

Minutes
Weber State University
Board of Trustees
October 7, 2014

Trustee Members:

Ms. Karen Fairbanks
Mr. Joseph Favero
Mr. Nolan Karras
Mr. Andre Lortz
Mr. Steve Starks
Dr. Jeff Stephens
Mr. Kevin Sullivan, Vice Chair

Excused:

Ms. Louenda Downs
Mr. Alan E. Hall, Chair
Mr. Scott Parson

Weber State University Officials:

Dr. Charles A. Wight, President
Dr. Norm Tarbox, VP for Administrative Services
Dr. Mike Vaughan, Provost
Dr. Brad Mortensen, VP for University Advancement
Dr. Eric Amsel, Faculty Senate Vice Chair
Mr. John Kowalewski, Director of Media Relations
Ms. Brittany Hicken, Staff Advisory Committee
Ms. JoAnne Robinson, Executive Assistant, President's Office

Others Present:

Dr. Julia Panko, Associate Professor, English

Press Present:

Ms. Becky Wright, Standard Examiner

Welcome

I. Meeting convened at 9:30 a.m.

II. Vice Chair Kevin Sullivan welcomed those present.

Minutes

III.

On a motion by Karen Fairbanks and seconded by Andre Lortz, the minutes of the September 2, 2014, main Board of Trustees meeting were approved unanimously, and the minutes of the September 2, Business Committee and the Personnel and Academic Policy Committee were ratified unanimously.

President's Report

IV. President's Report - President Wight gave a report covering the following items:

(WSU Student Honored with 2014 Academic Excellence Award)

1. Thanks to the work of a Weber State University computer science student testing of new medical devices can now be done on a computer, reducing the need for human or animal testing. Tina Van Riper was honored with the 2014 Academic Excellence Award from the Women Tech Council.

(Andrew Bell to Present at WSU)

2. Weber State University will host Andrew Bell, senior researcher in the Environment and Production Technology Division for the International Food Policy Research Institute, as part of its Food Matters Lecture Series. Bell will present some of the issues and research challenges with food the developing world might experience in coming decades.

(George Schild, Visiting International Professor)

3. A Cold War expert from Germany is the first visiting international professor in Weber State University's Department of History. Georg Schild from the University of Tübingen holds a doctorate in American History from the University of Maryland. He is teaching a course on America and the Cold War, providing a European perspective.

(Study of Agricultural Practices in Africa)

4. Weber State University economics students and faculty used money from two grants for travel to Malawi, Africa, this summer to record preliminary data on agricultural practices and the willingness of farmers to engage in subsidized programs that promote conservation.

(WSU's First MOOC)

5. Two Weber State University professors have combined history and microbiology in the university's first Massive Open Online Course (MOOC), "Microbes Rule the World: Effects of Disease on History." History professor Gene Sessions and microbiology professor Craig Oberg teamed up to offer the course.

The detailed report is attached to these minutes.

WSUSA President's Report

- V. President Joseph Favero gave a report covering the following topics:

("Weber Town")

1. "Weber Town," on September 13 at the Ogden Amphitheater, was a huge success with over 550 in attendance.

(Wildcat Walk and Pep Rally)

2. Homecoming week started out a bang, delivering Weber State Pride Packets to businesses up and down 25th Street in Ogden as part of the Wildcat Walk and Pep Rally in downtown Ogden.

(Statewide Initiatives)

3. Two major statewide initiatives for the year, in conjunction with the Utah Student Association: Sexual Assault Awareness and "Holding the Line" on tuition costs.

(Stereotype Video)

4. WSUSA Senate, together with Studio 76 and the Women's Center on campus, created a video to discuss stereotypes. It has received a lot of positive attention, on and off campus.

("Project Lead" Training)

5. Students are actively engaged across the board, excited for many activities - especially the annual "Project Lead" Leadership Training over Fall Break.

The detailed report is attached to these minutes.

