

12-17-2008

## Board of Trustees Minutes, December 17, 2008

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Special Meeting**

**December 17, 2008**

**Committee of the Whole ~ 2:00 p.m. (PUB 261)**

**Executive Session ~ 2:45 p.m. (PUB 261)**

**Open Public Session ~ 3:30 p.m. (PUB 261)**

**MINUTES**

Trustees in Attendance on campus:

Jo Ann Kauffman, Chair  
Gordon Budke  
Courtney Fleming  
Kris Mikkelsen

Trustees in Attendance via teleconference call:

Neil McReynolds  
Bertha Ortega, Vice Chair  
Paul Tanaka  
Ines Zozaya-Geist

**Committee of the Whole Session**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

**1) Eastern Washington University Board Statement of Budget Reduction Principles**

Chair Kauffman announced that the purpose of this Committee of the Whole session is to have discussion regarding the process the university will undergo to approach the necessary budget reductions, and to discuss the Board of Trustees' role in this process. The Board also intends to convene into open session later this afternoon in order to take action on an EWU Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles.

Trustee Budke shared that he has attended board meetings for companies in private industry recently, and they were discussing the very same issue of budget reductions. He encouraged everyone at Eastern to appreciate the inclusive, collaborative, and open approach being taken here, as this is not always the case in private industry.

Trustee Tanaka asked for a review of the time lines for the 2009-2011 budget preparation, and Vice President Voves outlined the university budget process as follows: vice presidential unit budgets are due to the president by January 31 (an extended deadline); the governor and legislature will give projections and previews regarding Eastern's budget during January – March; once the legislature approves the final state budget in April, EWU will work on finalizing its biennial budget; the Board

will receive a first read of EWU's budget at the May Board meeting and will approve the final budget at the June Board meeting; the university budget for the 2009-11 biennium must be submitted to the state by June 30<sup>th</sup> and it is effective beginning July 1, 2009.

The draft EWU Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles was discussed at length by the Board. Trustees discussed that the statement should not be too specific, as the Board's role is not micromanagement of the budget. The Board's role is to set policy level guidelines to advise the president in order to protect the best interests of the students and the mission of the university.

Discussion occurred regarding this budget crisis being an opportunity to sharpen the focus of the university and its vision, within the already defined mission and goals.

Trustee Mikkelsen pointed out that Eastern's students need to be kept in the forefront of people's minds as budget reductions are being considered. She expressed the importance of the students receiving a high quality education from Eastern, and she believes the students should not be short changed. She acknowledged that this budget reduction process will take leadership and courage and will not be easy. It is the responsibility of the Board, the President, faculty and staff to provide a quality education to our students – regardless of the budget.

Chair Kauffman expressed her agreement with Trustee Mikkelsen. She explained that the Board will fulfill their monitoring and liaison role partly through a special committee of the Board to provide a liaison between the president and the board so that as these difficult decisions are made, the Board will be well connected to the process.

Discussion occurred regarding the budget reduction topic.

### **Call to Order, I.**

Chair Kauffman called the December 17, 2008 special meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 2:45 p.m.

Chair Kauffman announced that the Board would convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee and/or RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation or potential.

She announced that executive session would last approximately 45 minutes, that no final action would be taken during executive session, and that at the conclusion of the executive session the Board would convene into open session to take action on the EWU Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles.

### **Reconvene Open Session**

Chair Kauffman reconvened the open session of the special meeting at 3:50 p.m.

### **Quorum, II.**

A quorum was present. All trustees were in attendance.

**Executive Session, III.**

Chair Kauffman stated that executive session was held for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and/or (1)(i) as previously announced and that no action was taken during the executive session.

**Discussion Action Item, IV.**

Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles, IV.1.

Chair Kauffman announced that the purpose of this special Board meeting is to take action on the EWU Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles.

***Motion 12-17-08:** Motion by Trustee Budke that the Board approve the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees Statement of Budget Reduction Principles as presented, with no revision.*

*Seconded by Trustee Ortega.*

*Motion carried unanimously.*

**Adjournment, V.**

Chair Kauffman adjourned the meeting at 3:56 p.m.

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Jo Ann Kauffman, Chair

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John Mason, Acting President  
on behalf of Rodolfo Arévalo,  
Secretary