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Board of Trustees Minutes, January 27, 2012

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Regular Meeting

January 27, 2012

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

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

Call to Order, I.

Chair Ortega called the January 27, 2012, regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 11:45 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; to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; 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 70 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 1:00 p.m.

Quorum, II.

A quorum was present. Trustee Ines Zozaya-Geist was unable to attend the meeting.

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 1:10 p.m. and that no action was taken during executive session.

Board Committee of the Whole

Tuition Elasticity

Dr. Patrick Jones presented a brief PowerPoint to look at the recent literature (20 studies) on tuition's effect on enrollment. His questions were: how responsive is enrollment to tuition increases at EWU, and what is the total revenue change that one can expect at various tuition levels? After a review of the literature, mostly focusing on the most current studies, he did not find anything specific to an institution like Eastern. Many different subjects were considered in the literature, as well as many different approaches. Nearly all the data was based on secondary information, not surveys. The

studies usually used multivariate regression analysis, with the following variables (seldom used together, however): tuition, financial aid, competitors' effects, academic attributes of students, personal attributes of students, and economic variables.

Tuition elasticity is, generally, a response by one factor to a change in another, e.g., the percentage of change in enrollment to the percentage change in tuition. How big is that number? It is important because of overall revenue implications. Example: A 10% increase in tuition = 6% decrease in enrollment (inelastic case), with a revenue loss of \$60,000, but \$94,000 new revenue coming in. So you would see a net increase of \$34,000. The conundrum is that tuition has been going up, but our enrollment has increased, too, and the same result holds when expressed as a rate. Dr. Jones explained conclusions from several previous studies.

EWU enrollment forecasting models do not use tuition as a variable. Four variables are used to explain year-to-year variations in EWU entering freshmen: Washington state high school graduates in same year, average annual wage in Washington two years prior, average annual unemployment rate in Washington two years prior, and entering freshmen at WSU. The results show that all variables are statistically significant at 95% confidence level, and the model has fit the data well.

In summary, all studies reviewed by Dr. Jones show that the response of enrollment, however defined, to changes in tuition, "list" or net, is very slight. Only one study of an individual institution like EWU could be found, but another looked at all public comprehensives. A cursory look at EWU's own data on changes in enrollment and tuition does not show a negative relationship. Most recent studies show the effects of grants to be positive and statistically significant, with magnitudes that are larger than tuition.

Rule Making Delegation

Ms. Laurie Connelly explained the request to delegate to President Arévalo the authority to preside over WAC rule-making hearings due to scheduling the hearings and the notice required. A full report of the proceedings would be provided to the Board. The second delegation would allow the President to repeal the existing BOT academic policies when superseded by an academic policy. Again, all information would be provided to the Board. She also noted two policies on the consent action agenda (Items V.A.3.a and d) were not posted accurately so would be pulled from this agenda and brought forward at a later date.

Reconvene Open Board of Trustees Meeting

Chair Ortega called the open session of the January 27, 2012, regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 2:05 p.m.

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

Dr. Arévalo referred the Trustees to his written report, and then asked Athletic Director Bill Chaves to speak. Mr. Chaves noted two recent happenings: winning the award for the sports story of the year in Seattle, and the Walter Payton Award winner Bo Levi Mitchell. He thanked the Trustees for their support of the athletics program and introduced Coach Beau Baldwin. Coach Baldwin also thanked the Trustees for their support. He noted that the nomination for the sports story of the year

was special enough, but to actually win the award really meant a lot. Additionally, for Mr. Bo Levi Mitchell to receive the Walter Payton Award, which is our division's equivalent to the Heisman Trophy for football, was an amazing accomplishment for a player to accomplish in his two years at EWU. Mr. Mitchell is training to play and has all his things in line to receive his degree at EWU shortly, after four years of college. Mr. Mitchell thanked everyone for inviting him to attend the meeting and for recognizing his and the team's accomplishments. Chair Ortega told Mr. Mitchell that the Board was very proud of him for his efforts first as a student at EWU, and also as an athlete. She presented him with a framed Board Resolution. (Copy attached to the official minutes.)

