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Board of Trustees Minutes, December 2, 2005

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

December 2, 2005

**Open Public Session at 9:00 a.m. (TAW 215 B&C)
Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. (TAW 215 A)**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Kris Mikkelsen, Chair
Paul Tanaka, Vice Chair
Bertha Ortega
Gordon Budke
Ines Zozaya-Geist
Jo Ann Kauffman
Stacey Roestel

Call to Order and Quorum, I. and II.

Chair Mikkelsen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. She thanked all attendees for braving the snowy and icy roads in order to be here this morning. A quorum was present, though Trustee Budke must leave to host a presidential candidate open forum in Spokane and Trustee McReynolds could not be present due to a scheduling conflict.

Reports, III.

University President's Report, III. A. (Attachment III.A.)

- University Initiatives regarding Hurricane Katrina
Dr. Diane Davis, Professor in the School of Social Work
Ms. Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services
Ms. Marchesia Harris, Xavier University Student
Ms. Alicia Kinne, President, Associated Students of EWU

Dr. Diane Davis presented a slide show and information about her experience as a Red Cross volunteer in Mississippi during the recent aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. She responded to the need for individuals to be part of a team providing mental health counseling to Hurricane Katrina victims. Diane spent two weeks in Monteselo, Mississippi, thanks in part to the support of her department dean and the faculty in her department who took over her classes while she was gone. Diane shared that she was incredibly impressed by the generosity and patience of the people in Alabama and Mississippi. Diane told of families who had to wait in line all night to apply for emergency financial aid, but yet they were in good spirits. She told of how incredible it was to see the miles and miles of debris as tall as second story buildings along the roads.

Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services, introduced Marchesia Harris, who had been attending Xavier University before Hurricane Katrina. After the levies broke she was unable to return to Xavier, and she began researching other universities that might be options for her. Marchesia explained to the Board that she arrived at Eastern with only her pillow and she is extremely thankful to all the people who helped make this a smooth transition for her, including those who have checked on her to make sure she is ok. Marchesia thanked the Board and administration for making it possible for her to attend Eastern. She plans to stay at Eastern until graduation, at which time she will earn a degree from Xavier University.

Ms. Whittingham mentioned that twelve students contacted Eastern following Hurricane Katrina, and two students are currently attending: Marchesia and Ryan Miller. Ryan is from the University of New Orleans.

Michelle stated proudly that she has been impressed with how welcoming Eastern has been to the two students and that numerous Eastern staff, faculty, and students have worked hard to make it possible for Marchesia and Ryan to attend here. For example, Bart from the Easterner took Ryan out to dinner the first night he arrived in town. Marchesia has already been very involved and proactive in campus life, having given a presentation about Rosa Parks during Kwanzaa

Alicia Kinne, President of the Associated Students, told of how enthusiastic the student government representatives were to assist, as soon as they heard that two students were coming to Eastern. They quickly organized several successful fundraising events to benefit Marchesia and Ryan, raising a total of \$1,100.00. Each student received \$ 550.00 to help pay for immediate expenses such as books. The panhellenic students were integral in raising these funds. Alicia was very pleased with the support of the community and the university in assisting Marchesia and Ryan.

- Dr. Levin-Stankevich reported being impressed with the significant level of involvement among Eastern's faculty and staff in such events as the student research symposium which had involvement from 10% of Eastern faculty. Recently, an astounding 230 volunteers, nearly 20% of Eastern employees, participated in "House Calls" when they visited students who live in the residence halls. This shows a significant commitment to our students and it is a rewarding experience for both students and employees. Dr. Levin-Stankevich truly appreciates all who gave their evening to make our students feel welcome and cared about.
- Eastern was pleased to have Thomas Hampson on campus last week, when he visited a Masters class in Spokane and attended a lunch with students on campus
- Dr. Levin-Stankevich and his wife came back early from Thanksgiving break to travel with the football team to Iowa for a play off game. He expressed that he was truly impressive to see the maturity and demeanor of Eastern students. Win or lose they represent the university well. They also maintain a high Academic Performance Ranking with no penalties against EWU.
- Dr. Levin-Stankevich reported that implementation of the strategic plan is moving forward. The Strategic Planning Council has been formed; there will be recommendations on a new resource allocation by the end of Winter quarter; a plan to bring athletics into the strategic planning process is being formed; and general education is being reviewed. There has been a great deal of interest in EWU's Spokane strategy recently, and the Advancement Committee

and a work group are discussing Eastern's mission, and short term and long term goals regarding a presence in Spokane.

- In closing, Interim President Levin-Stankevich encouraged everyone to attend the Governor Martin House raffle tonight at the Davenport, and he thanks all who support this event.

Trustees' Reports, III.B.

Joint Academic and Student Affairs Committee, III.B.1.

Ms. Zozaya-Geist reported highlights of the committee meeting. A presentation was given about living learning communities which explained the goals of these communities: to integrate student life with academics and to provide students with a deeper understanding and actual experience with community engagement at the university, thus increasing student retention. An update on diversity from Vice Presidents Ponder and Dalla included a recap of the Diversity Grant Showcase held earlier in Fall. They have received feedback on how to improve the showcase for next year from students and faculty. The university hosted a diversity hearing/open forum yesterday. Several Trustees participated in this hearing where they heard from numerous students, staff, faculty and community members regarding diversity at Eastern. Ms. Zozaya-Geist thanked Dr. Levin-Stankevich and the leadership team and the President's Advisory Committee on Diversity for their time and dedication to making this forum happen. She also commended the individuals who spoke at the forum, and she acknowledged that it takes energy and emotion to speak out about experiences and perspectives. Dr. Levin-Stankevich thanked the Trustees for attending and listening to the people who shared their perspectives.

Advancement Committee, III.B.2.

No report was presented. The Advancement Committee did not meet this week. It will meet later in December.

Business and Finance Committee, III.B.3.

Mr. Tanaka reported that the committee meeting this morning was brief and they didn't get through all agenda items. The committee discussed the Spokane strategy. Several items will be on the agenda for today's Open meeting: recreation center update, 2005 financial review, and final acceptance of the CEB contract.

Joint Governing Board, III.B.5.

No report was presented.

Presidential Search Committee, III.B.6.

Mr. Budke summarized the progress of the presidential search. Mr. Budke encouraged the community to provide feedback regarding all three candidates, as the board will review all of the input received. The timeline for this process is that the Board will meet and make a final decision regarding the candidates by the end of December.

Presidents' Reports, III.C.

Faculty Organization, III.C.1. (Attachment III.C.1.)

Dr. Winkle reported that the Faculty Organization encouraged faculty to attend the Presidential Candidate open forums and to provide their feedback. She was pleased to see that so many strategic planning grant proposals were submitted, and excited that many of them unite different areas of the university. Dr. Winkle's written report provides more detail regarding the recent activities of the Faculty Organization.

Classified Staff Union, III.C.2.

Mr. Nelson summarized recent union activities, such as the canned food drive during the EWU Thanksgiving Dinner to benefit the Cheney Food Bank. Mr. Nelson wished everyone a nice holiday season.

Associated Students, III.C.3. (Attachment III.C.3.)

Ms. Kinne reported that Fall quarter has been extremely active and successful for the student government. The students are proud of numerous accomplishments that directly benefit the campus: providing 50% matching funds for the student-led EWU Diversity Grants, working with campus police to place five more blue safety lights on campus, food drive competition with GU, participating in the House Calls program in the residence halls, and more. Ms. Kinne's written report outlines further highlights of Fall quarter and goals for the upcoming Winter quarter.

Special Reports, III.D.

