BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

October 26, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.
Davis Stewart Center Ballroom 151A – Hybrid Meeting

Trustee Members:

Ms. Kearston Cutrubus (Chair)
Ms. Karla Bergeson (Vice Chair)
Mr. Brent Bishop
Ms. Amanda Covington (via Zoom)
Ms. Louenda Downs
Ms. Karen Fairbanks
Mr. Ben Ferney
Mr. Curtis Funk (via Zoom)
Mr. Keith Titus (via Zoom)

Excused:

Mr. Don Salazar
Dr. Gail Niklason
Ms. Adrienne Andrews

Weber State University Representatives:

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President
Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs
Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost
Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology
Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement
Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board
Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives
Dr. Laine Berghout, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor/Chemistry
Mr. Luke Jenkins, Network Architect, Infrastructure Services – SAC Proxy (via Zoom)
Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel
Mr. Bryce Barker, Director of Internal Audit (via Zoom)
Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing & Communications
Dr. Christopher Hoagstrom, Professor of Zoology
Dr. Demetrios Pagonis, Assistant Professor of Chemistry

Dr. Katrina Twing, Assistant Professor of Microbiology

Dr. Dave Ferro, Dean, College of Engineering, Applied Science & Technology

Guests:

Mr. Geoffrey Landward, Deputy Commission of Higher Education & General Counsel at Utah System of Higher Education

Ms. Jesselie Anderson, Board Member, Utah State Board of Higher Education (via Zoom)

Ms. Jade Matkin, Presidential Leadership Fellow

Public Attendees:

Mr. Jeremy Shinoda, Ogden City Diversity Commissioner (via Zoom)

Press:

No press were present

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. by Ms. Kearston Cutrubus, Chair. She welcomed all in attendance and asked for identification of any potential or perceived conflicts of interest. Hearing none, Chair Cutrubus continued through the agenda.

Full Board Agenda Items

Meeting Minutes Approval (September 16, 2021):

Meeting minutes from September 16, 2021, were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: Upon a motion by Ms. Louenda Downs to approve the meeting minutes from September 16, 2021, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously.

Information

College Liaison Report:

Trustee Curtis Funk, as liaison to the College of Engineering, Applied Science, & Technology (EAST) introduced Dr. Dave Ferro, Dean of the college. Dean Ferro gave a review of EAST with a focus on engineering the future while satisfying industry and government needs. The dean highlighted the programs offered in the college, areas of growth, demographics, student retention, faculty retention and recruitment, strategic workforce investment, and financial donations. Dean Ferro also highlighted the new buildings in the college and awards the college has earned for success in various programs. His charges for trustees included: Connecting with political and industry leaders, supporting sabbaticals, programs and classes, partnering with school districts, recruiting students outside Utah, and advocating for the next legislative engineering initiative.

Special Topic – Cyber Security:

Vice President Bret Ellis gave a presentation on cyber security. Concerns include ransomware and IOT devices (Alexa, baby monitors, smart cars or smart phones, etc.) If you don't have controls properly secured, hackers can break in and get your information. He urged everyone to discontinue practice of password re-use, use two-factor authentication, and beware of phishing attempts. If in doubt, don't click on it and check the email address to make sure it is from the actual company. Hardware, software, and wetware (humans) are hard to manage. CARES Act and HEERF funding has been used to help reinforce our university security.

Faculty Presentation by College of Science:

A faculty presentation was given by Dr. Christopher Hoagstrom, Dr. Demetrios Pagonis, and Dr. Katrina Twing from the College of Science. A new BS program in Environmental Science started in 2020-21. Statistics of the College of Science were

shared, as well as reports on Geospatial Science, Environmental Chemistry, and Microbial Ecology of Abandoned Mines in the Wasatch Mountains.

Weber State University Reports

President's Report:

President Mortensen shared the following highlights from his report:

a. Introduction of Presidential Leadership Fellow Ms. Jade Matkin.
b. Northwest Commission on Colleges and University accreditation results were positive with four commendations and 0 recommendations. It is rare to have this happen two seven-year cycles in a row.
c. Fall enrollment statistics were released by USHE yesterday with a total headcount of 29,744. Retention is at an all-time high of 57.1%
d. Ally Financial is partnering with WSU to help attain emerging HSI students.
e. Community policing held the 5th annual "Eddies Barbecue" event during homecoming week. Campus police announced two new community policing initiatives: Having regular campus safety walks and forming a Community Police Advisory Committee.

Alumni Report:

Trustee and Alumni President, Curtis Funk, shared that alumni member Amir Jackson drew up a successful initiative including t-shirts, flags, and painting to make Ogden purple during homecoming week.

Staff Association Council (SAC) Report:

No discussion was held concerning the written report.

WSUSA Report:

Trustee and WSUSA President, Ben Ferney reported that homecoming was a success with many students and student leadership involved. Student body presidents across the state are working together on "Lauren's Promise" in honor of slain student, Lauren McClusky at the University of Utah. There has been success with students coming forward to express concerns both in and out of the classroom with fraternity and sorority issues, students of color issues, and LGTBQ issues. Ben can help bring people together even though he may not have all the solutions.

Upcoming Events:

Upcoming events were listed for review with a reminder of the November 18 WSU hosted dinner and review with UBHE members and trustees.

Academic Policy Committee

ACTION Items: Trustee Louenda Downs

a. There were no action items to report from the committee for this meeting.

Business Committee

ACTION Items: Vice Chair Karla Bergeson – Business Committee Chair Proxy

a. Audit Committee Report – Quarterly Athletics Report – Quarterly Construction Report

Three action items were reviewed together. The Audit Committee report was reviewed without any discussion. During discussion of the Quarterly Athletic report, Vice President Norm Tarbox shared the following three goals for student-athletes: 1- Give them a marketable degree. 2- Help them to experience winning a championship while here. 3- Help them want to send their children to WSU. The Quarterly Construction report showed $100,000,000 in construction projects going on at this time to expand and improve the university.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Audit Committee report, the Quarterly Athletic report, and the Quarterly Construction report, made by Mr. Brent Bishop, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar items were reviewed by the Board of Trustees.

ACTION: On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Ms. Karen Fairbanks with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion was unanimously approved.

c. Information Items

Information items were reviewed without discussion.

Other

Other items discussed included the budget and capital requests. We have prepared our requests to present to the legislature at the 2022 session along with other institutions.

Adjourn

With no other items to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.