

11-20-2015

Board of Trustees Minutes, November 20, 2015

Eastern Washington University

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Regular Meeting

Friday
November 20, 2015
MINUTES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Michael Finley
Mariana Garcia
James Murphy
Paul Tanaka
Robert Whaley
Vicki Wilson

MINUTES

Thursday, November 19

Work Session

1. **Designing a Board Orientation Process** Jim Murphy
Trustees discussed an ongoing board orientation process.

Dinner Meeting (*Refreshments and Dinner are available for trustees and invited meeting participants.*)

2. **Reception with University Faculty Leadership & President's Executive Committee**
3. **Board Dinner with University Faculty Leadership**

Friday, November 20

4. **Call to Order**

Chair Murphy called the November 20, 2015, meeting of the Eastern Washington University Board of Trustees to order at 8:30 a.m.

5. **Quorum**

A quorum was present. Uriel Iñiguez was absent. All other trustees were present.

Board Committee of the Whole

6. **Sustainability Plan**

Vice Presidents Mary Voves and Mike Westfall presented on the plan for the Sustainability Center and provided the concept design for the Natural & Environmental Science Testing and Teaching (NESTT). The purpose of the plan is to focus on environmental stewardship and sustainability efforts on campus. The building is intended to be a showcase for sustainable practices.

7. Scholarship/Foundation

Todd Sturgis and Lisa Poplawski reported on scholarships and fundraising success and outlined the three-year plan (FY16-FY18). Topics discussed were the faculty/staff match challenge, stewardship, and Advancement initiatives that included annual fund gifts, social media, major gifts, and planned gifts.

8. Program Spotlight: Robotics

Don Richter, Professor of Engineering

Dr. Richter provided information about robotics and automation, the robotics lab, logic controllers, robot kits, and curriculum. He emphasized that robotics is used to teach innovation (not just following directions) with the goal of providing workforce skills for today's and tomorrow's jobs in the high demand field of engineering. He also shared about a new research area: using a NAO humanoid robot to help improve the therapy for children with autism.

9. Clery Report

Chief Tim Walters informed the Board regarding campus safety and included EWU crime statistics from 2012 – 2014. See presentation for full details.

10. Policies

Mr. Trent Lutey explained policy changes to EWU Policy 201-01, Policy Management; EWU Policy 204-02, Posters; and EWU Policy 204-08, Service and Assistance Animals in University Housing.

Executive Session

Chair Murphy announced the Board would convene in executive session under RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)(d)(g) and (i): to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase; to review negotiations on the performance of publicly bid contracts; 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 matters relating to agency enforcement actions, litigation or potential; also, the Board may also plan or adopt the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or will review the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress, which is exempt pursuant to RCW 42.30.140. Executive session concluded at 12:35 p.m.

RECONVENE

Chair Murphy called the regular meeting of the Eastern Washington Board of Trustees to order at 12:58 pm. Trustee Murphy noted that executive session lasted approximately 75 minutes, and no action was taken.

Board of Trustees' Regular Meeting

11. Reports

a.

University President's Report Mary Cullinan

[Attachment 11a](#)

- Rocketry Students
Martin Weiser, Assistant Professor
of Mechanical Engineering

President Cullinan spoke about her focus over the past year toward making a difference in key areas such as student success and retention. She reported on the advising efforts lead by Project Manager Chris Robbins. Another major emphasis is for student scholarships, and a campaign is underway; 83.5% of students persist to the next year when they have a scholarship, and 62% of the

students graduate over the six-year graduation rate, which is considerably higher than the average for other students. Students living in residence halls also persist at higher rates, thus a live on requirement was established for new freshman. Also, progress has been made on curriculum, in particular, general education. First year freshman retention has increased to 77.8% from 77.5%. Good work toward assessment is also going forward. See President Cullinan’s full written report.

President Cullinan then introduced Professor Martin Weiser. Dr. Weiser introduced Spencer Scott, Isaiah Irish, and Henry Ramsey who are students in the Rocketry Club. The students shared the video of the rocket launch wherein they placed third in the world with their project.

b. Board Reports Chair Jim Murphy

- Acknowledgements

The Board acknowledged employees responsible for bringing in the largest ever freshman class. Neil Woolf introduced the team from Student Affairs, and Chuck Lopez introduced employees from Academic Affairs.

c. Organization Presidents’ Reports [Attachment 11c](#)

- Faculty Organization Kevin Decker

President Decker reported that Julia Smith has been appointed as the faculty director for Critical Foundations and First Year Experience. Dr. Decker reported on academic Program Student Learning Outcomes, Faculty Commons, Research and Scholarship Procedures, and University Rankings. See President Decker’s full written report.

- Associated Students Kyle Dodson

President Dodson was absent but provided a full written report.

- Classified Staff Union Craig Walker

President Walker gave thanks to various administrators for their work and reported that the positive relations are improving the culture at EWU. Classified staff have worked hard to repair damage from the recent storms. Given the recent international turmoil regarding diversity, Mr. Walker suggested a scholarship be provided for one refugee, which would bring further diversity to EWU.

- United Faculty of Eastern Michael Conlin

President Conlin was unable to attend the meeting.

- Public School Employees Tracy Durbin
Union

Ms. Durbin read a prepared message from President Lisa Olson that shared the work, goals, and opportunities pertaining to PSE over the past quarter.

Public Comment

Robin McRae, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and the Department of Physics, provided remarks. He conveyed to the Board the faculty’s concern regarding the process and appropriateness of the decisions regarding college administrators and said there is a sense that CSTEM has lost their representative voice for decisions at the university.

Action Items

12. Consent Action Items

- a. Minutes of the September 25, 2015, Board of Trustees’ Meeting**

b.

Policies

- **WAC 172-100-150, Traffic and Parking Rules**
- **WAC 172-110, Drones and Model Aircraft**
- **WAC 172-121, Eastern Washington University Student Conduct Code**
- **WAC 172-124, Disposition of Obligations Owed to University by Students**
- **WAC 172-144, Outstanding Financial Obligations to the University**
- **EWU Policy 202-01, Investment Policy – Endowed Funds**
- **EWU Policy 406-01, Exempt Employment**

Motion 11-01-15: Trustee Whaley moved to approve the consent action items that included the minutes from the September 25, 2015, meeting and the policies listed above.

*Seconded by Trustee Finley.
Motion carried.*

13. Summation: Trustee Wrap-up Discussion

Chair Murphy asked for trustee comments, and there were none.

14. Adjournment

Chair Murphy adjourned the EWU Board of Trustees meeting at 1:51 p.m.

Jim Murphy, Chair

Mary Cullinan, Secretary Board of Trustees