

**WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
October 11, 2012**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peggy Zoro called the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University to order at 3:00 p.m., October 11, 2012, in Old Main 340, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

Board of Trustees

Betti Fujikado, Secretary
Joseph Meyer
Ralph Munro
Karen Lee, Vice Chair
Sue Sharpe
Dick Thompson
Peggy Zoro, Chair

Western Washington University

Bruce Shepard, President
Wendy Bohlke, Assistant Attorney General
Stephanie Bowers, Vice President for University Advancement
Paul Cocks, Director, University Communications
Eileen Coughlin, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services
Paul Dunn, Sr. Executive Assistant to the President
Ethan Glemaker, President, Associated Students
Catherine Riordan, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Karen Stout, President, Faculty Senate
Liz Sipes, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Steve Swan, Vice President for University Relations
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs

2. SPECIAL REPORTS

A. PREPARING STUDENTS TO SUCCEED IN CHANGING WORLD: INPUTS AND OUTCOMES

1. Senior Exit Survey

Bruce Shepard, President, opened the presentation stating that the university measures data for two purposes -- statistical information for the legislature and accrediting agencies, and for information that allows us to evaluate and continue to improve our programs. The Board of Trustees holds the university accountable for well-informed decisions that are based on this information.

Catherine Riordan, Provost, introduced John Krieg, Professor of Economics and Director of the Office of Survey Research. Krieg said the primary goal of the Office of Survey Research is to conduct surveys of Western's students and alumni to learn about what we do well and what areas need improvement. Krieg described that Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS). This study surveys incoming freshman and transfer students a month prior to their coming to campus. This cohort of students is surveyed again at the end of their second year to assess their general education experience and what things we are doing well in their first two years at Western. The Exit Survey is conducted of both undergraduate and graduate students every quarter. The goal of the Exit Survey is for students to look back at their educational experience and to look forward and ask "how well has Western prepared them for their future?" Every other year Alumni are asked, "how well did Western prepare them for this stage of their life?"

Krieg presented data from the Western Educational Longitudinal Study (WELS) for 2009 – 2012.

2. GUR Strands

Steve Vanderstaay, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, noted that the data collected from both freshman and senior students and as well as nationally benchmarked data, is used to inform program improvements in the Liberal Arts & Sciences core --our General University Requirements (GUR). To improve on the freshman year experience, Western is piloting the GUR Strands.

Emily Borda, Chemistry and Johann Neem, History gave a brief presentation on how a GUR Strand works. A GUR Strand consists of 3 GUR classes that are taken in successive quarters. The purpose of the GUR Strand is to enhance the first year experience by providing a year-long "learning community" of peers and a "strand" of three courses connected by a theme or question. Students would be able to see the connection between these courses and ultimately better understand the connection between the liberal arts and sciences. For example Strand One is "Science and Religion". Classes in this Strand are LBRL 23, Introduction to the Study of Religion (Fall qtr.); FAIR 297J, Evolutionary Biology (Winter qtr.); and LBRL 297, Science and Religion (Spring qtr.).

There are four different strands, each consisting of a three course sequence. Strand Two: "How do you know? Evidence and Argument"; Strand Three: "Understanding Human-Environment Interactions"; and Strand Four: "Global Citizenship."

Chair Zoro said that they would like an updated report on the GUR Strands pilot program at the October 2013 Board of Trustees meeting.

At 3:17 p.m. Chair Zoro announced a five minute break.

3. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:22 p.m. Chair Zoro announced that the Board would convene in Executive Session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss personnel, real estate and legal issues as authorized in RCW 42.30.110. The Board reconvened in Open Session at 5:00 p.m. No action was taken.

Meeting recessed at 5:00 p.m.