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Board of Trustees Minutes, May 31, 2001

Eastern Washington University

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**EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 31, 2001—10:00 a.m.
Pence Union Building Room 263-7
Cheney Campus**

MINUTES

Trustees Participating:

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

Faculty Participating:

Peter Dual, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Steve Blewett, Associate Professor, Journalism
Christian Hansen, Associate Professor, Mathematics

Staff Participating:

Stephen Jordan, President
Judith Penrod Siminoe, Associate to the President
Patricia Kelley, Dean of Information Resources
Stefanie Pettit, Public Information Officer
Lesli Younger, Computer Consultant
Mary Voves, Vice President for Business and Finance
Toni Habegger, Chief Financial Officer
Brian Levin-Stankevich, Vice President for Student Affairs
William Ponder, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services

Students Participating:

Bree Holsing, President, ASEWU
Jeremy Kramer

Chair Ormsby called the Special meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 10:10 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present.

President Jordan explained that Eastern Washington University has the chance to obtain a data warehouse at a significantly reduced price, thanks to the Oracle Corporation. If we were to go forward with this offer, a signed commitment must be made by 5:00 p.m. today (May 31, 2001). Dr. Jordan reminded the Board that he is committed to moving EWU forward in terms of computer systems. This cannot be made with state dollars alone. We must leverage with outside entities and enter into mutually beneficial partnerships. Dr. Jordan's conclusion is that the planning work is not complete. We need to complete our Information Technology Master Plan (IT Plan), and develop a series of tactics and timelines necessary to implement the plan in order for it to be successful. He noted that Oracle has been a good partner, and

they have put a potential savings on the table. He thanked the Oracle Corporation, and called Lee Ramsayer this morning to tell him of his anticipated recommendation to the Board not to proceed to accept the Oracle offer at this time. President Jordan suggested we move forward with our planning process, community discussion, and the building of a financial plan so we can be ready when other offers arise.

It is important to remember that this decision does not release us from moving away from the use of Social Security numbers as student identification. The cost of implementing this change has been estimated at \$100,000. Dr. Jordan's intent is to continue to move forward with this issue immediately, to be completed by Summer 2002.

Dr. Jordan then addressed the tuition increase issue, saying that the tuition proposals that were presented to the Board at the May 18 meeting will not be affected by this decision. It had been suggested that a tuition increase would not be needed or would not be as high if the university decided not to purchase the offered data warehouse portals and tools.

Vice President Voves said the administration is using a very effective process to assess the purchase of a data warehouse. We realize we need to be respectful of the concerns of all constituents regarding how we can communicate fully. The administration is committed to an open forum. To ensure that discussion occurs we plan to hold one more brown bag lunch which will include our IT consultant.

Dean Pat Kelley said the development of the strategic plan utilizes seven teams containing five to eight people from across campus according to their expertise. They pulled out information in all areas for IT needs, and determined what areas of IT need to be in place to begin changes. The principals of this strategic plan went to the President's Cabinet one month ago. A new plan is ready to go to the Cabinet soon.

Ms. Voves said the Academic Computing Council (ACC) forwarded a recommendation to support the administrations decisions in this area. The timeline for implementing the plan includes having something for people to look at by next fall. The deans need to take responsibility for discussion among their colleagues and bring comments back to the Cabinet and the IT committee. The draft plan is on the web, and a campus-wide e-mail providing the web address will be sent.

Dean Kelley commented that Eastern needs to actively go out and seek plans such as Oracle's. We will need to create partnerships to fulfil our IT needs.

President Jordan addressed the funding for such a proposal, saying that we could have covered the one-time costs if we dug deep enough. But there are also ongoing costs in terms of the commitment we would be making, both in terms of funds, loss of financial flexibility and staff. He emphasized the importance of strengthening the financial position of the university.

Chair Ormsby requested that the administration report to the Board of Trustees at its October meeting regarding the IT Master Plan, its Tactical Plan and Financial Plan. No official action is needed at this time as the issue is being addressed as a proposal. President Jordan will write a letter to the Oracle Corporation acknowledging our appreciation for the offer they have put forward, and explain that we are still looking at the feasibility of such a partnership in the future.

Steve Blewett, incoming Chair of ACC, echoed remarks regarding the positive input and openness of the discussions surrounding this proposal. He noted that in the past two to three years the attitude of staff in Information Services has changed significantly and for the better as they deal with faculty and administrators. He emphasized the need for collaboration. He is concerned that there was broad but thin

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input on the proposal. The time frame for input will be difficult over the summer. He recommends that the proposal be presented as the first or last step of the draft plan to be reviewed in-depth in the fall. It is important to garner support in areas where it affects faculty and the administration.

Mary Voves committed to presenting a status report on the proposal at the August and September Board of Trustees meetings.

Motion 05-01-01: “*I move that the Board of Trustees approve the personnel actions as presented.*”

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Michael C. Ormsby
Chair of the Board

Stephen M. Jordan
Secretary of the Board