

1-26-2001

## Board of Trustees Minutes, January 26, 2001

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**January 26, 2001—10:00 a.m.**  
**Pence Union Building Room 263-7**  
**Cheney Campus**

**MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Ms. Kelly Behne  
Mr. Neil McReynolds  
Dr. Mark Mays, Vice Chair  
Mr. Michael C. Ormsby, Chair  
Ms. Cynthia Shiota

Faculty Participating

Dr. Alex Cameron, Dean of CBPA  
Dr. Neville Hosking, Interim Vice Provost for DEO  
Dr. Wendy Repovich, President of the Faculty Organization

Staff Participating

Mr. Scott Barnes, Director of Athletics  
Ms. Roxann Dempsey, Assistant to the Vice President for Business & Finance  
Dr. Peter Dual, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Terry Flynn, Director of Alumni Relations  
Ms. Connie Gross, Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Ms. Toni Habegger, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Julie Hall, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations  
Mr. Michael Irish, Associate Vice President for Facilities  
Dr. Stephen M. Jordan, President  
Dr. Brian Levin-Stankevich, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Mr. Larry McCulley, Budget Analyst II  
Ms. Shawn McDuff, Budget Analyst I  
Mr. Tom McGill, Chief of University Police  
Ms. Stefanie Pettit, Public Information Officer  
Ms. Jolynn Rogers, Director of Human Resources  
Mr. Rick Romero, Associate Vice President of Business Services  
Ms. Judith Penrod Siminoe, Associate to the President  
Ms. Carol Terry, Director of Financial Planning  
Ms. Julie Thayer, Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs  
Ms. Mary Voves, Vice President for Business and Finance  
Ms. Lesli Younger, Computer Services Consultant II

Students Participating

Ms. Bree Holsing, ASEWU President

Others Participating

Ms. Deborah Danner, Assistant Attorney General  
Ms. Shawnte Pearson, Student Trustee from CWU  
Mr. David Rey, Cheney Free Press

**Call to Order and Quorum, I. and II.—Mr. Ormsby**

At 10:05 a.m. Chair Ormsby called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Eastern Washington University to order. A quorum was present.

Chair Ormsby noted that at a special meeting on January 16, 2001, the Board took a very significant step by approving that the university move forward with the proposal for Eastern Washington University to offer a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He said this is a significant sign of the quality of an Eastern program that is a very important part of the health care continuum in our community. Chair Ormsby thanked everyone who facilitated this item. Mr. Ormsby then recognized that the Board will be approving the hiring of a new Dean of the College of Business and Public Administration (CPBA) today, therefore this will be Dr. Cameron's last meeting as the Dean of the CBPA. On behalf of the Board Chair Ormsby expressed appreciation to Dr. Cameron for the work and leadership he has provided to the college, and also for his previous service as Vice President for Business and Finance, and his roles prior to that.

**III. Reports**

**Trustees' Reports, III.A.**

- Chair Ormsby reported on the Board of Trustees retreat, held December 15 and 16, 2000, which was spearheaded by Neil McReynolds. Mr. McReynolds reported that the Board wanted to be sure they were adding value to the role they played in conjunction with the President. The retreat was time well spent, with the trustees determining a number of things they want to do. Some of the items discussed were the role of the Board's committees, and the development of a plan of action for the months ahead.

Dr. Jordan agreed that the retreat was productive, and acknowledged Mr. George Corcoran for his facilitation of the retreat. He voiced his appreciation to the trustees for giving their time to this activity. Mr. Ormsby said the retreat gave the Board an opportunity to review what we do, why and how we do it, and whether we can we do it better. A draft checklist of the Board Improvement Project has been prepared, to which Mr. Ormsby will add his personal notes for future distribution. Trustees should feel free to E-mail or call Mr. Ormsby with comments on the checklist.

- Dr. Mays reported on the Academic Affairs committee meeting. The committee heard a report from Neville Hosking on the review of the Division of Educational Outreach (DEO), with a final report to be prepared for the April meeting.

