

**Meeting Minutes**  
Weber State University Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 16, 2021 – 9:00 am  
WSU Ogden Campus  
Online Forum – Zoom Meeting

**Trustee Members:**

Mr. Nolan Karras (Chair)

Ms. Kearston Cutrbus (Vice Chair)

Ms. Karla Bergeson

Mr. Marty Carpenter

Ms. Amanda Covington

Ms. Louenda Downs

Ms. Karen Fairbanks

Mr. Ben Ferney

Mr. Don Salazar

**Excused:**

Mr. Curtis Funk

**Weber State University Representatives:**

Dr. Brad Mortensen, President

Dr. Bret Ellis, Vice President for Information Technology

Dr. Ravi Krovi, Provost

Dr. Betsy Mennell, Vice President for University Advancement

Dr. Brett Perozzi, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Norm Tarbox, Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Ms. Adrienne Andrews, Assistant Vice President of Diversity & Chief Diversity Officer

Ms. Sherri Cox, Secretary to the Board

Mr. Steven Richardson, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Dr. Tim Herzog, Faculty Senate Chair/Professor of Chemistry

Mr. Luke Jenkins, Chair, Staff Advisory Council / Senior Network Engineer

Ms. Stephanie Hollist, Deputy General Counsel

Mr. Rich Hill, General Counsel

Mr. John Kowalewski, Executive Director, Marketing and Communications

Dr. Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Dean, College of Science

Dr. Elizabeth Balgord, Assistant Professor/Earth & Environmental Sciences, College of Science

Dr. Stacy Palen, Professor/Physics, College of Science

Dr. Matthew Mouritsen, Dean, Goddard School of Business and Economics

Dr. Winn Stanger, Career Services Director

Mr. Clayton Anderson, Director, Budget and Institutional Research

Mr. Bryce Barker, Director of Internal Audit

Mr. Guy Letendre, Director of Economic Development

**Public Attendees:**

Ms. Jesselie Anderson, Utah Board of Higher Education

Mr. Geoffrey Landward, Utah Board of Higher Education

Mr. Jeremy Shinoda, Ogden City Diversity Commissioner

Gentry Mathias

Tani Downing

Marisa Nelson

**Press:**

Jennifer Greenlee, The Signpost

Welcome

Tuition and Fee Rates for FY22

The meeting of the Board of Trustees convened at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom digital platform.

- I. Chair, Mr. Nolan Karras, welcomed those in attendance.
- II. Vice President Norm Tarbox discussed WSU Tuition and Fees Adjustment Hearings for FY22. Key points included:
  1. WSU is ranked 19 in the top 50 schools on return of investment. WSU is USHE's only top 50 school and only open enrollment institution of the 50.
  2. More than \$92 million in financial aid was provided to students this past year.
  3. Utah tuition rate changes over the last 10 years from 2009-2020 show that WSU has always been in the lower tier of tuition rate changes.
  4. Guiding Principles Review:
    - a. Affordability Compact: maintain low tuition levels and keep tuition affordable to low income families through the Dream Weber Program.
    - b. Internal Efficiencies and Reallocations: Vice Presidents must solve their own problems first before seeking additional resources. Need to reallocate funds from sources with lower priority to cover higher priority.
  5. Key meetings and dates were reviewed.
  6. Overview of requests: 2% tuition rate increase (1.5% is required by legislative action, .5% is a recommended enhancement for other Weber State budget needs if approved by the trustees.)
  7. A proposed 1.5% student fee increase is needed to keep pace with salaries, compensation, and other obligations.
  8. A tuition and fee swap is being proposed (money from student fees being moved into tuition budget.) A breakdown of the student fees proposal and tuition fees swap was given along with the 9 areas funded previously from student fees being moved into the general fund.
  9. Mr. Ben Ferney gave a report on student fees allocations as proposed by the WSUSA Student Fee Recommendation Committee.
  10. The 1.5% tuition increase necessitated by legislation action is needed to fund a proposed 3% salary increase to employees with a 4.3% health benefits increase to the university to cover insurance costs.
  11. The revenue from the 0.5% recommended tuition increase will be used to support:
    - a. Faculty tenure and promotions increases.
    - b. Funding of inflationary cost increase in fuel and power.

c. Administrative software upgrades needed - \$84,000.

12. Charts of current and proposed tuition schedules per semester showing the swap from fees to tuition was shown.

13. Affordability – chart provided showing how WSU ranks lower in rates in comparison to other institutions.

14. 70% of our students received financial aid, an average amount of \$1,658.00 per student. Dream Weber is one of the many programs that offers financial assistance to low income students.

15. Proposing to assign our new graduate program, Master in Social Work, to the tuition schedule that currently exists for our Master of Criminal Justice and Education program tuition schedule.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve Tuition and Fees Rates for FY22 by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Marty Carpenter, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.

5-Year Student Fee Review

III. A 5-Year Student Fee Review was discussed by Vice President Brett Perozzi and WSUSA President, Mr. Ben Ferney. Documents in the packet were briefly discussed including an executive summary outlining the current year process as well as the 5-year review, current allocations, new Utah Board of Higher Education policy, and 6 criteria used on an annual basis used for the 5-year review.

Vice President Perozzi expressed appreciation and praise to the student fee recommendation committee that worked so hard on the allocations of student fees decisions. Student Affairs Student Fee Recommendation Committee includes many areas that support equity issues involved with decisions.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the 5-Year Student Fee Review by Ms. Amanda Covington, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.

Strategic Plan Approval

IV. President Brad Mortensen gave a report on the Strategic Plan. Based on input from the campus survey and discussion at the last meeting, changes to the Vision, Mission and Values statements have been incorporated, along with Core Themes: Access, Learning and Community, and an overarching equity framework. The strategic plan tells the Weber State story more fully. President Mortensen proposed a change in the Desired Outcomes #3, under the Equity,

Diversity and Inclusion priority, to break into two sentences; people that are included are in one sentence, and the sense of belonging in another sentence. The Board of Higher Education will need to approve the changes to the mission statement in a future meeting, and reports will be made annually to the Board about WSU's progress of implementing these goals. Many were praised for their work in this effort.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Strategic Plan by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Don Salazar, the motion passed pending the change to item #3 in the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Desired Outcomes.

College Liaison Reports

V. 1- A report on the College of Science was presented by Ms. Karen Fairbanks and Dean Andrea Easter-Pilcher. Their report included major achievements in the college highlighting new hires, \$900,000 in research grants, new degrees, majors, the different programs offered, international opportunities, and success in undergraduate research. Challenges included opportunities, diversity, faculty workload, retaining our rock stars, funding high-impact activities and undergraduate research.

2- A report on the Goddard School of Business & Economics was presented by Mr. Don Salazar and Dean Matt Mouritsen. Their report included an overview of goals with a mission-driven focus. Student focus is the central concern and goal, with faculty and staff in the college recognized. College strategic initiatives for 2020-2025 were discussed and will be compared with the university's strategic initiatives to ensure they are aligned. A report of the number of scholarships and MBA graduate certificates was given, along with the introduction of a virtual/online pathway for working professionals outside our services areas summer 2021.

Special Topic: Career Services

VI. A Special Topic presentation from Career Services was given by Dr. Winn Stanger. His report included skills employers seek, NACE competencies listed, teaching the skills, on-campus employment, internships, high impact experiences with leadership, service, study abroad, peer mentors and tutors. Student Gentry Mathias shared his student employee experience in the Career Services mentor program, including a Canvas course.

Faculty  
Presentation –  
College of  
Science

VII. A faculty presentation from the College of Science was given by Dr. Andrea Easter-Pilcher, Dean, College of Science, Dr. Elizabeth Balgord, Assistant Professor/Earth & Environmental Sciences, and Dr. Stacy Palen, Professor/Physics. Their report included unique teaching strategies adopted during the pandemic, as well as changes to the Observational Astronomy Class. Changes have morphed into a new way to run the class. The capability to remotely control the telescope in the College of Science over the internet was demonstrated. Students can control it virtually and collect data themselves. Dr. Balgord discussed doing earth science experiments during the pandemic. This included travel and fieldwork. 15 different virtual field trips were developed with the use of specific camera equipment systems that took photos, allowing students to zoom in virtually for their research. Weber State's Creative Academic Technology Solutions team (CATS) helped to build the tours. This was helpful for students who missed field trips due to quarantine or sickness. This also made tours for large-enrollment classes more favorable as they were logistically impossible to do with 80+ students. The tours were able to be used for many courses.

Written Reports

VIII. Written Reports were acknowledged and included in the agenda packet. Mr. Ben Ferney, WSUSA President, talked about the recent student elections and results, as well as constitutional changes that were approved. Trustee Ben Ferney was re-elected as the WSUSA President for the 2021-2022 school year. President Mortensen gave a brief legislative re-cap in his report. He also wanted to pause and acknowledge the recent passing of Desiree Cooper-Larsen and her contributions to Weber State University.

Upcoming Events  
Calendar

IX. An Upcoming Events Calendar was included in the agenda packet for reference.

Business  
Committee Report

X. Ms. Karen Fairbanks, chair of the Business Committee, reported on the following action items for action:

Quarterly Audit  
Report

1. The Quarterly Audit Report was discussed by Vice President Norm Tarbox. Included in the audit was a report from the state auditor with a clean review reported from financial services.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Quarterly Audit Report made by Ms. Karen Fairbanks, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion

Northern Utah  
Venture Fund

passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Guy Letendre and Mr. Rich Hill discussed the creation of a Northern Utah Venture Capital Fund including partnerships with: Weber State, Layton City, Davis Technical College, Ogden-Weber Technical College, Ogden City, Weber County, and Davis County Council of Governments. Fund structure and organizational charts were addressed. The purpose of the presentation is to request Board of Trustee approval to move forward with these community partners.

**ACTION**

The following motion was made by Ms. Karen Fairbanks: "I move Board approval of the University's community economic development initiative known as the Northern Utah Venture fund. I further move Board approval authorizing University officials to negotiate an Interlocal Agreement with Ogden City, Layton City, Weber County, Davis County Council of Governments, and the Weber and Davis Applied Technology Colleges to organize and implement this joint and cooperative effort to assist startup businesses in Northern Utah. Board review and approval of the Interlocal Agreement and related organizational matters will be reserved to a later date." With a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the motion.

Information Items

XI. Information Items for the Business Committee were included in the agenda packet for review without discussion.

Consent Calendar

XII. The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to review Business Committee Consent Calendar items without discussion.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Business Committee Consent Calendar by Ms. Karen Fairbanks, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion was unanimously approved.

Personnel &  
Academic Policy  
Committee Report

XIII. Ms. Karla Bergeson, chair of the Personnel & Academic Policy Committee, reported on the following action items for action:

Tenure  
Documents

1. Provost Ravi Krovi discussed the College of Science and College of Engineering, Applied Science and Technology Tenure and Post-Tenure Documents including a brief summary of the changes implemented.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Tenure Documents by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Ms. Kearston Cutrbus, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.

Curriculum Items

2. Provost Krovi discussed the following five Curriculum Items with details pertaining to each:

- a. User Experience Design Certificate of Proficiency
- b. Web & User Experience, Full Stack Web Development Emphasis
- c. Web & User Experience, User Experience Design Emphasis
- d. Minor in Queer Studies
- e. BS in Energy Engineering

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the five Curriculum Items by Ms. Kearston Cutrbus, with a second by Mr. Marty Carpenter, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.

Program Discontinuance

3. Provost Krovi discussed the discontinuance of Health Administrative Services Minor: Health Promotion Emphasis, Long-Term Care Administration Emphasis and Health Information Management Emphasis.

Program Name Changes

Provost Krovi discussed the following Program Name Changes:

- a. Athletic Therapy to Rehabilitation Sciences
- b. Department of Physics to Department of Physics & Astronomy

New Administrative Unit

Provost Krovi also discussed a New Administrative Unit: Department of Physician Assistant Medicine.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Program Discontinuance - Health Administrative Services Minor: Health Promotion Emphasis, Long-Term Care Administration Emphasis, and Health Information Management Emphasis, the Program Name Changes, and the New Administrative Unit by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Ms. Amanda Covington, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.

Policy Items

4. Provost Krovi discussed the following Policy Items

- a. PPM 1-17, Selection and Evaluation of Academic Deans
- b. PPM 3-5a, Employment of Persons with Criminal Records
- c. PPM 4-19, Grading Policies

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the three Policy Items by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Mr. Marty Carpenter, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.



Program Reviews

5. Provost Krovi gave a report on the following six Program Reviews:

- a. Chemistry & Biochemistry
- b. Computer Science.
- c. Honors
- d. Master of Athletic Training
- e. Network Management
- f. Teaching & Information Services

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the six Program Reviews by Ms. Karla Bergeson, with a second by Ms. Kearston Cutrubus, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.

Information Items

XII. Information Items for the Personnel and Academic Policy Committee were included in the agenda packet for review without discussion

Consent Calendar

XIII. The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to review the Personnel and Academic Policy Committee Consent Calendar items without discussion.

**ACTION**

On a motion to approve the Personnel and Academic Policy Consent Calendar by Ms. Karla Bergeson, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously.

Other

XIV. No other items were brought forth for discussion.

Meeting  
Adjourned

XV. With no further items to discuss and upon a motion to adjourn by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Ms. Amanda Covington, the meeting came to a close at 11:12 am.