Alumni President's Report

(Emeriti)

(Scholarships)

(Reunion)

(Welcome Back Tailgate - Membership Matters)

(New Website)

(Phonathon)

VI. President Andre Lortz gave a report covering the following topics:

1. The Emeriti Council provided several volunteers to welcome and assist student with questions on the first two days of Fall 2014 classes.
2. All 40 students who were awarded scholarships through the Alumni Association for the 2014-15 academic year were invited to meet donors at a luncheon held in September at the Lindquist Alumni Center These scholarships were funded by private donations, license plate proceeds and the annual Alumni Golf Classic.
3. A reunion for all past and current Board of Directors of the Alumni Association was held in July with 60 in attendance. This event provided opportunities for those in attendance to re-connect with former board members and friends and to hear from President Wight.
4. To kick off the fall semester and the WSU home opener football game, the Alumni Relations staff and the WSU Alumni Board and Council members hosted a dues paying membership event on September 6. Over 214 attended the welcome back tailgate and enjoyed The Worlds Famous Corn Dog Truck, balloon artist activity and swag to cheer on the Wildcats to victory.
5. On August 12th the WSU Alumni Association launched their new website. The new design incorporated a new overall design for easy navigation, consistency and brand awareness between weber.edu and alumni.weber.edu, and a new mobile responsive design to accommodate both phone and tablet use.
6. In an effort to promote our alumni participation as both Alumni Association members as well as philanthropic donors, we have created a new blended approach to our annual fundraising efforts. We launched a new and improved phonathon program in collaboration with Wilson-Bennett Technologies who specialize in phonathon software and management. We have 15 WSU student callers actively soliciting our alumni for gifts that allow the alumni to both donate to their college

Faculty Report

or unit of choice as well as receive an alumni membership.

The detailed report is attached to these minutes.

- VII. Dr. Eric Amsel, Vice Chair of Faculty Senate, introduced Dr. Julia Panko, Assistant Professor, English, who will lead the state's first digital humanities program.

Dr. Panko told the Trustees that her focus was the intersection of humanities and digital technology. Digital technology can be used as a partner to develop software to scan hundreds of documents and look for patterns. On line archives can also be created for easy access. She shared a book she will be using in class that incorporates digital aspects and different ways to present print books. Dr. Panko added that she was attracted to Weber State University because of the way faculty is supported by the administration.

President Wight asked Dr. Panko how administration can best reward excellence in teaching. She replied that the institution's ranking and tenure process is a good reward.

Steve Stark related a conversation he heard between Larry Miller and author David McCullough lamenting the loss of documentation in the digital world. He asked Dr. Panko how that loss could be resolved. She replied that it was a problem and literary scholars are collecting data by acquiring old computers and drives.

Dr. Amsel presented "What's Special About Being a WSU Faculty Member?"

The detailed report is attached to these minutes.

Committee Reports
Business Committee)

- VIII. Business Committee - Steve Stark outlined the following matters discussed and acted upon during today's Business Committee meeting: (For a detailed report of actions taken, see the attached Business Committee minutes for October 7, 2014.)

1. WSU Institutional Residence Annual Report

2. WSU Institutional Discretionary Funds Annual Report for Year Ended 6/30/14
3. Quarterly Construction Report
4. Quarterly Athletic Report

On a motion by Jeff Stephens and seconded by Andre Lortz, the following items were approved unanimously:

- WSU Institutional Residence Report
- WSU Discretionary Funds Annual Report for Year Ended 6/30/14
- Quarterly Construction Report
- Quarterly Athletic Report

(Personnel and Academic Policy Committee)

Personnel & Academic Policy Committee - Kevin Sullivan outlined the following matters discussed and acted upon during today’s Personnel and Academic Policy Committee meeting: (For a detailed report of actions taken, see the attached Personnel and Academic Policy Committee minutes for October 7, 2014)

1. Proposal for Sustainability Practices and Research Center

On a motion by Karen Fairbanks and seconded by Joseph Favero, the Proposal for Sustainability Practices and Research Center was approved unanimously.

2. Gerontology Major Suspension

On a motion by Andre Lortz and seconded by Steve Starks, the Gerontology Major Suspension was approved unanimously.

Questions

IX. There were no questions.

Next Meeting Date

X. The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on November 4, at the Ogden campus.

Adjourn

XI.

On a motion by Karen Fairbanks, seconded by Jeff Stephens, and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.

Minutes submitted by:



JoAnne Robinson, Secretary
WSU Board of Trustees



Charles A. Wight, President
Weber State University