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Board of Trustees Minutes, May 19, 2006

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

May 19, 2006

**Committee of the Whole ~ 12:30 p.m. (TAW 215 B & C)
Open Public Session ~ 1:45 p.m. (approx.) (TAW 215 B&C)
Executive Session ~ 11:00 a.m. (TAW 215 A)**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Mr. Gordon Budke
Ms. Jo Ann Kauffman
Mr. Neil McReynolds
Ms. Kris Mikkelsen, Chair
Ms. Bertha Ortega
Ms. Ines Zozaya-Geist

Call to Order, I.

Chair Mikkelsen called the May 19, 2006 meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order.

Quorum, II.

A quorum is present, though Trustee Tanaka could not be in attendance due to illness.

Executive Session, III.

Executive Session was held for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110 and/or RCW 42.30.140.

Recess to Committee of the Whole

Chair Mikkelsen announced that the Board would recess to a Committee of the Whole meeting in order to hear university budget presentations.

Committee of the Whole

1. 1st Read FY 2007 Operating and Capital Budget – Mary Voves

Vice President Voves presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2007 Operating and Capital Budget with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation. She explained this budget is comprised of enrollment, tuition, fees, operating, and capital funds.

It was pointed out that staff is researching the enrollment situation, and talking with both four year and two year institutions across the state regarding this state wide situation.

Discussion occurred regarding the method Eastern uses to make decisions about Graduate Student tuition, since there are no legislatively imposed limits. Ms. Voves explained that EWU proposes to increase Graduate Resident tuition by the same 6% as Undergraduate Resident tuition. The deans have discussed the possibility of creating some differential tuition rates for Physical Therapy and College of Business programs. Other comprehensives are planning across the board graduate program increases.

Trustee Budke pointed out that this budget includes proposed approval of the recreation center expenditure through a new fee over time, not approval that the money be spent immediately. The plan is to approve the student fee of \$55.00 in June.

Trustee Zozaya-Geist asked if enrollment is impacted by the new WASL regulations. Associate Vice President Whittingham has been involved in meetings addressing this topic, but so far no one has been able to measure the impact. This will be difficult to predict because students have four chances to pass the WASL over time. Institutions will also be watching the high school drop out rates.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Vice President Voves for a thorough presentation.

2. 1st Read 2007-09 Operating and Capital Budget Request – Mary Voves
• Review of Ten Year Capital Plan

Vice President Voves presented the 2007-2009 Operating and Capital Budget Request. This request must be submitted to the Governor's office by the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Voves pointed out that in terms of operating dollars, we always ask the legislature for funding for faculty salaries, classified staff contract, and self insurance. Sometimes we receive these funds and sometimes we don't.

The Capital budget process is complex. EWU has a ten year capital plan, upon which our prioritized list is based. Eastern's list is then taken to the table with the other state institutions, and a higher education priority list is built through the cooperation of the institutions. This list is then taken to the presidents and to each board. This year the capital list totals 53 million dollars.

The EWU Riverpoint proviso has no costs associated with it. It enables Eastern to keep the proceeds from the sale of the Spokane Center, which would then be used for pre-design and design for a new building at Riverpoint. Eastern has commissioned a study to analyze the needs of the Spokane community regarding higher education. The new building is expected to be a technologically advanced building.

One unusual aspect to this budget is the Banner phase 3 implementation. The goal is to implement the full suite of products including human resources and other components. The legislature is giving us permission to use our own local funds for this project.

Another item of note is that a disability assessment will be conducted on Eastern's campus and therefore the priorities may shift depending on the outcome of that assessment.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Vice President Voves for the excellent presentation.

Five minute break.

Reconvene to Open Public Session

Reports, IV.

University President's Report, IV.A.

President Arévalo greeted the Chair and the Board Members. He reported that over the last seven weeks he has spent a great deal of productive time on campus, in the local community, and with legislators, which has given him a good idea of how Eastern is perceived and supported.

Dr. Arévalo reported that he has visited nearly three quarters of the academic departments at Eastern. He has also met with numerous community and higher education leaders. These meetings have pointed out to Dr. Arévalo that Eastern has a great deal to be proud of.

President Arévalo informed the Board that he hopes to present his goals for the year to the Board in June.

One item of special mention is that Eastern's Corporate Cup Teams continue to have a fantastic experience with Bloomsday. Grant Smith, who brings all of these folks together to create success for the institution at this great race, was introduced.