The committee also talked about Program Review and what we should be doing to make sure we are delivering our services in an efficient way. Dr. Mays noted that this is not just an economic decision. The Program Review Committee has established some criteria to use when looking at programs, and the committee has decided to eliminate or bank some courses for efficiencies. (Banking is a process whereby the course or program is removed from the catalog, but can be reinstated at a later date.) We have financial realities to face in the near future, and additional recommendations will come back to the Academic Affairs committee at the April meeting. Dr. Mays emphasized that it is extremely important that the faculty participate in this process. We are trying to accomplish our educational goals in the most efficient way by balancing the values of cost, access and quality, and he thanked Ron Dalla for his leadership on this item.

Dr. Mays would like to see some acknowledgement of the creative things we are doing at the university--ways of helping to achieve our goals in different ways such as cross-disciplinary ways of looking at problems. We need to find a way to acknowledge, recognize and confirm the values of this type of activity.

The committee also heard an update on the searches that are currently underway.

Dr. Repovich said that regarding the elimination of programs, the Faculty Senate has noted that we have some programs with no graduates at all, but that these programs have a very big impact on other disciplines. We can't just look at numbers of majors, but need to also look at the impact to the university, financial and otherwise. President Jordan noted that eliminating courses and/or programs frees up some faculty time to be used on other courses—which makes our course and program offerings more efficient. Dr. Repovich also noted that funding for cross-discipline courses is problematic. The Task Force on Integrated Studies is coming forward with a great plan, but we need to find the funding incentives for faculty to participate.

- Ms. Shiota reported from the Business and Finance Committee. This is the former Facilities Committee, which was renamed as a result of the retreat. The name change added the responsibility of looking at the financial aspects of the university. Two actions taken by the committee will be on the Board agenda later today. The committee received a thorough report from Ms. Habegger on the budget materials and a review of the financial reports (which had previously been reported to the Coordinating Committee). They had a good discussion on ways that we can take these reports, which are very detailed, and summarize them in a way that will be very useful for people without going through the detail.

The committee also received a copy of the legislative agenda, which is an excellent way of keeping Board members informed so they can assist in supporting Eastern at the Legislature. Mike Irish did a wonderful job describing the university's approach to the utilities crunch. Ms. Shiota was impressed with what the university has already done, proactively, and what they plan to do in the future. She asked Mr. Irish to present that information. He reported that the Governor has called for an immediate 10% decrease in utility consumption. (Ms. Shiota noted that a 10% cut from last year's use, coupled with our current increase in usage, totals much more than a 10% cut from our current usage.) A handout (which is attached to the official minutes) was distributed. It includes the academic area utility inflation for the 1999-2001 and 2001-2003 biennia, EWU's energy conservation measures, our campus natural gas usage, and our electricity usage. He noted that we got a jump on the problem, and are actually ahead of the curve right now. We are going to be doing a building audit for energy efficiency. Ms. Shiota noted that this is the type of arena where everyone can and should contribute—there is a financial benefit to the university for being as conservative as possible. She applauded everyone's efforts in this conservation effort.

- Mr. McReynolds reported on Student Affairs committee, which will meet this afternoon immediately following the Executive Session. They will be developing a work plan for the committee for the year ahead, as will the other committees. Mr. Ormsby noted that all committee meetings will now be held prior to the Board meetings, with one exception.

## **Presidents' Reports, III.B.**

### **Faculty Organization Report, III.B.1.**

Dr. Repovich said the Faculty Organization hasn't had a Senate meeting since November, so there isn't too much to report. The contract college plans are in the final stages, and the faculty activity plans should be completed by the end of this quarter. Two task forces will present their work, one at a meeting this afternoon and one at the Senate meeting next Monday.

