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Board of Trustees Minutes, February 3, 2006

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

February 3, 2006

Open Public Session at 12:30 p.m.

Executive Session at 11:30 a.m.

TAW 215

MINUTES

Call to Order, I.

Chair Mikkelsen called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Quorum, II.

A quorum was present; Trustee Kauffman was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

Executive Session, III.

Chair Mikkelsen announced that the Board would convene in executive session for purposes authorized in 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. She anticipated that the Board would reconvene in open session at approximately 12:30 p.m., and she stated that no action would be taken during the executive session.

Reconvene

Chair Mikkelsen reconvened the Board in open session.

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

- Dr. Levin-Stankevich reported that enrollment continues to be strong, currently 290 students over last year. The university is proactively addressing the state-wide enrollment demographics challenges and the retention challenges. The task force will have recommendations in February.
- Dorothy Zeisler-Vralsted, Eastern's new Vice Provost for Academic Affairs was introduced. Dr. Zeisler-Vralsted has been recognized nationally for her work with retention and graduation rates, so Eastern is fortunate and pleased that she has joined the administration. She comes from the University of Wisconsin at La Crosse.
- Eastern hosted a diversity open forum on December 1 to hear from community members. Approximately one hundred people attended, and many spoke. The benchmark report has been distributed to Trustees. The reports are available on Eastern's website, and can be accessed from the diversity web page. The President's Advisory Committee on Diversity continues to follow-up

with this important initiative. A follow-up work session focusing on the areas that directly affect students will be held on February 22.

- Advancement: A \$250,000 gift was recently received from Dr. Jeannie Shreve. Also, an important match gift of \$25,000 for graduate student fellowships was received. Eastern is very pleased that Lisa Poplawski was recently named Director of Alumni and Planned Giving.
- Advertising in Bellevue has increased, with the back of two city buses wrapped with the phrase “Eastern at BCC”.
- Legislative Update: Alicia Kinne and Garrett Havens recently joined Jeff Gombosky to testify at the Senate Higher Education hearing regarding institutional mission and Eastern’s role in resolving issues of state higher education.
- Strategic planning: Deans Council, President’s Cabinet, and the Strategic Planning Council are working on solutions to bring the budget process in line in order to support the goals of the strategic plan.
- General Education: this initiative continues and the committee has identified six pillars and six learning outcomes that cross the boundaries of several colleges and instill qualities in students that employers desire.

Trustees’ Reports, IV.B.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.1.

The Academic Affairs Committee received numerous valuable reports including the archeological dig in People’s Park in Spokane by Archeological & Historical Services, and the Grants and Contracts Annual Report 2004-’05. The Diversity Grant deadline is approaching in January, and the search is continuing for a Diversity Faculty Fellow. A report was given about the Partners in Learning grant as well.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.2.

Mr. McReynolds reported that Advancement includes several related functions: communications, alumni relations, government relations, and the EWU Foundation. The Advancement Committee has met twice since the last Board of Trustees meeting. Three important areas the committee discussed are: 1) Plan for introducing the university’s new president. A draft roll-out plan has been developed for the first hundred days by University Relations with input from numerous campus constituents. 2) The committee reviewed and discussed the legislative strategy for the university. Today is a major cut-off date for bills. 3) The fundraising area continues to be led well by Gerilyn Hausback and Mary Voves in the absence of a Vice President for Advancement. The first six months of this year have exceeded the funds raised during the first six months of last year. The university continues its commitment to the capital campaign.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.3.

Mr. Tanaka reported that the Business and Finance Committee received an important presentation from Michelle Whittingham regarding the state wide enrollment trends and how this is impacting Eastern. Freshmen and transfer applications are currently down for 2006-07 both at Eastern and state wide. Eastern is looking into potential reasons for this trend, and the Board has a good sense that the President and his staff are on top of this and are developing strategies to deal with it. The Committee also received an update from Rick Romero on the recreation center, and Rick will also be presenting that update to the full Board today at this meeting. Mr. Tanaka expressed that he wants to state that

the Board clearly understands they are in a partnership with the students and that the Board is very invested in meeting the student's needs and providing support. He stated that the Board also has a fiduciary responsibility and will be looking very closely at the costs of this project. The Board also understands that the students voted to impose a fee on themselves. In addition, the Business and Finance Committee approved several items that will be coming forward to the full Board this afternoon and they are: Comprehensive Health Fee, Risk Management Policy, and Auxiliary Audits.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.4.

Ms. Zozaya-Geist reported that the Student Affairs Committee also discussed enrollment trends and strategies as well as the Comprehensive Health Fee. The Committee received updates from the Associated Students and Intercollegiate Athletics. Athletic consultants have been on campus these last couple of days talking with constituent groups. Ms. Parks shared the academic and athletic achievements of the student athletes, which are impressive. Frank Nelson gave an overview of Eastern's graduation rates and success rates, as compared to the NCAA requirements. Ms. Zozaya-Geist stated that it is important for the Board to be informed of and to understand this information, as penalties are given if schools don't meet the requirements. The Committee also discussed the Diversity Initiative, and Board Members are invited to attend the work session on February 22 which will focus on topics particularly important to students.

Joint Governing Board, IV.B.5.

The Joint Governing Board has sent a request to meet with the Council of Presidents, and at this time they have not heard back.

Special Recognition, IV.B.6.

Mr. Budke asked Leslie Mowatt to come to the front in order to be recognized for her work with the presidential search. Mr. Budke stated that it is more than appropriate to recognize and thank Ms. Mowatt for her dedicated work on this project. Mr. Budke acknowledged that Ms. Mowatt made numerous personal sacrifices and dedicated herself to the interest of Eastern during this process. She gave up holidays, vacation plans, and evenings in order to accomplish this monumental task and the incredible time line. Mr. Budke expressed that if it hadn't been for Ms. Mowatt, the university would not have a new president at this point. Chair Mikkelsen also expressed her thanks and appreciation to Ms. Mowatt.

Presidents' Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

The Strategic Planning Council awarded fifteen Strategic Planning Resource Pool grants to faculty, staff and students. The Washington Council of Faculty Representatives is developing a brochure that will showcase several EWU programs. Several EWU faculty, including Bill Youngs and Sally Winkle, will participate in a reception in Olympia to showcase faculty initiatives that serve communities within Washington. A proposal has been submitted to reinstate a faculty legislative representative in Olympia, a position that was cut in 1996 due to budget restraints. UFE & Faculty Organization will be paying for this position, and the faculty rep. will need release time. The Faculty Values statement; other institutions have been impressed with EWU's statement and the Faculty Organization passed a resolution of support for the statement. Faculty Organization received a strategic planning grant for difficult dialogues to sponsor open forums and speakers, some with the theme of academic freedom. Dr. Dalla made it possible for Dr. Winkle and Dr. Youngs to attend the

Association of American Colleges and Universities conference in Washington, D.C. regarding liberal education, globalization, and engagement.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

The Classified Staff Union has been meeting with Human Resources regarding performance expectations. The Classified Staff are preparing for the new president and looking forward to his arrival. Ms. Van Bommel thanked Dr. Levin-Stankevich for working so hard here at Eastern and with such dedication, and she congratulated him on his new job.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Ms. Kinne reported that she has been doubling as legislative affairs representative recently, as two important bills are being considered: one regarding text book prices; and one proposing that the student trustee start their position in July rather than June so they will be more informed and prepared to vote on the budget, not as their first voting item but their last. Higher Education Day in Olympia recently focused on student success. The student leadership conference is intended to help promote student engagement, and Ms. Kinne is pleased that the New York Times is sponsoring this event. Students are also involved in the United Nations Awards, and also the university district committee, which is intended to help foster a more student oriented environment in the Spokane university district.

Special Reports, IV.D.

Spokane Strategy Update, IV.D.1.

Eastern has asked the legislature for a proviso in the budget bill that would allow EWU to sell the Spokane Center and channel the proceeds from that sale into the pre-design and design for a building on the Riverpoint campus or adjacent to the Riverpoint campus. Dr. Levin-Stankevich reported that he and Jeff Gombosky recently talked with legislators about this proviso and about EWU's capital budget request. The reaction was generally favorable, but some reactions were mixed regarding the Patterson and Martin/Williamson projects. Dr. Levin-Stankevich reported that he recently met with Judy Cole and Marty Dickenson of The Spokane Partnership to discuss the university district.

Faculty Fellow for Diversity Update, IV.D.2.

Dr. Dalla reported that last year's search did not result in the hiring of a Faculty Fellow. The search has been reopened, and there are eleven applications. The search committee has met to begin the process of evaluating the applications. Effort was made to recruit internal candidates, however, the candidate pool is made up of external candidates. The goal is to identify finalists by the end of the quarter.

2005 Auxiliary Funds Audits by LeMaster and Daniels, IV.D.3.

The Auxiliary Funds Audit includes four areas: Housing and Dining, Bookstore, ASEWU, and Pence Union Building. Mr. Frickle reported that these areas received a clean audit opinion, with no management letter comments – either formal or informal. The fifth area reviewed, Intercollegiate Athletics, was different than an audit. The NCAA came out with new procedures that an independent CPA firm must perform. Mr. Frickle reported that his firm followed those procedures and wrote a report, which is different from an audit. There were no findings in this area, which is positive.

Motion 02-01-06: "I move that the Board of Trustees accept the audit reports for the four areas, and the report on the agreed upon Procedures for the Intercollegiate Athletics area."

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Ortega.

The motion carried.

A special thank you was expressed to Toni Habegger and her staff for managing the audits well.

Recreation Center Update, IV.D.4.

Rick Romero opened his report stating that there are two important issues regarding the recreation center – 1) that this is a partnership with the students, and 2) that fiscal responsibility is extremely important. Mr. Romero shared that he has had the privilege of working with three student governments on this project, and he recently discussed the partnership with the current student government members. A recent open forum made it apparent that there are fundamental differences among groups of students regarding which facilities/amenities they believe should be included in the center. One group of students believes it is very important to provide space to accommodate intramural sports. One group of students believes it is important to provide the opportunity to appeal to the external community by including ice which could be a possible revenue source for the center. Mr. Romero commented that he has been incredibly proud of the students who have come forward to express their opinions, differences in opinion, and information. At yesterday's ASEWU meeting, the council considered three different possible options for the center, and they discussed the different trade offs and advantages and disadvantages of each option. After extensive discussion, ASEWU voted to stay with the original version of the project with 6 positive votes and 2 abstentions. The original design provides the infrastructure so that ice could be maintained if and when desired. Ms. Kinne reported that 100 students voiced their opinions at the open forum, and there does appear to be a major divide among student groups. Ms. Kinne feels the option the Associated Students voted for is by far the best option.

Mr. Romero reported that the process of getting cost estimates will continue, and that an absolute cost may not be available until the bids come in. The administration will continue to answer the questions and concerns of the Board and the students.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the October 7, 2005 Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Minutes of the December 2, 2005 Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.2.

Motion 02-02-06: "I move that the Board of Trustees approve the Consent Action Items as presented."

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Roestel.

The motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

"Eastern Washington University strives to satisfy all requests for special access needs for persons with disabilities. Requests for such accommodation are welcome and may be made by calling the President's Office, (509) 359-6598."

Comprehensive Health & Wellness Fee, V.B.1.

Mr. Ponder thanked the President's Staff, Cabinet and the advisory group who have been involved in this project. He expressed additional appreciation to Dean Appleton and Dean Frumkin who were engaged and assisted with the discussion of options for this program. Mr. Ponder believes this comprehensive health and wellness program will benefit the entire university. This program will be rolled out over a two year timeline in various stages. Two current positions in Health & Wellness were originally funded on an interim basis by President Jordan. The Business & Finance and Student Affairs Committees discussed the need for an implementation plan and an assessment plan, and they asked that these two plans be developed. Both elements will be developed and brought to the March Student Affairs Committee meeting. The Student Affairs Committee approved the recommendation of the fee and the combination of services.

Motion 02-03-06: "I move that the Board of Trustees approve this fee."

Motion by Trustee Ortega; seconded by Trustee Roestel.

The motion carried.

Risk Management, V.B.2.

Ms. Jolynn Rogers, Director of Human Resources, Rights, and Risk presented a new Risk Management Policy for approval by the Board. Ms. Rogers reported that Eastern has had a risk management program in place for some time, but has not had a formal policy. An external review team studied this issue and recommended Eastern develop a policy with objectives and expectations. This new policy is consistent with other university policies. This policy outlines and identifies what should be considered and who should be contacted in case of emergencies, including procedures involving events and field trips. The question was asked, how will the campus be notified of this new policy and its procedures? Ms. Rogers stated that an all-campus notice will be sent to notify that the policy is in place, the policy will be available on the web site, training will be provided, and responsibility will be placed on department heads. Students will follow the same process as employees in regard to this policy.

Motion 02-04-06: "I move that the Board of Trustees approve the risk management policy as presented."

Motion by Trustee Roestel; seconded by Trustee Ortega.

The motion carried.

Revised 2006 EWU BOT Meeting Schedule, V.B.3.

Motion 02-05-06: *“I move that the Board of Trustees approve the revised 2006 meeting schedule as presented.”*

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Roestel.

The motion carried.

Personnel Actions, VI.

Motion 02-06-06: *“I move that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel actions as presented.”*

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Ortega.

The motion carried.

Old/New Business, VII.

Chair Mikkelsen expressed it is with mixed emotions that the Board learned yesterday that Brian is being appointed Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire. She shared that the Board is excited for Brian and this great opportunity, but sad to learn that Eastern will lose him.

Adjournment, VIII.

Chair Mikkelsen adjourned the meeting.

Kris Mikkelsen, Chair

Brian Levin-Stankevich, Secretary