President Arévalo gave an update on the strategic plan, saying we will begin the communications, engagement, and action plan over the next few months. In January we will launch a communications plan; February through May we will do our action planning; in March and April we will hold a strategic plan kickoff event for all students, staff, faculty and community members to hear an inspirational speaker and participate in breakout strategy sessions. Spring and summer activities will include an institutional and regional EWU pride day, engaging campus clubs and organizations, and holding a community-based research symposium. In July the five-year strategic plan begins, in the fall we will hold the 1st Annual *Inspiring the Future* Conference, and by summer 2013 the first annual report will be due.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Board Chair Report, IV.B.1.

Ms. Ortega's report consisted of awarding the Resolution to Bo Levi Mitchell.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.2.

Dr. Mays reported that the committee reviewed a handout from Provost Fuller discussing the university's diversity enrollment and retention rates, trends and successes. They also had the second read of the honorary degree policy. Ron Dalla provided an update on the NWCCU accreditation report, and the committee heard an update on the campus climate report as well as the dual-admissions program.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.3.

Ms. Mikkelsen reported that the committee heard an update from David Buri in Olympia. Higher education funding is unknown at this time, but there is concern that K-12 funding may hurt us. If the redistricting plan goes through, Eastern will be in the 6th Legislative District instead of the 9th District. President Arévalo noted that we plan to host a lunch or dinner for our 9th District legislators after the session ends to thank them for their support over the years. The Trustees will be notified of the event once it is set up so they can attend if available. VP Westfall gave an update regarding the Gateway Project, which is a privately funded building that might be constructed adjacent to Roos Field. He also gave an update on the Capital Campaign, saying that we are ahead of our goals and doing better than at this time last year. In addition to the athletics highlights that were mentioned earlier, last night's basketball game broke an attendance record that was set in 2003.

Public Hearing – Proposed Adoption of WAC's

Chair Ortega opened a Public Hearing for the proposed adoption and repeal of several Washington Advisory Codes. The hearing took place on January 27, 2012, in the Tawanka Commons Building at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington, pursuant to the authority given under RCW

28B.35.120-12, Chapter 42.30 RCW, the Open Public Meetings Act, and Chapter 34.05 RCW, the Administrative Procedures Act. She said written and oral testimony would be taken on:

- 1) adoption of WAC 172-137, Use of University Facilities
- 2) repeal of WAC 172-122-100, Civil Demonstrations
- 3) repeal of WAC 172-122-500, Posters
- 4) repeal of WAC 172-139-030, Handbills

Notice of this hearing was published in the Washington State Register on December 21, 2011, and in the *Easterner* student newspaper on January 11, 2012. She noted the items being repealed were due to their being covered under state law and/or other university rules and policies. She opened the hearing to proponents and opponents. Hearing no comments, the hearing was closed.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.4.

Mr. Tanaka reported that the Business & Finance committee met jointly with the Student Affairs committee to discuss the funding and schedule for the new residence hall. Our financial consultant and bond counselor also participated. The joint committee approved the bond resolution, which essentially delegates to Dr. Arévalo and Mary Voves the authority to negotiate various aspects of this project. This is not the final decision—that will come in March—but the Board wanted to give clear direction to President Arévalo and Mary Voves that the Board supports the bond resolution. We are well on our way to opening the new residence hall in 2013. We also spent some time with the state auditor, and everything looks fine with our finances and various funds. This is at least the tenth year in a row that there have been no findings. All the credit goes to Dr. Arévalo, Mary Voves, Toni Habegger, and their staff. We reviewed a first read of several policy changes as well as a second read of the policies in the consent agenda.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.5.

Chair Ortega sat in for Trustee Kauffman and commended Dr. Morgan Foster for the wonderful job being done in her area. The overall FTE's and headcount are impressive, and the loan debt is lower than she anticipated—with the graduates the past two years leaving with less than \$22,000 of debt. They heard a report from Ms. Virginia (Gini) Hinch regarding the professional skills of students as they leave Eastern and enter the workforce and heard a special disability support services report regarding the over 500 special needs self-identified students. Dr. Gary Pratt gave a technology support report, and Bill Chaves reported on the athletics department, including the high GPA's of our athletes across all sports.

Organization President's Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Dr. William Loendorf provided a written report, and highlighted that the faculty organization legislative committee has revamped the position description for the liaison in Olympia. The student success and retention committee is up and running in alignment with the university and board goals of improving student success and retention. He is also trying to revamp their committees and look at their charges. There is a lot of overlap because of the bylaws, which says only faculty can be voting members of the committees. He side-stepped the bylaws and set up a new one-year trial committee, the Academic Systems Advisory Committee made up of faculty, administrators and students all with voting power. It has replaced the Academic Computing Council and is functioning very well. That

has led other committees to bring forward similar charges. The bylaws will have to be changed to accomplish these committee changes.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

Mr. Quincy Burns was unable to attend, but had telephoned prior to say he had nothing to report.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Mr. Oscar Ocaña provided a written report highlighting ASEWU winter goals. This includes plans to increase election turnout by 5% from last year, childcare and fitness services at Riverpoint, bus passes through the summer for students, the PUB remodel, attendance at the Washington State Student Leadership Conference, and student advocacy in Olympia. See his full written report for scope of projects.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the November 18, 2011, Regular Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Minutes of the December 12, 2011, Special Board Meeting, V.A.2.

New, Revised and Repealed Policies: V.A.3.

- a) ~~EWU Policy 302-06, Effort Reporting, NEW~~
- b) EWU Policy 401-02, Additional or Outside Employment, NEW
- c) WAC 172-137, Use of University Facilities, NEW
- d) ~~EWU Policy 303-04, awarding of Honorary Degrees, REVISED~~
- e) EWU Policy 901-01, Ethical Standards, REVISED
- f) EWU Policy 403-02, Shared Leave, REVISED
- g) WAC 172-122-100, Civil Demonstrations, REPEAL
- h) UGS 840-080-100, Civil Demonstrations, REPEAL
- i) UGS 140-180-020, Indirect Cost Policy, REPEAL
- j) WAC 172-122-500, Posters, REPEAL
- k) WAC 172-139-030, Handbills, REPEAL

Motion 1-01-2012: Chair Ortega moved that the minutes of the November 18, 2011, Regular Board of Trustees' Meeting be approved as presented. Trustee Kauffman amended the motion to include all three consent action items.

Seconded by Trustee Tanaka.

Motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

Rule Making Delegation, V.B.1.

Ms. Laurie Connelly asked for delegation to the President to preside over rule-making hearings, and also delegation to the President the authority to repeal existing BOT policies when superseded by an academic policy.

Motion 1-02-2012: *Trustee Mays moved that the President be delegated the authority to preside over rule-making hearings and be delegated the authority to repeal existing BOT policies when superseded by an academic policy.*

Seconded by Trustee Whaley.

Motion carried.

President's Contract, V.B.2.

Motion 1-03-2012: *Trustee Mays moved that the Board of Trustees take further action to amend the president's contract to approve three additional vacation days per month from February 1, 2012, through June 30, 2013, and two additional vacation days per month from July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2016. Further, Trustee Mays moved that the Board direct the University's Assistant Attorney General to prepare a contract reflecting these changes and that the University's Administrative Exempt policies be amended consistent with the Board's action.*

Seconded by Trustee Tanaka.

Student Trustee Spanner abstained from this action.

Motion carried.

Delegation of Authority to Vice President for Business and Finance to Sell the Spokane Center

Mary Voves asked the Board for authority to negotiate and finalize the sale of the Spokane Center.

Motion 1-04-2012: *Trustee Mays 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 Spanner.

Motion carried.

Adjournment

Chair Ortega thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Bertha Ortega, Chair
Board of Trustees

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary