

10-8-2010

Board of Trustees Minutes, October 8, 2010

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

October 8, 2010

Committee of the Whole ~ 1:00 p.m. (TAW 215 B&C)
Open Public Session ~ 2:15 p.m. (TAW 215 B&C)
Executive Session ~ 11:45 a.m. (TAW 215 A)

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

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

Call to Order, I.

Chair Kauffman called the October 8, 2010 regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order. She 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.

She 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 Committee of the Whole and then into open session.

Quorum, II.

A quorum was present.

Executive Session, III.

Chair Kauffman stated that executive session was held for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110 and/or 42.30.140 as previously scheduled. She stated that executive session ended at 1:05 p.m. and that no action was taken during executive session.

Chair Kauffman called the Committee of the Whole session to order at 1:15 p.m.

Committee of the Whole

Housing Plan and Timeline

Vice President Morgan Foster outlined several options and opportunities regarding EWU's residential housing. The options range from annual maintenance and repairs at \$500,000 each year to a proposal to build a new residence hall as well as renovate several existing halls at eighty million dollars. Discussion occurred regarding renovations needed in several halls in order to bring building mechanical equipment up to date, as well as the need to provide the type of housing that will be attractive to students.

Trustee Tanaka expressed that the Board wants to do what is best for the students, both in terms of buildings and in terms of financial cost.

President Arevalo shared with the Board that he is proposing the eighty million dollar option because he thinks EWU needs to look seriously at creating a residential environment that is what the students are seeking, as well as the need to do renovations in the remaining halls in order to provide quality housing to students. He believes having a robust residential community helps the university increase retention and also gives students the support they need, especially during their critical freshman and sophomore years.

Trustees discussed both the safety of students being a high priority and having quality residence halls that can serve as recruitment and retention tools.

Trustees believe this decision needs to be considered along with the other campus building projects such as the PUB renovation proposal and/or others. The total cost to students of all these individual projects needs to be considered as a whole.

Discussion occurred regarding the possibility of public-private partnerships as well as lease options. Board members thanked the administration for being responsive to answering a variety of questions and for gathering more information. The Board understands the current state of the residence halls isn't ideal, and they do want any safety issues addressed. But they do not yet feel comfortable about what might be the best overall plan/proposal. Trustee Mikkelsen expressed that she believes a master plan would be beneficial, but she is not comfortable with the current plan. Trustee Mikkelsen, McReynolds and Tanaka expressed concern about going ahead with the 80 million dollar plan. They would like to research whether there might be a way to attract students and take care of urgent mechanical repairs at a lower cost.

The next steps to be taken: the Business & Finance and Student Affairs Committees need to discuss this topic further at their November meetings; Vice President Morgan Foster to provide further information about what other universities are doing in this regard; more information needs to be provided regarding renovation vs. new construction; and an outline needs to be provided of the other proposed campus projects and the impact to students of all these projects.

President Arevalo would like the Board to take action on this topic in November.

Trustees expressed concern about a November decision date.

Board Information Resource

President Arévalo explained that we are exploring possible internet resources in order to facilitate the trustees' ability to access board materials conveniently and earlier, as opposed to waiting for paper materials. One possible resource, a Sharepoint site, was demonstrated to the board. Trustees expressed interest in having current and historical documents accessible electronically. The next steps will include analyzing the board's needs and researching methods to fulfill those needs as well as the need to make documents available to the campus and broader communities as well.

Reconvene Open Board of Trustees Meeting

Chair Kauffman called the open session of the October 8, 2010 regular meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 2:18 p.m.

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

President Arévalo reported that he has spent quite a bit of his time this summer and fall focused on the issue of higher education funding.

He also called the trustees' attention to posters on display in the board meeting room, which highlight several excellent recent accomplishments at Eastern. These include the Discover E science and research magazine, Student Research and Creative Works event and projects, EWU Architecture photo montage, Passing Through the Pillars to Graduation, From European Zoos to Asian Grasslands – International Reintroduction Biology.

Big Sky President's Cup -

President Arévalo reported that the athletics department has experienced significant success recently, both in terms of student academic excellence and athletic success. He introduced Bill Chaves, EWU Athletic Director, to share recent excitement with the Board. Mr. Chaves announced that Eastern athletes brought home the Big Sky President's Cup for 2009-2010 for the first time. This cup represents both academic and athletic excellence. Several student athletes were in attendance and introduced themselves to the Board and thanked the trustees for their support.

Red Turf Project -

President Arévalo introduced Vice President Westfall, to share information about the marketing success of the red turf project. Mr. Westfall shared with the Board a multi-media presentation which demonstrated ways in which the red turf project has been successful in meeting the Board's goal to raise awareness of Eastern by leveraging athletics. Several national media clips and videos were shown on the screen and Mr. Westfall summarized the tremendous value of the extensive media coverage given to this project and to Eastern Washington University over the last several months.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Board Chair Report, IV.B.1.

Chair Kauffman reported that she and Trustee Mays attended the dedication of the red turf in September, which enabled them to share in the excitement this project has generated. This was also a great opportunity to visit with the members of the EWU Foundation Board, and she looks forward to additional opportunities to interact with their members.

Chair Kauffman participated in a meeting with the Higher Education Coordinating Board in Seattle regarding the revenue situation in higher education. She reported that EWU has been well served in Olympia with President Arévalo and David Buri's presence there. The message Eastern has been giving to legislators regarding the importance of first generation students has been well received. Trustees need to continue their involvement in conversations with and helping to educate legislators on the important work EWU is doing with students.

Last evening board members participated in a dinner meeting with the WSU Regents to continue to build relationships with them and to collaborate regarding Eastern Washington's higher education goals.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.2.

Trustee Tanaka began by thanking President Arévalo and the dining services employees for the excellent meal served at the dinner meeting with the WSU Regents. He then reported on the following topics discussed in the committee meeting:

- Provost Fuller updated the Board on many accomplishments within Academic Affairs, including the numerous grants that faculty are receiving.
- Program Audit – discussed the process and status of this program. The Board is very interested in how this is working.
- Student credit hours have increased recently.
- Course repeat policy and high failure courses – discussed the situation and the steps the university is taking to address it. The Board is also very interested in this topic.
- Math NSF Grant – the trustees received information regarding this grant to award scholarships to students who agree to become teachers in high need areas such as mathematics, education, and biology.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.3.

Trustee Mikkelsen reported that the committee had a great meeting. The committee discussed the following topics:

- Government Relations – the committee participated in good conversation about what is going on in Olympia.
- Budget – the budget news is not good, but President Arévalo and others are working to address the university's situation.
- The committee discussed ways to continue leveraging success for the university, such as the red turf project as well as others.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.4.

Trustee McReynolds began by congratulating Vice President Westfall, his staff, and the athletics department for successfully leveraging athletics for the overall benefit of the university. He then reported on the following topics discussed at the meeting:

- University sustainability plan – this is the right thing to do environmentally and will benefit the university as well as the students for the future.
- Budget Strategy – the projections show that the state as well as the university will continue to face budget challenges for the next four to five years. Approximately two years ago the Board developed budget principles, and the committee reviewed those principles at the meeting. Trustees discussed the possibility of adding a principle focused on students.
- Investment Advisory Committee – investments is one way the university tries to generate revenue. In order to increase success in this area the committee has added two new members with expertise in the investment area. Committee members look forward to future progress.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.5.

Trustee Ortega reported that the meeting was shorter this time due to a joint session the committee had with the Academic Affairs Committee to discuss Strategic Enrollment Management. During the joint session the trustees and administrators discussed demographic trends, retention, and the retention dashboard. She thanked everyone for their work on the dashboard, as it was helpful.

During the Student Affairs Committee meeting the following topics were discussed:

- Career Services – Gini Hinch and others provided the committee with a presentation regarding career and internship opportunities. This presentation has been given to 475 people so far.
- PUB Building Concepts - Stacey Butler and Justin Terry gave a presentation and discussed the concepts with the committee.
- Temporary Employment Policy – this was a 1st read of this policy.
- Enrollment – Dr. Larry Briggs reported on the positive enrollment, especially freshmen.

Organization Presidents' Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Ms. Doris Munson reported that the Faculty Senate has not yet met this year. She commented that her husband saw a news segment about EWU's red football field on the BBC World News, and she looks forward to the time when Eastern's academic programs will be mentioned on the BBC World News.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

Mr. Pendleton began by expressing that he was pleased to hear Vice President Voves say there will not be across the board budget cuts but instead there will be changes in how the university functions. The contract between Local 931 and the university was ratified by the membership on September 13. Two union members attended a safety seminar in Spokane recently, and they are now considering ways to incorporate what they learned.

A great example of the excellent work the classified staff is doing occurred last night when Mr. Pendleton was called to repair a lock in Anderson Hall. When he arrived he noticed two EWU police cars. The officers were there instructing a self-defense class for about twenty students. This is a great demonstration of the ways Eastern's classified staff support Eastern students and provide dedicated service to the students, buildings, meals, and academic support services.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Mr. Justin Terry, ASEWU President, reported that the ASEWU fall training week was productive. It included educational sessions regarding ASEWU processes and procedures as well as information from guest speakers to help council members understand university functions such as the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities and the Service and Activity Fees. Council members have also been connected to a university mentee so they will have a person to whom they can go for discussion and guidance. The council has outlined its goals for the year and one of their goals, in conjunction with the Board goal of increasing visibility, is to increase the visibility of student government. One strategy that has been effective is that they have given "RUN EWU" t-shirts to all the incoming freshmen. The meaning of the shirts is being talked about all around campus, and thus is increasing awareness of ASEWU. Another important goal is to operate as a unified council – to make decisions based on consensus and to act as a unified entity. One project being approached in this way is the PUB renovation project.

Mr. Terry expressed that it has been an exciting year so far, and he values the experience of speaking at the Fall Gathering Breakfast as well as participating in Pass Thru the Pillars where the freshmen were loud and proud and ready to be Eagles.

Chair Kauffman asked the ASEWU officers in attendance to introduce themselves, and they did so.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the August 26, 2010 regular Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Motion 10-01-2010: Motion by Chair Kauffman that the Board approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2010 regular Board of Trustees' Meeting.

Motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

Board Election of Officers, V.B.1.

Motion 10-02-2010: Motion by Trustee Tanaka that the Board elect Bertha Ortega as Chair of the Board and Neil McReynolds as Vice Chair of the Board.

Seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist.

Motion carried.

Board of Trustees 2011 Meeting Dates, V.B.2.

Discussion – Trustee Tanaka asked that the trustees and president consider the idea of moving the August 25th work session and meeting to Seattle on September 2, 2011, as this would give the opportunity for trustees to attend the football game between EWU and University of Washington on September 3rd as well as possibly meet with legislators and other community members. Discussion occurred about this date being Labor Day weekend, which may not be the best timing.

Motion 10-03-2010: Motion by Trustee Tanaka that the Board approve the proposed 2011 Board of Trustees' meeting dates, with the understanding that the Board may consider changing the August date.

Seconded by Trustee Ortega.

Motion carried.

Board of Trustees 2012 & 2013 Meeting Dates, V.B.2.

President Arévalo explained the reason these 2012 and 2013 dates are being proposed is because it is difficult to set a schedule a year in advance because people's calendars have conflicts, so his thinking is that if the dates are set two years ahead of time then people can arrange their schedules to be available for the EWU Board of Trustees' meetings.

Motion 10-04-2010: *Motion by Trustee Ortega that the Board approve the proposed 2012 and 2013 Board of Trustees' meeting dates.*

Seconded by Trustee Tanaka.

Motion carried.

Collective Bargaining Agreement between EWU and the Washington Federation of State Employees, Council No. 28 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, V.B.3.

Ms. Connelly reported that the classified employees have ratified this agreement. Due to the budget situation this year it was agreed upon that the previous contract would be rolled over with a few minor changes. This contract will be effective July 1, 2011, contingent upon the Health Care Coalition's final agreement as well as the governor's certification and approval by the legislature.

Motion 10-05-2010: *Motion by Trustee Tanaka that the Board approve the collective bargaining agreement between Eastern Washington University and the Washington Federation of State Employees, Council No. 28 of the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees, effective July 1, 2011, contingent upon the successful negotiation of health insurance costs by the Health Care Coalition, certification by the governor that the agreement is financially feasible, and approval as required by RCW 4180.*

Seconded by Trustee McReynolds.

Motion carried.

Vice Chair Ortega, on behalf of the other trustees, presented Chair Kauffman with appreciation for her two years of service and dedication as Chair of the Board.

Chair Kauffman expressed that it has been an honor to serve as chair for the past two years, it has been a wonderful experience, and she has appreciated working with Dr. Arévalo and his great team.

Adjournment, VII.

Chair Kauffman adjourned the regular Board of Trustees meeting at 3:35 p.m.

Jo Ann Kauffman, Chair
Board of Trustees

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary