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Board of Trustees Minutes, January 25, 2002

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
January 25, 2002
Executive Session at 12:00 p.m.
Open Public Meeting at 1:15 p.m.
PUB 263-5-7**

MINUTES

Trustees Present:

Mr. Gordon Budke
Dr. Mark Mays, Chair
Mr. Neil McReynolds, Vice Chair
Ms. Kris Mikkelsen
Ms. Cynthia Shiota (by telephone)
Ms. Ines Zozaya-Geist

Call to Order, Quorum and Executive Session, I., II. and III.

Dr. Mays called the meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 12:05 p.m., and noted that a quorum was present. He then announced that the Board would recess into Executive Session for purposes authorized in RCW.42.30.110(1): to consider the selection of a site for the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase; to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee; and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency legal advice when matters relating public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in adversely financial consequences of the agency. He anticipated that the open meeting would resume at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with a quorum present. Trustee Williams had to leave due to a family medical problem. Trustee Ormsby was unable to attend as he had a meeting in Seattle.

Reports, IV.

Trustees' Reports, IV.A.

Trustee Zozaya-Geist reported from the Academic Affairs committee. They had a stimulating conversation about the roles of the committee, and discussed program discontinuance and program audit. Marv Smith gave an update on why the UFE is involved in the program discontinuance. The Senate will discuss this topic next Monday, then it will go to the President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. The committee discussed why this audit process is necessary, and the urgency in having these processes in place due to the fiscal restrictions at the university. These are the kinds of discussions the committee needs to be involved in. The committee also had a short presentation from the Institutional Assessment group—which is involved in numerous types of assessment: program review, peer review and classroom review. Dr. Mays added that the Board of Trustees feels some frustration with the speed at which some processes move at the university versus in private practice; however the items are important, and the proper time needs to be taken to do a thorough job.

Trustee Budke reported on yesterday's Business & Finance committee meeting. Ms. Voves gave an update on government relations, Phil Akers gave an update on the Foundation Development work, and the committee reviewed a ground lease for the Archives Building that will be added to today's consent

agenda. Rick Romero presented an extensive report on the downtown housing project and the work that has been done. Ms. Voves reported on a plan to refinance our housing and dining bond. Mr. Budke also reported on the joint Governing Board meeting held in Seattle on January 17. All but 6 or 7 total trustees/regents from the state's four-year public universities attended. The Governor spoke at the lunch. The meeting consisted of a discussion and overview of the points of view of the Council of Presidents, and former Governor Dan Evans spoke about his visions for higher education from the 1960's until today. There was discussion of common points of interest, and agreement that some of the trustees/regents would get together again at some time in the future for further discussion. Mr. Budke reported that both immediate and long-term issues were discussed, specifically long-term financing mechanisms for higher education. He is concerned about an increase in tuition and fees because the students will blame the Boards, however it is really because the legislature didn't solve the problem. How can we develop rapport with the legislators so they can understand how higher education functions?

Dr. Mays added that the bonding issue was an alternative that was discussed, but it is not an established policy. We need to look at alternative and stable sources of funding for higher education. He acknowledged Trustee Budke for being the most participatory member of the gathering.

Trustee McReynolds reported from the Student Affairs committee. They discussed the committee workplan and committee schedule for the next year, and will attempt to focus more attention on committee activity and in-depth discussion of issues. They discussed the diversity issue from the Board's standpoint and how the board could play a key role in making that happen. Student fees were discussed, and many fees have not increased since 1995 even though costs have gone up. We need to look at these in light of Initiative 601. The rates will be determined at the March committee meeting prior to going forward at the April Board of Trustees meeting. A final agenda item was not discussed, but will be covered by a conference call before the March meeting.

Presidents' Reports, IV.B.

Faculty Organization, IV.B.1.

Dr. Nick Jackson reported on the Senate agenda. Program discontinuance will be discussed under old business this time, and some faculty may suggest it be approved contingent upon approval of the GAC committee. The Athletic Policy Board will present the excused absence policy. He also mentioned that a formal request has been made to the Provost's office to replace some computer equipment for the Faculty Organization office.

Classified Staff Union, IV.B.2.

Mr. Rod Nicholls reported that various collective bargaining bills are being proposed in Olympia, and that some could affect how we do business here at EWU. There is a possibility that a collective bargaining bill of some sort could be passed. He plans to keep the classified staff informed with the latest information on this topic. The proposed legislation is disturbing, but he said that whatever the legislature throws at us, we'll make it work. President Jordan asked if the Administration can help by presenting any issues that should be addressed. Mr. Nicholls replied yes, but the proposals aren't far enough along to do that yet. Mr. Nicholls also noted that the "Showalter Shuffle" isn't being verbalized so much any more, and he thanked the people in Sutton for providing better service to our students. He pointed out that the diversity issue on today's agenda is important, and noted that since last fall's events, people seem to be accepting others and their contributions more so than before.

Associated Students, IV.B.3.

Ms. Christian Shook acknowledged the presence of some students in the audience, from MeCha, who have become involved in all aspects of student life at EWU. She went to Olympia on Monday for a Washington student lobby meeting. The ASEWU will make final decision in 2 weeks on which bills to support this year. Trustee Jenna Williams had her confirmation hearing last Monday and did a great job. Feb. 18 will be Capitol Day—student leaders from all five universities and community colleges will travel to Olympia to distribute their legislative agendas. EWU will send several vans of students to this event. A Leadership Conference is being planned at EWU. This will be an interstate conference for universities, community colleges, and high schools of Washington State to start building that relationship with sophomores, juniors and seniors who would like to attend Eastern. They plan to pair up each high school student with a student from an EWU club or organization. Ms. Shook was proud to announce that the ASEWU will participate in the Students Offering Service—joining in with the university’s community service programs, such as the June Builds, where they will be hosting a habitat for humanity house.

Foundation Report, IV.B.4.

Mr. Phil Akers reported the transfer of \$275,000 to the university, which are dollars that are eligible for a state match for a fellowship in Biology (made possible by Jean Schwartz and Phil Werschler), and a professorship in American Indian Studies (made possible through a bequest from alumnus Ed Johnson). This is a great way to encourage private support of the university and leverage state dollars. In fundraising, we have passed \$1.6 million so far, with 6 months to go. We have established a target of \$4 million, so making great progress in reaching that goal. We are better than ½ way to our goal of 9,000 donors this year, and more people are donating at higher levels. Our January gifts, with a week to go, are 10% more than last January. The Foundation Board mini-grant committee met earlier this week and reviewed 30 requests. Nineteen of these requests were funded fully or partially, with over \$19,000 awarded out of this program. This is a testament to the quality of the proposals they’re receiving.

University, IV.B.5.

President Stephen Jordan reported the following:

- He was pleased to announce that Dr. Lee Hartwell, of the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, has agreed to be our commencement speaker in June 2002. He thanked Trustee McReynolds for his assistance in making this happen.
- In response to the Board’s directive last month, Dr. James Fisher has been retained to conduct an institutional assessment of Eastern Washington University. He and his team of four other consultants will be on campus the week of February 11th to interview more than 200 persons.
- A recent Spokesman-Review article about Eastern’s Presidential Scholarship has generated a positive response so far. Bill Ponder doesn’t have specific numbers yet, but expects a good number of students to qualify for this merit-based scholarship.
- The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has accepted the two progress reports submitted by Eastern regarding the expansion of the field-based Master of Social Work offered on a part-time basis for professionals in the Everett/North Puget Sound region and the institution’s response to Recommendations 2 and 5 from the spring 1999 Focused Interim Evaluation Report. An expanded progress report is due in fall 2002.
- He attended a January 18 House Higher Education Roundtable meeting in Olympia to discuss Transfer Student Service Initiatives.
- He then flew on to attend an AASCU (American Association of State Colleges/Universities) meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona. Discussion was held on “coming to terms with economic/fiscal realities,” “leadership in the post-September 11 world,” and “race and class in America.”
- On January 22 the Council of Presidents met with Governor Locke to focus on the future and how we develop a system of post-secondary education in Washington that is appropriately supported and which grows to a level that can help sustain and foster economic growth for the State of Washington.

- The Spokane Chamber visited Olympia for a meeting with the Governor and various local legislators to lobby for the Spokane area business climate, economic and workforce development, facilities development and transportation infrastructure.
- Final enrollment for Winter Quarter 2002 reached 8,243 FTE. This is 408 higher than the final count for winter quarter 2001. Student headcount has reached 8,615, which is 359 higher than last winter quarter. Credit hours per student are up to 14.12 (compared to 13.99 at the same time last winter), indicating both a more prevalent full-time student and better course management to maximize enrollment. Freshman through senior classes all increased over last winter. Graduate enrollment has remained constant from last year, some courses moving from state to self-support and resulting in a swap of 47 students from state-funded courses to self-support courses. At this FTE level, combined with the fall data, we would be on track for an annual FTE of 8,439. At a funded FTE level of 7,933, this would have us exceeding our funded level by 506 full time equivalent students.
- The new Health Sciences Building at Riverpoint opened this month and now houses four of Eastern's programs: Occupational Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Physical Therapy and Communication Disorders. The grand opening ceremony will be held Friday, February 22. There will be an EWU College Night for the Health Sciences Building put on by Eastern's College of Science, Mathematics and Technology on Thursday, March 14 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
- Funding for the EWU School of Computing and Engineering Sciences is included in the Departments of Labor, Health & Human Services Congressional Appropriations bill that passed the U.S. House of Representatives in mid-December. The School will occupy a state-of-the-art structure in 2005 where the university plans to add new programs in computer engineering, a concentration in cyber security and applied information theory, a pre-major in computer engineering, an MS in information systems, a BS in software engineering technology, a BS in electrical engineering technology, cooperative programs in physics and engineering, a hoped-for informatics doctorate and certificate/retraining programs in these areas. This past year Eastern restructured its departments of Technology, Computer Science and Physics into the new school to begin addressing the workforce and applied research needs of Washington's increasingly technologically based economy. Dr. Jordan noted that we are grateful to Congressman George Nethercutt for his recognition of the importance of this technology initiative at Eastern, to the economy of this region, and appreciate his efforts to secure this funding. He also acknowledged Senators Murray and Cantwell for their support on the Senate side of this initiative.

Special Reports, IV.C.

Enrollment Management Task Force Update, IV.C.1.

Vice President Levin-Stankevich reported that the task force met yesterday and heard the results of a student survey conducted by the ASEWU. There was no definitive decision on the block schedule proposal, so they will continue to look at scheduling. Dean Cherok and Dr. Orr will begin meeting with department chairs on Monday morning to ferret out any difficulties that might be discipline specific. They also met with representatives of the Registrar's office yesterday to discuss some of the issues from their perspective of actually applying this sort of a model. The task force is moving ahead on two other key areas: capacity and how we can better plan and gather data to help us plan to meet that optimal enrollment and capacity. They have a lot to do yet on a very short timeline, but are meeting weekly and trying to proceed as well as they can.

Resource Allocation Task Force Update, IV.C.2.

Vice President Voves noted they are focusing on the short time line mentioned by Dr. Levin-Stankevich. We were optimistic when we began last year, but it will take longer than one year. We need to build a timeline of multiple targets to meet with multiple plans. There is a lot of detail behind what they're examining. We need to change some of the cultures of the institution that are limiting us in moving forward. There are many layers of tradition in these issues, so it takes longer than anticipated to make things happen. The subcommittee met this week to discuss the different directions in which we can go. There will be a full meeting next week to discuss different options and ways to allocate budgets. They have some very unique and innovative kinds of approaches that would require fundamental change of the way we do things here on campus. It will be up to the Board of Trustees, as well as the task force, to determine our direction. Dr. Jordan said in today's Academic Affairs meeting they had a presentation from Institutional Research which discussed the peer analysis that underpins much of this, and we've asked that a brief description of that, and the methodology be written up and distributed to the Board members.

Action Items, V.

Consent Action Items, V.A.

Motion 01-01-02: "I move that the Board of Trustees add consent action item V.A.3.: Lease Agreement Between Eastern Washington University and the Secretary of State as regards the ground lease at Eastern Washington University to the Division of Archives and Records Management for the purposes of the Secretary of State Archives Building."

Trustee Budke noted that this item has been discussed and reviewed by the Business and Finance Committee.

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Shiota. Motion carried.

Minutes of the December 6, 2001 Special Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.1.

Minutes of the December 7, 2001 Board of Trustees' Meeting, V.A.2.

Motion 01-02-02: "I move that the Board of Trustees approve the consent items."

Motion by Trustee Mikkelsen; seconded by Trustee Budke. Motion carried.

Discussion Action Items, V.B.

Chairman Mays switched the order of items VB1 and VB2.

Cabinet Priority on Diversity, V.B.2.

Vice President Levin-Stankevich and Dean Frumkin reported that the top priority from the Cabinet Retreat was diversity—recruitment, hiring retention and promotion of faculty and staff; student recruitment and retention; campus climate; and curriculum issues related to diversity within the curriculum. At a subsequent Cabinet meeting four members were asked to put together an approach for the Cabinet to follow. The Board retreat also identified diversity as a primary action plan for the year. The task force recommended to the Cabinet that the Board of Trustees initiate a diversity task force to develop the research and studies, including public forums, to move this issue forward. Board involvement adds weight and importance to the issue, and encourages the entire community to participate.

