the Board directs and requests President Arévalo to consider what was discussed at the Academic Affairs Committee and report back to the Board in a timely way on developing plans and alternatives and look at better ways to approach developmental math. There is a need to look at different, effective and creative ways to teach these students so that we can focus on the outcome of their learning rather than just the process by which we have been doing it. The Board reaffirms its commitment to being able to provide to the students and to the region those academic programs that are vital in an era in which we are committed to science, technology, engineering, and math. The Board appreciates consideration of different structures and reporting back to us on the best way to proceed.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.3.

Chair Kris Mikkelsen reported on their meeting activities that included Dr. Arevalo's report on his involvement with Priority Spokane, an initiative that looks at indicators that are critical to a healthy community. Educational attainment is a key goal, and the committee discussed the dropout rate in the Spokane area. Priority Spokane has been instrumental in getting some funding from the Gates Foundation to work with public schools, and Eastern will be involved with this initiative. Ms. Mikkelsen noted her appreciation for Dr. Arévalo's involvement with STEM education and noted that he is the co-chair of a working group focused on STEM learning. This is a significant opportunity for Eastern to be engaged. She further reported that Government Relations Director David Buri gave a report on what is transpiring at the state level, and there is reason for cautious optimism with respect to the budget. It appears that reductions may not materialize or they may end up much less.

A good report was heard from Mike Westfall about the efforts engaged in by MARCOM. The robotics competition took place on April 6 and 7. There were 46 different teams and 1,000 high school students on Eastern's campus. This was an exceptional opportunity to show off what we have at Eastern. There was good media coverage having to do with the Veteran's Resource Center, and that is certainly a very exciting initiative for Eastern. We also discussed the EWU MBA Harvard program that seems to be generating a lot of excitement. We are also excited about a new fundraising initiative called "Take an EWU Student Under Your Wing," a

scholarship effort under way that is off to a great start. To date fundraising results are at \$3 million so far for the year, which is up about \$1 million compared to this same time last year. Athletic Director Bill Chaves talked about his work in Athletics: high quality programs, thriving students, and a lot of visibility for the institution on all fronts. Ms. Mikkelsen thanked Mr. Chaves for his efforts.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.4

Chair Tanaka reported the Business and Finance Committee took a major step in moving forward the residence hall bond resolution which will coming before the board today for action. The major milestone reached was approval of the construction contract with the selected contractor. Mr. Tanaka agreed there is some reason for some optimism relative to the negative effects on Eastern from the state budget. Both the Senate and the House budgets are currently being negotiated. The committee had a brief update on the 10-Year Capital Plan, and trustees wanted more detail and context as to how that plan is developed and some of the rationale behind it. The tobacco policy regarding the use of tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and other products on campus, was discussed. The policy itself will bring us into compliance with state law statutes, but there is a separate question as to whether smoking on Eastern's Cheney campus should be restricted further. The Riverpoint campus is controlled by WSU, and questions were raised as to the status of the policy there. Therefore, the Board would like to request the administration investigate whether the Cheney campus should adopt a policy and regulations to become a smoke-free campus and to report back to the Board on the results of that investigation no later than January 2013. Further, the Board requested briefings on the progress sometime in the fall.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.5.

Chair Kauffman reported the Student Affairs Committee had met yesterday and there are no major action items. Stacey Morgan-Foster, Vice-President of Student Affairs, provided a brief summary of the different kinds of challenges and opportunities that exist through her office. The Committee heard a presentation on the Military Service which provides support for veterans who are taking classes on campus. The veteran's student population at Eastern is expected to increase ten percent per year for the next seven years. There are approximately 500 veterans presently on campus. There was a presentation regarding the services and activities fee, which will be approved by the Board at our upcoming meeting in May. Students are looking at a three percent increase and assured they would also be presenting an allocation plan. Dr. Larry Briggs reported on enrollment targets and prepared a five-year enrollment projection. EWU has record enrollments through fall of 2012, with a headcount of approximately 10,900. Dr. Briggs provided the Board some excellent analysis in terms of the headcount and biometrics so trustees were able to assess the typical load that students carry. Enrollment staff has been working hard to integrate the strategic plan and enhance marketing efforts through a brochure that was developed internally. The committee also heard from the Director for the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities regarding student involvement and leadership within the Greek system and sorority and fraternities here at EWU. Lastly, trustees heard an update on the residence hall project and how that is moving forward.

Organization President's Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Faculty Organization Vice President Sam Ligon reported on behalf of Chair William Loendorf. He referred to Dr. Loendorf's written report and offered to answer any questions. He noted the value of work being done by Faculty Organization to ensure committees are productive, eliminate duplications, and work efficiently with all decision makers at the table. However, it will require a constitutional amendment faculty hope to pass this spring. Faculty are excited about student success and the definition of it and are interested in discussions concerning student success and retention. He reported on ways faculty should be involved in retention: advising/support services; engagement; student population; academics; and scheduling. Mr. Ligon also provided information about Eastern's literary festival Get Lit! It is set to launch in Spokane and Cheney the week of April 9. He extended an invitation to all to attend an event, the first annual Get Lit! Pie and Whiskey reading, which he is hosting. Trustees asked questions of Mr. Ligon, and he provided answers and insights from the faculty perspective. See the full written report for further details.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

President Quincy Burns reported that this summer negotiations will begin for a new contract, which will depend on the economy, the budget from the legislature, and the state of our institution.

Mr. Burns also informed the board of efforts to extend arbitration for commissioned police officers for campus police who are not covered under the current laws. He further commented that a lot of classified staff were present in Olympia over the last session lobbying against proposed cuts to education. He emphasized the joint partnership and continued efforts of classified staff with our institution working against cuts to higher education.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

President Ocaña thanked the EWU faculty, staff, students and administrators for having students at the forefront of all of their conversations. It is very much appreciated by him and the students. He pointed out how learning is more than class assignments and commended the leadership team for being great mentors for the students. He further thanked Drs. Wilson and Fuller for extending JFK library hours in a pilot project during the month of March, and especially for Dr. Wilson's enthusiasm in the project and for helping students. Mr. Ocaña also touched on the ASEWU goal to increase voting turn out by five percent from last year. General elections are on May 8. The ASEWU also distributed a survey to Riverpoint students to receive input on services needed, such as child care and academic support. Currently, the survey is being reviewed and tabulated. Mr. Ocaña also reported on the Washington State Student Leadership conference and student advocacy. See Mr. Ocaña's written report for further details.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the January 27, 2012, Regular Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

New, Revised, and Repealed Policies, V.A.2

- a) EWU Policy 302-06, Effort Reporting, NEW
- b) EWU Policy 303-04, Honorary Degrees, REVISION
- c) WAC 172-136, University Facilities, REPEAL
- d) WAC 172-122-310, Use of Tobacco, Electronic Cigarettes and Related Products, REVISION
- e) EWU Policy 101-01, University Organization, REVISION

- f) EWU Policy 101-02, University Governance, REVISION

- g) EWU Policy 201-01, Policy Management, REVISION
- h) EWU Policy 202-06, Post Issuance Compliance for Securities, NEW

Motion 03-01-2012: *Trustee Tanaka moved that the entire consent agenda be approved. Seconded by Trustee Whaley. Motion carried.*

Residence Hall Revenue Bond Resolution, V.B.1.

Motion 03-02-2012: *Trustee Tanaka moved that Resolution No. 2012-03(Residence Hall Revenue Bond Resolution), Attachment V.B.1., be approved. Seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist. Motion carried.*

Residence Hall Construction Contract, V.B.2.

Motion 03-03-2012: *Trustee Whaley moved to approve the Residence Hall Construction Contract. Seconded by Trustee Spanner. Motion carried.*

Motion 03-04-12: *Trustee Mikkelsen moved that the Board of Trustees approve the sale of the Spokane Center to USA Real Estate Fund 1, Inc., under the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement dated January 3, 2012, executed by EWU on January 27, 2012, as Amended per the proposal by the Purchaser, USA Real Estate Fund 1, Inc., in a resolution approved by its Board of Directors on March 5, 2012. The terms of the sale include a total purchase price of \$2 million, a cash payment of \$100,000 of Earnest Money no later than 11 am Pacific Daylight Time on March 26, 2012, and a closing date on or before April 2, 2012. Trustee Mikkelsen moved that the Board of Trustees delegate authority to the Vice President for Business and Finance to sell the Spokane Center under the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale*

*Agreement with USA Real Estate Fund 1, Inc., with funds resulting from this sale to be encumbered for a project at the Riverpoint campus.
Seconded by Trustee Mays.
Motion carried.*

Adjournment

Chair Ortega thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Bertha Ortega, Chair
Board of Trustees

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary