

**Meeting Minutes**  
Weber State University Board of Trustees Meeting  
January 19, 2021 – 9:30 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. Louenda Downs  
Mr. Ben Ferney  
Mr. Curtis Funk  
Mr. Don Salazar

**Excused:**

Ms. Karen Fairbanks  
Ms. Amanda Covington

**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. Kristin Hadley, Dean of Education  
Dr. Cass Morgan, Associate Professor of Recreation, College of Education

Dr. David Aguilar-Alvarez, Assistant Professor/Nutrition, College of Education

Dr. Andrea Martinez, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education

Ms. Natalie Struhs, Advisor, College of Education

**Public Attendees:**

Ms. Jesselie Anderson, Utah Board of Higher Education

Mr. Jeremy Shinoda, Ogden City Diversity Commissioner

**Press:**

Ms. Emily Anderson, Standard Examiner

	<p>The meeting of the Board of Trustees convened at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom digital platform.</p>
Welcome	I. Vice Chair, Ms. Kearston Cutrubus, welcomed those in attendance.
Approval of Meeting Minutes (Nov. 18, 2020)	II. Upon a motion from Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Mr. Nolan Karras, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the meeting minutes from November 18, 2020.
Approval of Meeting Minutes (Dec. 7, 2020)	III. Upon a motion from Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Don Salazar, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the meeting minutes from December 7, 2020.
Installation of New Trustee	IV. Mr. Curtis Funk was introduced as the new Alumni Association President and installed as a new trustee by taking the oath of office led by Ms. Sherri Cox.
Board of Trustees College Liaison Report	V. A report on the College of Education was presented by Ms. Louenda Downs and Dean Kristin Hadley. Their report included an introduction of the different programs offered, the buildings, and outstanding faculty, staff and students. Challenges, recruitment efforts, development and opportunities in the college were also discussed.
USHE Directions	VI. A presentation on USHE Directions was given by Ms. Jesselie Anderson, representative from the Utah Board of Higher Education. Her report included a brief summary from the Dual Mission Summit in Nov. 2020, the benefits of dual mission institutions, and plans going forward.
Faculty Presentation – College of Education	VII. A presentation on “Peer Retention Mentors” was given by Dr. Kristin Hadley, Dean of Education, Dr. Cass Morgan, Associate Professor of Recreation, Dr. Andrea Martinez, Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, Dr. David Aguilar-Alvarez, Assistant Professor/Nutrition, and Ms. Natalie Struhs, Advisor. Their report included efforts being made to emphasize justice and equity, wildcat conversations on racism; 12 podcasts created to share with campus, retention peer mentors who focus on outreach to students of color in each college, and development of a focus group with students of color on how to make campus more welcoming.
WSUSA Report	VIII. A WSUSA report was given by Mr. Ben Ferney, WSUSA President. A Constitutional Convention was recently held where the legislative branch of the student senate constitution was updated along with assistance from WSU faculty, legal

	<p>counsel, and the president. The plan is to have updates ready for the upcoming general election in March. Also included in the convention were policy updates and the creation of new positions. Appreciation was expressed to trustees who attended.</p>
Written Reports	<p>IX. Written Reports were acknowledged and included in the agenda packet. Staff Advisory Chair, Mr. Luke Jenkins acknowledged that staff has expressed concern on the COVID-19 vaccine decision to include K-12 educators only. The state did not include higher education faculty and staff. President Mortensen encouraged faculty and staff to get vaccinations any place they become available.</p>
Upcoming Events Calendar	<p>X. An Upcoming Events Calendar for January was included in the agenda packet for reference.</p>
Personnel & Academic Policy Committee Report	<p>XI. Ms. Karla Bergeson, chair of the Personnel &amp; Academic Policy Committee, reported on the following action items for action:</p>
Stewart Library Tenure Document	<p>1. Provost Ravi Krovi discussed Stewart Library Tenure Document changes. The library is responding to changes requested by Faculty Senate Committee on Appointment, Promotion, Academic Freedom and Tenure (APAFT) and in response to feedback by faculty.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>On a motion to approve changes to the Stewart Library Tenure Document by Mr. Nolan Karras, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.</p>
Graduate Certificate Programs	<p>2. Provost Krovi discussed the following four Graduate Certificate Programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Business Analytics Graduate Certificate</li> <li>b. Business Development Graduate Certificate</li> <li>c. Cyber Security Graduate Certificate</li> <li>d. Systems Engineering &amp; Sustainable Engineering Graduate Certificate</li> </ul> <p>These programs align with legislative funding for the Utah Learn and Work program, targeting short-term degrees and certificates for people to upskill and retool during the economic downturn following the pandemic. Students are currently enrolled in these programs.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	<p>On a motion to approve the four Graduate Certificate Programs by Mr. Don Salazar, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the Board</p>

	of Trustees unanimously passed the motion.
Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science, and Society	3. Provost Krovi discussed the Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science and Society, which is being funded by the grant from the Noorda Foundation that was received a few years ago. Goals of the Center are to enable interdisciplinary collaborations between different colleges, and to encourage more women and minority student involvement.
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the Noorda Interdisciplinary Center for Engineering, Science, and Society by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.
2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests	4. Provost Krovi discussed the 2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests. 33 requests were submitted of which seven are conditional, based on individuals getting tenure. Most are semester-long sabbaticals, with four year-long requests. Requests were all recommended by the deans.
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the 2021-2022 Sabbatical Requests by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.
Program Reviews	5. Provost Krovi gave a report on the following four Program Reviews: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Athletic Therapy – recommended 5 year review: A great pre-professional pathway for students getting an associates degree.</li> <li>b. Master of Professional Communication: The program is focused on working professionals and graduates of this program focusing on critical thinking, mentoring, etc.</li> <li>c. Master of Arts in English – recommended 7 year review. Student outcomes are the greatest strengths with many who have done presentations and published in Journals.</li> <li>d. Theatre – recommended 7 year review. This undergraduate degree creates directive skills and the program meets all defined outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the three Program Reviews by Mr. Ben Ferney, with a second by Mr. Nolan Karras, the motion passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees.
Consent Calendar	XII. The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to review the

	Consent Calendar which included meeting minutes from the Nov. 18, 2020 Personnel and Academic Policy Committee, early retirement requests, and personnel reports.
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Ms. Karla Bergeson, with a second by Mr. Don Salazar, the motion passed unanimously.
Information Items	XIII. Information items were reviewed without discussion.
Business Committee Report	XIV. Chair Nolan Karras, representing the Business Committee, reported on the following action items for action:
Property Purchase	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A property purchase was discussed by Vice President Norm Tarbox. The property is adjacent to WSU's Ogden campus located at 3650 Taylor Avenue and is in one of the university's acquisition zones for future development.</li> </ol>
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the Property Purchase made by Mr. Nolan Karras, with a second by Ms. Louenda Downs, the motion passed unanimously.
Fees/Tuition Swap Proposal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Vice President Tarbox discussed a Fees/Tuition Swap Proposal under the direction of USHE allowing a reduction in student fees and an increase in tuition enabling a swap of funding.</li> </ol>
<b>ACTION</b>	On a motion to approve the Fees/Tuition Swap Proposal by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Ben Ferney, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved the motion.
Information Items	<p>XV. Vice President Tarbox was asked to report on the following Information Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. FY21 Auxiliary Analysis. Six areas at the university have lost revenue due to COVID-19 and were required to keep their structure in place to benefit from COVID-19 funding. These areas include: Bookstore, Housing, Dee Events Center, Parking &amp; Public Safety, Printing Services, and Athletics. In order to break even, despite COVID-19 financial assistance, funding will need to be reallocated to keep programs in place and bring accounts into balance for the close out of FY21.</li> <li>2. Vice President Tarbox also reported on the Faculty Athletic Representative Annual Report. All sports are</li> </ol>

reporting above the minimum NCAA academic standard of 930. WSU's institutional APR goal is 950 with most sports reporting near or above this goal.

Consent Calendar XVI. The Board of Trustees had the opportunity to review the Consent Calendar items without discussion.

**ACTION** On a motion to approve the Consent Calendar by Mr. Nolan Karras, with a second by Mr. Salazar, the motion was unanimously approved.

Closed Meeting XVII. A motion to hold a closed meeting was made by Chair Nolan Karras with a second by Mr. Don Salazar. Trustees Marty Carpenter, Don Salazar, Curtis Funk, Ben Ferney, Louenda Downs, Kearston Cutrbus, Nolan Karras and Karla Bergeson voted unanimously to continue with a closed meeting to discuss character and professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

**ACTION** A motion to adjourn the closed session and move into open session was made by Ms. Louenda Downs with a second by Mr. Curtis Funk. The Board of Trustees unanimously voted to end the closed session and move into open session.

Approval of Honorary Degree Recipients XVIII. President Mortensen made a recommendation that the following individuals be approved to receive honorary degrees for the 2021 spring commencement: Mr. Gene Sessions, Ms. Cecilia Foxley, and Ms. Lou Jean Flint.

**ACTION** On a motion to approve the recommendations made for honorary degree recipients at the 2021 spring commencement made by Mr. Ben Ferney with a second by Mr. Marty Carpenter, the motion was unanimously approved.

President Mortensen recommended that the Board of Trustees hold off on approving a 2021 spring commencement speaker today and wait for an Executive Committee session to be held to approve a speaker at a future date.

Other XIX. No other items were brought forth for discussion.

Meeting Adjourned XX. With no further items to discuss and upon a motion to adjourn by Ms. Louenda Downs, with a second by Mr. Don Salazar, the meeting came to a close.

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