The Cabinet passed the proposal, and it was discussed at the Coordinating Committee and Student Affairs meetings. Dean Frumkin noted that we need an action plan tied to budget that will have an impact and make a change on campus as soon as possible. Trustee McReynolds noted that an important part will be the design of the study—we need to reach out and hear others' views of how to define diversity. He suggested a town hall meeting with Board involvement—a community meeting in March resulting in a more detailed plan to be worked up for the April Board meeting. Ms. Shook noted that the Associated Students may open up their March 12 council meeting for this purpose. Dr. Mays said we need to be inclusive in the planning, as well as the outcome. Trustee Budke said the process going forward from the April meeting should also be inclusive, with open meetings.

Motion: 01-03-02: “I move that the Board of Trustees accept the responsibility for providing leadership on the Diversity Task Force and ask that a plan be developed, with appropriate input, for our April 5th Board meeting.”

Motion by Trustee McReynolds; seconded by Trustee Shiota.

Carlos Maldonado noted he has been at Eastern for 15 years, and is very excited about this new opportunity on campus, the leadership of the Board, and the inclusive process. He also appreciates the attention to a specific timeline and the budget implications. Trustee Shiota will be on campus April 9 if anything can be scheduled that day. Trustee Budke noted that between now and April 5 a person from the Board will be appointed to serve on this task force.

Motion carried.

Revised 2002 Board Meeting Schedule, V.B.1.

Motion 01-04-02: “I move to amend the Board of Trustees meeting schedule as published in the agenda, with the start time to be 9:00 a.m. instead of 10:00 a.m.”

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee McReynolds.

Ms. Shook proposed a friendly amendment, asking that the Spokane meeting be held in August as homecoming is scheduled for Oct. 19.

The motion carried as amended.

Downtown Cheney Housing Lease, V.B.3.

Vice President Voves and Rick Romero distributed handouts of a briefing paper summary of the status of this project. Rob Brewster of Conover Bond made a presentation to the Board of Trustees at the December 7 meeting. Because of the increase in lower-division residential students on campus, we entered into an intent to lease agreement, valid through January 30, 2002, to work out mutual terms to lease back the residence portion of the project in a 20-year lease. We are still working out the final financial and legal details, but can present the design. We believe the design is appealing and marketable, and that it fits in with Cheney and the University. A picture of the four-story brick building was displayed, and the site location and parking areas were explained. It was pointed out that this building is situated a similar distance to the center of campus as the Streeter/Morrison dorm complex. The floor plan layout mixes commercial with residential space. The first floor will consist of commercial areas, to include a branch of the University Bookstore, an independent coffee shop, and another retail space. The other three floors are residential, with the room arrangement a hybrid between apartment-style and residence-hall living and geared for second and third year students. There will be 2, 3, and 4-bedroom

Pods round a common area. The second floor will have a conference room, and the third floor will have a common space with a gas fireplace, which will be open up to the fourth floor where there will be a skylight. The building capacity will be 140 beds, operated under the residence life structure with residential life staff. We will offer nine-month room and board packages for the top three floors, and twelve-month packages for the first floor. The administration hopes to bring a complete package back to the Board of Trustees for final approval at a special meeting next week. There will be a 25-foot space between the housing unit and a retail building next door. There are plans for a restaurant for community and student use—and students will have a meal plan that would include the use of some points in Cheney. Parking will be by permit in designated areas for those residents (across the street and in the Matlock's space).

Chair Mays noted that this will be a quick process in order to open for Fall 2002, but that it is being done thoughtfully, with care, on all aspects. The Business and Finance committee has received reports continually and have asked many questions. Mr. Romero noted that this project will be predicated on our ability to occupy this Fall—so that has moved the timing issue. Eastern went through a comprehensive pre-design process last year for a new building on campus, and those ideas have gone into this project.

A student in the audience asked about pricing, and Mr. Romero replied that the pricing will be similar to our current single, but with a 5% increase because no incentive will be offered.

This is an information item today due to final negotiations.

Old Business/New Business, VI.

President Jordan introduced Eastern's new Human Resources Associate for Human Rights, Judy Page, who comes from Spokane, was formerly an attorney general, and said she was happy to be here.

Personnel Actions, VII.

Motion 01-04-02: "I move that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel actions as presented in the Board agenda."

Motion by Trustee Budke; seconded by Trustee Zozaya-Geist. Motion carried.

Adjournment, VIII.

Chair Mays adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Mark Mays
Chair of the Board

Stephen M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board