Grant Smith highlighted the broad representation of the teams by introducing staff and faculty from the Math and English departments, Payroll, Student Financial Services, the Mars Lab, and several others representing departments across the university. He announced that the corporate cup trophy is an illustration of a tradition of excellence and dedication to the spirit of physical health and teamwork at Eastern. Grant presented a corporate cup shirt to Dr. Arévalo and welcomed him to Eastern and as an honorary member of the Bloomsday Corporate Cup Teams. Dr. Arévalo thanked Grant and other runners for their enthusiasm for Eastern.

President Arévalo announced two important upcoming events:

- On May 24 Dr. Madeleine Albright, former U.S. Secretary of State, will be on campus for discussions with students as well as a public lecture for the Presidential Speaker Series. He invited and encouraged all to attend.
- June 17 will be the commencement exercises for graduating students. He invited the board and all others to attend to honor the hard work of students.

Of significance to note:

- The EWU library has added a new multicultural diversity bibliography on their website.

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- Spring was Eastern's 18th consecutive quarter of enrollment growth. Unfortunately as we begin to look at next year, we may see a slight decline. The way EWU strategizes and invites others to campus will be critical.
- Dr. Margaret O'Connell is the winner of the 2006 Trustee Medal and she will be recognized for her achievement.
- Dr. Dana Elder was named the West Plains Chamber Educator of the Year, a significant achievement.

President Arévalo referred the Board and audience to his written report for a detailed list of events, grants awarded, and other significant university information since April 1.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Dr. Arévalo for his report, and mentioned that she can only imagine how full his daily calendar is considering all the meetings he has attended since he arrived on April 1.

Trustees' Reports, IV.B.

Academic Affairs Committee, IV.B.1.

Trustee Budke reported that Dr. Dalla lead several important discussions on accreditation, strategic planning and the strategic planning pool funds, and he gave updates on the faculty fellow and dean searches. Details regarding these items will be reported during this Board meeting.

Dr. Zeisler-Vralsted shared interesting information about the importance of undergraduate research and several students shared about their experiences with the student research symposium. Mr. Budke commented that this message about student research should be taken to the entire campus as a whole.

Trustee Budke reported that he attended the diversity work sessions and was impressed with the attendance of 100 people this time, as compared with 30 last time. These work sessions are fulfilling an important role and an important step in the diversity process in that they provide a forum for people to bring up important questions. Now that Eastern knows the questions that need to be asked, we will be able to find the answers to those questions.

Advancement Committee, IV.B.2.

Trustee McReynolds reported that the committee addressed a number of important topics, with fundraising being a concern as Eastern will not meet the goals that had been previously set. In terms of the comprehensive campaign, David Wu is performing an analysis after three years and he is planning to submit a report to the Board in June. Eastern is in need of a vice president for the advancement area, and since this is such a highly competitive area, an RFP is being prepared to hire a search firm to manage the process.

In the Government relations area, the committee discussed the Washington Learns Commission, as higher education has a lot at stake depending on their recommendations. They are interested in high tuition setting with high financial aid, which is of concern to EWU. They are also focusing on high

demand degrees and the transition from K12 to higher education. Their report is due mid fall to the legislative committee.

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The Prosperity Partnership in Puget Sound is interested in increasing the number of higher education graduates in math, science and technology in Washington State.

The Advancement Committee was very complimentary of Dr. Arévalo during his first seven weeks at Eastern.

Business and Finance Committee, IV.B.3.

Trustee Budke reported that the committee discussed the following topics: recreation center which will be reported on later in this meeting, investment policy for endowment funds which will come forward as an action item at this meeting, student fees which will come forward at the June meeting, and the three year audit contract with LaMaster and Daniels. Mr. Budke reported that the university now has a very succinct financial reporting process and he complimented Toni Habegger for her work on this. It is important to have a benchmark and to know the impact of the financial decisions.

Student Affairs Committee, IV.B.4.

Trustee Zozaya-Geist reported that the committee discussed two items that will come forward for approval at this meeting; service and activity fees and the student technology fee financial plan. The committee received a great presentation from 3 of the 4 student fellows; Cari, Victor, and Romeal Watson. The students shared their goals and accomplishments during their fellowships. The students expressed their appreciation of the faculty and staff who provided support to them during the year. The hope is to increase the number of student fellows in the future and to have fellows working in Academic Affairs as well, since the program has been so valuable and rewarding. The committee received a report from Carlos Maldonado regarding diversity and he has provided a written report to the Board. The next step with diversity is to develop a comprehensive report that will provide recommendations as well as time lines. This will eventually come to the board for action. The President's Advisory Committee on Diversity has high expectations of the board in terms of implementation. Trustee Zozaya-Geist stated that Dr. Maldonado's report is excellent and is the type of report the Board looks for. The Board appreciates having these priorities, expectations and timelines written out and organized in this manner.

Bill Ponder shared that one of the diversity grants, in conjunction with Career Services, will enable 100 students to attend a diversity employment day and career fair in Seattle, which is very valuable.

Joint Governing Board, IV.B.5.

Mr. McReynolds reported that the Joint Governing Board met with the Council of Presidents two weeks ago, enabling the board to hear from the Council regarding the common needs of higher education throughout the state. The community colleges have done well over the last 20 years and have been organized and well represented in Olympia. The hope is to move in that direction for the four year institutions.

Presidents' Reports, IV.C.

Faculty Organization, IV.C.1.

Dr. Winkle referred the Board to her written report for an outline of the Senate's activities through May 4. She then read a two page statement to the Board.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Dr. Winkle for her report.

Chair Mikkelsen stated the following:

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1) She assured the Faculty Organization that the only reason all of the Trustees are on the board is because they: care deeply about Eastern; care deeply about student success; care deeply about academic excellence; and are committed to those priorities for the institution.

2) Union negotiations belong at the negotiating table. The Board has directed the administration to negotiate in good faith and that is clearly the path we are on.

3) The process of negotiation requires the good will of both parties in order to arrive the best conclusion and the Board and administration intend to proceed in that manner.

Dr. Winkle stated that she believes everyone cares about the institution and has mutual interests in this respect. She believes they are taking measures to help come to a conclusion that will benefit the faculty, students and the entire university.

Classified Staff Union, IV.C.2.

Ms. Van Bommel expressed the good news that the classified staff have helped increase annualized enrollment at Eastern by 2 ½%, and therefore each qualifying employee will receive a \$200.00 check in July. She reported that staff had concerns regarding communication so the union hired a psychologist to give a seminar at which the staff learned different communication styles and how to interact with various personalities types. An important memorial event to recognize classified staff who have died while on duty or employed at Eastern will take place on the 22nd at noon. Supervisors are encouraged to allow staff to attend. The staff union has begun contract negotiations and Ms. Van Bommel has heard the negotiations are going well. She expressed that classified staff need a pay increase because the increases over the last 3 years were for administrative staff and faculty only. She also mentioned the classified staff union is in solidarity with the faculty union.

Associated Students, IV.C.3.

Chair Mikkelsen congratulated Ms. Kinne on her re-election as President of the Associated Students. She said she believes this is a tribute to the great job Ms. Kinne has done during this last year.

Ms. Kinne thanked the chair for her sentiments.

Ms. Kinne reported that the national average for student voter turnout is below 1%, so she is extremely proud of Eastern's 10% turnout.

Ms. Kinne reported being very excited about the new council next year and the prospect for accomplishment. Her written report contains further details about the recent work of the Associated Students.

Special Reports, IV.D.

NWCCU Ten Year Accreditation Visit Update, IV.D.1.

Dr. Dalla congratulated the entire campus for their work, support and cooperation in preparation for and during the accreditation visit. The team that was here in April appreciated the people, the facilities and enjoyed the food. Dr. Arévalo has received a report from the commission to review for factual correctness. The commission will act on the report in July.

Eastern received five commendations:

- Wide spread awareness of the mission and the strategic planning process of the university;
- Faculty for their commitment to and actualization of a student centered learning environment;
- Well planned and effective implementation of the doctorate in physical therapy program;

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- Thoughtful and attractive revitalization and maintenance of the physical campus, walkways and renovated facilities;
- Realignment of outreach programs with the institutions strategic plan.

Eastern received six recommendations:

- Proceed quickly and steadily to implement the strategic plan;
- Implement the emerging formal assessment process;
- All degree and certificate programs publish their expected learning outcomes and make available to see;
- Clear and accurate advising be available to all students at all locations;
- Develop a long term staffing and resource plan to attract and retain faculty for the effective delivery of the educational programs;
- Have a governing board policy guiding the use and limit of debt.