### **Associated Students Report, III.B.2.**

Ms. Holsing recognized Dr. Cameron as a student-centered individual who is helping the ASEWU with their upcoming elections. She said the students are supportive of the graduate associate tuition waivers which were discussed at President's Cabinet this week, and they also support that the majority of the West waivers should fund full-time more than part-time students. The students are gearing up for elections, which will be held on February 15 and 22. The members of the Superior Court have been selected, this will hopefully provide students with another outlet to be heard. The book exchange involved over 200 students. The student legislative agenda focuses on a tax-free textbook initiative, replacing student identification numbers with non-social security numbers, and tuition issues.

### **University Report, III.B.3.**

- President Jordan asked Kelly Behne to introduce her guest. She introduced Shawnte Pearson, the student trustee from Central Washington University. Ms. Pearson thanked Eastern for its support of Central in their enrollment problems.
- The trustees seemed to covet the coffee mugs at the December retreat, so President Jordan presented each of them with their own mug.
- President Jordan reported that Eastern's collaborative partnership with Cheney resulted in a kickoff event held last Wednesday to begin fundraising for community matching funds. The project received in excess of \$20,000 in commitments that night. We need a total of \$70,000, and if that goal is reached construction will start on College Ave. this summer. He is proud of our planning students—who contributed a check of \$500, plus the time they have contributed to this project.
- The Black History Month banquet will be held at 6:00 p.m., on February 10 in the PUB Multipurpose Room.
- Tonight is EWU night at the Spokane Symphony. Dr. Jordan noted that last year more than 50 percent of the audience and orchestra were affiliated with Eastern.
- The trustees were given legislative packets/brochures. Dr. Jordan noted that Eastern is focusing on three issues this biennium: enrollment, the Doctorate in Physical Therapy, and the Cheney Hall project. He thanked the Board for their comments on the DPT materials, noting that we have incorporated those comments into the paperwork. We have been working with the legislators for their support, and are very encouraged by the positive reception. At the Higher Education Coordinating Board yesterday, a straw poll was taken around the general question of regional universities being permitted to offer doctoral degrees—there was unanimous support. Dr. Jordan noted his appreciation of the help provided by HEC Board members Kristi Blake and Gaye Selby on this issue. Regarding our enrollment initiative, Dr. Jordan said that the graphics in the packet do a great job of showing Eastern's enrollment trends and indicate the difficult situation we're facing. We're essentially operating this year with 200 more students than we were funded for. If our enrollment trends continue and we get only 15 new funded students the first year and 67 the second, we could be 500-600 students over our funding. This is a significant issue and we need to determine what are our long-term strategies will be. The reception we have received on the Cheney Hall project has been encouraging. George Durrie is getting strong support. President Jordan noted that the interactive Eastern CD produced by our students was a big hit with the legislators.
- President Jordan has been working with the Secretary of State's office around the addition of an Archives building. Two years ago there was an unsuccessful proposal to locate it at the Riverpoint

campus. We began working with them to lease property across from the new proposed Cheney Hall. This would provide a connection to our computer science program and the interest of connecting history and archives together.

- Barb Brock, professor of recreation management, had a successful appearance on NBC's *Today Show* January 2, where she discussed her research on families that are TV-free. This spring her research will be featured in the *Parents Magazine*, *Family Life* and *Parenting*. The April issue of *Good Housekeeping* will carry information about the web-based survey she and Jon Hammermeister, assistant professor of health, are preparing to conduct this spring on psycho-social characteristics of TV-free families. It was noted that this research all began with a faculty mini grant.
- President Jordan reported that a group has been appointed to study Division I football. The group will use the NCAA's current committee structure to conduct an analysis of college football issues that impact the Association. The oversight committee will discuss plans to begin identifying other fundamental issues and the responsible groups to review all topics. They will also review more philosophical issues such as the pressures affecting football budgets and expenses, including attendance problems for some Division I-A and I-AA institutions, financial differences among programs and deficit spending associated with bowl game participation.