2005 Year-End Financial Review, III.D.1.

Toni Habegger, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed the 2005 Year-End information with the Board of Trustees. Refer to the presentation outline for details. The institution is in a relatively strong position with reserves, due to the concerted efforts to build reserves over the last several years. Enrollment growth has slowed slightly recently and the enrollment planning for the institution will address this. An audience member asked a question regarding the athletics deficit, and Ms. Habegger replied that all departments are required to break even or make a profit. A small short fall in athletics was expected, however, the actual deficit was larger than anticipated. This has been discussed with the Athletic Policy Board, will be discussed with the consultant in January, and work is being done to focus their budget back on track. A board member asked whether the amount of indebtedness students leave the institution with has changed, and Ms. Habegger replied that it has not changed, but remains about the same at approximately \$25,000. A clarification was made regarding the student ratio of male and female students: 62% of the freshmen class is female; 58% of the overall student population is female.

EWU Institute for Public Policy & Economic Analysis, III.D.2. (Attachment III.D.2.)

Dr. Jones summarized the significant accomplishments of the institute as outlined in the annual report. He has been pleased with the positive feedback received from both the community, as community members seem to respect and want the institute to do work for them, as well as those who work on

behalf of the institute. A major benefit to this program is that those faculty and staff who work with the institute become more engaged in their community by joining boards and groups that they wouldn't

have become involved with otherwise. The goal for institute's future is to expand further across the state. A board member asked about student involvement with the institute and with the advisory board. Dr. Jones explained that students play a key role with the key indicators program, and they are launching a major study regarding Native Americans. Several graduate students are involved, but it is difficult to find undergraduate students who are research ready. Several trustees expressed their appreciation for the quality work the institute is doing and for the dedicated staff. The Board Chair stated she is aware that the institute is viewed as a high quality resource to the region, and she is impressed with the credible groups who have sought the expertise of the institute. She thanked Dr. Jones for his and his staff's work and for his presentation today.

Recreation Center Update, III.D.3.

The Business and Finance Committee received an update at their meeting. The Board of Trustees had expressed concern about the escalating building costs and asked that options be outlined. Options include scaling back the scope of the project and looking into sources of funding. Currently, the project cost estimate is 8% above the original estimate. The design has been discussed with the Associated Student Government and the City of Cheney. There were concerns about the closure of 10th Street, but Eastern will seek a closure to this street and Mr. Romero believes this shouldn't be a problem. To keep the project on its timeline of going out to bid in March, it is hoped that the board would make a decision about this project at the February Board of Trustees meeting.

Action Items, IV.

Consent Action Item, IV.A.1.

Minutes of the October 7, 2005 Board of Trustees' Meeting, IV.A.1. (Attachment IV.A.1.)
Action on this agenda item will not be taken at this meeting.

Consent Action Item, IV.A.2.

Acceptance of Contract Completion for the Computing Engineering Building Construction #AE-00-03, IV.A2. (Handout)

Motion 12-01-05: It was moved that the Board of Trustees accept the contract completion for the Computing and Engineering Building.

Motion by Trustee Tanaka; seconded by Trustee Kauffman.

The motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, IV.B.

Discussion Action Item, IV.B.1.

2006 EWU BOT Meeting Schedule Attachment IV.B.1.

Motion 12-02-05: It was moved that the Board of Trustees approve the 2006 EWU BOT Meeting Schedule.

Motion by Trustee Ortega; seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist.

The motion carried.

Old/New Business, V.

Trustee Tanaka expressed his appreciation to Brian and his wife, Debi, for hosting the Trustees for a holiday dinner. He expressed that this was a nice opportunity to get together.

Executive Session, VI.

Chair Mikkelsen announced that the Board would adjourn into executive session for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110, to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. No final action will be taken during this executive session.

Reconvene

The Board reconvened into open session at approximately 1:00 p.m.
Trustee Budke re-joined the meeting.

Personnel Actions, VII. (Attachment VII.)

Motion 12-03-05: It was moved that the personnel actions be approved as presented.

Motion by Trustee Ortega and seconded by Trustee Tanaka

The motion carried.

Adjournment, VIII.

The meeting was adjourned.