All in all it was a successful visit. Dr. Pattenaude said there is a lot more institution here than was reflected in the self study. Once Eastern receives the official report in July, the university will need to move forward to address the recommendations.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked all of those involved for the huge amount of work that was done to prepare for this visit and this process. She thanked the classified staff for the commendation Eastern received for the physical campus, as they put a great deal of work into making the grounds and buildings so nice.

Academic Affairs Searches, IV.D.2.

- Faculty Fellow for Diversity Update

Dr. James Ochwa-Echel, Eastern's new Faculty Fellow for Diversity begins here on July 1. He is currently at Oberlin College in Ohio. He is from Uganda and speaks several languages. As Faculty Fellow for Diversity, one of his main charges will be to incorporate more diversity into the curriculum. Students who attended the diversity work sessions have commented that they are looking forward to Dr. Ochwa-Echel meeting with student groups on campus.

- Dean Searches

The search committee for Dean of the College of Science, Health and Engineering will start telephone interviews soon and then reference checks. The goal is to have candidates on campus toward the end of the quarter.

The search for Dean of the College of Business required another round of ads as the first candidate pool was not as large or deep as needed. The search committee will meet soon to review the new applications. The goal is to have both of these Deans on campus by September 1.

- Diversity Update

Dr. Dalla reported that \$56,000 was funded to faculty, staff and student diversity grant projects. Many proposals dealt with student recruitment and retention and campus climate. One student proposal was entrepreneurial in that the recipient will accept proposals from Eastern student clubs and organizations to support diversity events and activities for students.

Strategic Planning Pool Funds Update – 26 pre-proposals were asked to submit full proposals. These will be reviewed in a couple of weeks.

Trustee Budke explained the reason Board Members don't often have numerous questions about agenda items is because by the time an item is on the agenda of the Open Public Meeting, the Board Members have already heard the information and discussed the item in the committee meetings.

Recreation Center Update, IV.D.3.

Rick Romero reported that the design process has been concluded and the project will go out to bid on Monday, with bids due back in June. Mr. Romero met with the student leadership yesterday and he wants to reiterate to Alicia Kinne and the other student leaders that he appreciates the responsible way they have worked with the administration on this project. The facility will be better than originally planned due to the students' input. Mr. Romero also thanked members of the Board for their diligence, persistence and patience during this process.

Chair Mikkelsen thanked Mr. Romero for his work. She commented that board members feel much more comfortable with this project now than they did six months ago.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Minutes of the March 23, 2006 Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Motion 05-01-06: Motion by Trustee Budke that the minutes be approved as presented. Trustee Ortega seconded. The motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

Name Change for the Computer Science Building, V.B.1.

It was brought to the attention of the administration that students experienced a great deal of confusion, especially during Fall quarter, since Eastern now has the new Computing and Engineering Building as well as the original Computer Science Building. In naming buildings, Eastern attempts to honor those who have contributed to Eastern in highly significant ways. Therefore, the proposal is to name the Computer Science Building after a very well loved and long time faculty member and financial supporter of the institution, Francis B. Houston. This proposal has been to the Business and Finance Committee for two reads.

Motion 05-02-06: Motion by Trustee Budke to approve the name change for the Computer Science Building.

Seconded by Trustee Ortega. Motion carried.

Trustee Budke expressed his pleasure with this proposal, as he and his wife both knew Dr. Houston.

Investment Policy for Endowed Funds, V.B.2.

Vice President Voves explained that Eastern has four investment policies; foundation, debt, investment, and endowed funds. The policy being presented today is a complete restructuring of the

investment policy for endowed funds. The old policy was outdated and only allowed Eastern to invest in the common fund. This new policy will allow Eastern to move endowed funds into a more generic investment approach and it will also allow investment decisions on endowed funds to be

taken through the investment committee of the Board. With the approval of this policy, Eastern will be able to issue and RFP for investment management of the endowed funds. The amount of this fund is 5.5 million dollars and is mostly matching funds for endowed chairs and professorships. It is institutional funds not foundation funds. This policy has been to the Business and Finance Committee for two reads.

Trustee Budke reported that the Business and Finance Committee recommends the policy be approved.

Motion 05-03-06: *Motion by Trustee Budke, and Seconded that the Board approve the Investment Policy for Endowed Funds as presented. Motion carried.*

Student Technology Fee FY 2006 Disbursement and 2007 Spending Plan, V.B.3.

Mr. Carothers reported that it has been a privilege to chair the Student Technology Fee Committee this year. He explained that he seeks approval from the Board for next year's expenditure plan.

Mr. Brown reported that this has been another very successful year, with revenue higher than the conservative estimates that were predicted last year.

He highlighted several accomplishments:

- One half renewal of the general access labs
- Expansion of wireless to include several outdoor areas of campus this summer
- Expansion of software discount programs
- Additional on line storage space for students
- Partnered with Microsoft for student lifetime e-mail account
- Created personal student web space
- Will continue with the popular internet service

Mr. Carothers, on behalf of Eastern students and the Student Technology Fee Committee, presented President Arévalo with a check to the university for one million dollars for general access computing lab upgrades as well as other student technology based initiatives.

Looking ahead to next year, the committee plans to continue its four main objectives:

- Provide internet access and student e-mail accounts for all EWU students
- Fund general access computer lab upgrades
- Fund new initiatives that benefit the greatest number of students and enhance their access to and use of technologies
- Fund 2 full time technology fee consultants

Revenue estimates for next year indicate that the fee will be able to fund the four main objectives and still consider additional technology initiatives that are clearly focused on student use.

Chair Mikkelsen expressed that the Committee has done amazing things with this fee, and she congratulated those involved for their creativity and innovativeness, and for meeting an important need within the student population.

Motion 05-04-06: *Motion by Trustee Kauffman that the Board approve the expenditure plan as presented.*

Seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist.

Trustee Budke commented that he remembers the first year this fee was proposed and implemented. At that time the Board was concerned about many aspects of this program - from how the student population would accept the fee and services, how funds would be spent, to how well the students

would manage the fee and the services. This has turned out to be the best student focused program, funded by the students, on behalf of the students, at Eastern. He offered congratulations to those involved with this program and commended them for their work.

Motion carried.

ASEWU 2006-07 Financial Plan, V.B.4.

Ms. Kinne summarized information presented by ASEWU Finance Vice President, Jason Alvarado, in the document included in the Board book.

- The S & A Fee Committee had 1.3 million dollars to allocate, but requests for funds totaled nearly 2.5 million. As student enrollment has grown, so have the requests
- Nearly twenty four new clubs were started on campus this academic year
- The Spokane Transit arrangement was a large challenge for the Fee Committee this year, as \$70,000 will be taken out of reserves and \$30,000 from the budget. This is the last year funds will be taken out of reserves to cover this cost. The goal is to develop a sustainable budget model for this project and to resolve this for next year
- Percentage allocations: childcare has not asked for an increase, the Easterner has asked to nearly double their allocation to add color and to publish twice a week. The decision about this request is still pending and will be discussed at the next S & A Fee Committee meeting
- Very pleased with Eagle Outfitters. Last year they requested start-up funds and this year they did not request any funds because they developed a sustainable self supporting program
- A goal has been set to implement a new procedure for giving feedback to programs who request funds. The feedback will be regarding the allocation and also will inform the club about the types of programs and projects that ASEWU believes to be most valuable to students.

The focus will be on leadership development, membership sustainability and fundraising
Chair Mikkelsen thanked Ms. Kinne for her report and remarked that the students are dealing with a lot of ambitious programs. She also said she is glad to see the Spokane Transit Authority project continuing, as this can be a significant financial help to students.

Trustee Zozaya-Geist reported that the Student Affairs Committee recommends approval of the ASEWU Financial Plan.

Vice President Ponder commended Alicia and the ASEWU leadership for their approach which will be most beneficial to the student organizations at Eastern. Their new emphasis of leadership development and fundraising will be excellent skills that will benefit students after they leave college.

Motion 05-05-06: *Motion by Trustee Zozaya-Geist that the Board approve the ASEWU Financial Plan for next year.*

Seconded by Trustee McReynolds. The motion carried.

Personnel Actions, VI.

Motion 05-06-06: *Motion by Trustee Budke that the Board approve the Personnel Actions as presented in the Board book and in the addendum.*

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Seconded by Trustee Ortega. The motion carried.

Old/New Business, VII.

No old/new business was brought forward.

Continuation of Executive Session, III.

Chair Mikkelsen announced that the Board would re-convene in executive session for the purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110 and/or 42.30.140, and that the executive session was expected to last approximately 45 minutes. She announced that the Board would take no action during executive session and that no further would be taken after executive session.

Adjournment, VIII.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Kris Mikkelsen, Chair

Rodolfo Arévalo, Secretary