### **Biennial Budget Presentation, III.C.**

Vice President Voves gave a PowerPoint presentation which compared Eastern's proposed budget, and the Council of Presidents' requests, to the Governor's budget. (A handout is attached to the official minutes.) She noted that Initiative 601 gives us an expenditure limitation—this limits the state's fee setting authority and the level of revenue that the state has to allocate out to all its budget needs. The fiscal growth factor is limited to inflation. Also, state revenue has not been growing as fast as previously. Initiative 728 provides \$393 million to K-12 for smaller classes and more individualized attention to students. Initiative 732 provides \$302 million for cost-of-living salary increases to K-14 teachers. Eastern's employees are recommended for a 2.2% increase, while K-14 employees are recommended for a 3.3% increase. Ms. Voves noted that these initiatives take money off the top of the state appropriations pool.

The Governor requested 6,225 new enrollments, but most of those go to the community colleges, with 1500 allocated to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for high demand enrollments to be distributed to the four year universities. The Governor's budget continues the Promise Scholarships, expands the state need grant, and provides for a \$7.5 million Technology Institute at the University of Washington-Tacoma. The Governor's budget supports an increase of compensation for faculty at state colleges and universities along with an increase in the recruitment and retention fund; and provides for tuition-setting authority. The Council of Presidents agreed: at a minimum to, maintain current funding level (vs. the Governor's budget request of a 2% reduction); fund salary increases (vs. funding only 70% of the universities' total salary increase costs); fund utility increased costs and inflation (vs. no funding for utilities or inflation); and the flexibility to manage and augment fully-funded salaries (vs. not fully funding salaries, but providing flexibility in funding faculty salaries). Ms. Voves said we must make progress on faculty and professional staff salaries. We requested 6% the first year and 4% the second year.

The Higher Education budget request is \$16.2 million (the Governor's budget is \$10 million). EWU's allocation of the Higher Education pool is \$1,000,000 (the Governor's budget allocation is \$751,000). We requested competitive salary increases for classified staff (the Governor's budget request contains 2.2% plus 2.5%). We requested funding reclassification increases for specific classified staff under the 6767 legislation (the Governor's budget funds some of the 6767 reclassification recommendations). We preserved employee benefits (the Governor's budget fully funds health benefits, but it includes a graduated increase in employee contributions)—Ms. Voves noted this presents a disproportional impact on the lower-paid employees.

A College Awareness Project (CAP) has been proposed which would provide \$7.9 million statewide. The Governor's budget does not recommend funding these initiatives.

Regarding enrollment, we requested 200 new FTE students, while the Governor's budget recommended 82 for the biennium.

Ms. Voves reported that Eastern's decision packages are not funded in the Governor's budget. These are items such as the Centers for Excellence. We have made institutional decisions to shift funds for these centers.

The overall impact of the Governor's budget is a difference of \$5 to \$6 million, which would require a reduction of 5 to 6% for the biennium.

Ms. Voves said she and her staff have been making presentations on the University's budget across campus to educate everyone.

President Jordan explained the reduction process being undertaken on campus. All members of the President's Cabinet are to identify ten activities in the university that aren't core to the mission of the university and that might be eliminated to contribute to the reductions. He will establish a series of task groups to evaluate each option regarding the savings possible and how central it is to the mission. Then the Cabinet will prioritize the order upon which we would consider reducing these activities. Based on the Governor's budget recommendations, we may be looking at a significant reduction, at the same time that we may be facing increasing enrollment over the next two biennia. We need to teach the students (academics), need to provide services to the students (student affairs), and need to have appropriate facilities for the students (business and finance). We need to think outside the box to look at out-of-the-ordinary possibilities like selling the Spokane Center and relocating those people/programs, or other similar major changes.

Dr. Jordan also noted that a component of all of this is increased revenue. We're working hard to push our number of FTEs up for new enrollment. The Governor's tuition bill will provide for some flexibility to the trustees in tuition setting. We will support this, since a component will necessarily be tuition. He said we're not intending to backfill existing services. The process needs to include an increase in revenue.

Ms. Shiota expressed her appreciation for the approach being taken to this budget reduction. These are difficult and painful decisions, but are a way to keep the body from hemorrhaging. Sometimes one has to amputate the limb to save the body. She also noted that programmatic cuts are vital to the organization, and sends a message to the funders. Mr. Ormsby pointed out the legislative plan that has been developed, and noted that Higher Education day in Olympia will be on February 15. He will attend and hopes others will as well. He asked the trustees to relay any comments on the legislative report to President Jordan, Mary Voves or George Durrie. A schedule for the day in Olympia will be distributed to the trustees.

#### **IV. Action Items**

##### **Minutes of the December 1, 2000 Board of Trustees' Meeting, IV.A.**

***Motion 1-1-01:** "I move that the minutes of the December 1, 2000 Board of Trustees' meeting be approved as presented."*

*Motion by Trustee McReynolds; seconded by Trustee Mays. Motion carried.*

**EWUAA License Plates, IV.B.**

Terry Flynn, Director of Alumni Relations, introduced Terri Graham and Dj Calkins of the EWUAA Executive Board. Ms. Graham explained that the Alumni Association Board met last Saturday and voted as an Alumni Association to donate \$1000 to the Cheney Revitalization Project. They will also have a table at the Symphony performance this evening.

She then explained that their purpose to day is to request approval to work with the Department of Licensing on a new license plate for Eastern, replacing the old logo with the newer corporate logo. The Alumni Association feels Eastern is now being identified with the corporate logo, and their board feels strongly that this change should be made. They formed a marketing committee to discuss a marketing plan to increase the sales of the license plates, which increases scholarship money to the university. It will also broaden the visibility of Eastern in the community. Informal polling has indicated that people would like to see this change, and that they associate the new logo with the good things that have been happening at Eastern.

She then explained the process that they will go through to change the license plates. There are approximately 114 existing plates, which they can purchase outright at \$5 each or wait to see if people want to purchase the old logo plates before the new ones are available. People possessing the old plates who would like to trade it in for a new plate can do so at their normal renewal time, for a fee of \$7.50. The numbering system hasn't been finalized yet.

President Jordan thanked the Alumni Association for their leadership in this issue, and explained to the newer board members that we did not make a change in the license plates when the corporate logo was adopted by the board, partially because we had some concern around whether the new logo would resonate with folks or not, and whether the state would permit us to do it. We now know that we do not need a statutory change, and the timing seems to be good to do it.

Chair Ormsby has spoken with the two board members who previously had concerns about changing the logo, and they both support the change if the full Board does.

Ms. Graham reported that, to date Eastern has 531 plates sold, CWU is at 479, WWU is at 321, Evergreen is at 159, the U of WA is at 7,100, and WSU has sold 11,800.

***Motion 1-2-01:*** "I move that the Board of Trustees approve the use of the corporate EWU logo on the license plates."

*Motion by Trustee Shiota; seconded by Trustee McReynolds. Motion carried.*

**Acceptance of Completion of Contract Award #AE-97-05G, Classroom Renewal Phase VI, Showalter Hall Room 109, IV.C.**

*Motion 1-3-01: "The Business and Finance Committee brings forward as a motion the acceptance of the completion of contract award #AE-97-05G."*

*Motion carried.*

**Approval of Public Works Contract Award #AE-99-01, the Childcare Center—Phase II, IV.D.**

*Motion 1-4-01: "The Business and Finance Committee brings forward as a motion the approval of Public Works Contract Award #AE-99-01."*

*Motion carried.*

**V. Old Business/New Business**

**VI. Executive Session.**

At 11:55 a.m. Chair Ormsby announced that the Board of Trustees would adjourn to executive session for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110, to discuss personnel issues and other related matters as authorized by statute. He anticipated their return to open session at 12:30 p.m. to take action on the personnel items.

**Reconvene**

Chair Ormsby called the meeting back to order at 12:40 p.m.

**VII. Personnel Actions**

*Motion 1-5-01: I move that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel actions as presented."*

*Motion by Trustee Shiota; seconded by Trustee Behne. Motion carried.*

**VIII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:41 p.m.

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Michael C. Ormsby  
Chair of the Board

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Stephen M. Jordan  
Secretary of the Board