



**MEETING OF THE WOU BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING NO. 55 –  
FEBRUARY 14-15, 2023**

**February 14, 2023  
3:00-5:00 PM**

**WERNER UNIVERSITY CENTER | COLUMBIA ROOM**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**I. CALL-TO-MEETING / ROLL CALL**

Chair Komp calls the meeting to order at 3:01 pm and asks Interim Board Secretary LouAnn Vickers to call the roll. The following trustees were present:

Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee David Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cec Koontz (Arrived at 3:07 pm)  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia  
Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
President Jesse Peters (ex-officio member of the Board)  
Trustee Michael Reis,

The following trustees were absent:

Trustee Jerry Ambris  
Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Lupe Diaz

Quorum is present

**II. CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Komp welcomes the WOU community to the February Board of Trustees meeting and wishes everyone a happy Valentine's Day. She reminds folks that the meeting is live-streamed and asks Interim Secretary Vickers to remind folks how they can provide public feedback. Interim Secretary Vickers states that sign-up sheets are in the room for public comment. One will be at the beginning of the Wednesday meeting and the second will be at the end of the Wednesday meeting. There is also an email in the public notice that people can email to give public comment virtually. Chair Komp emphasizes that it is a priority of the Board to hear from members of the WOU campus and the public. Chair Komp emphasizes that this is the second Board of Trustee

meeting where they have tried the two-day approach, and they think they have gotten it down, but if members of the WOU community have ideas to improve the agenda, please let her or President Peters know. Chair Komp also wanted to express gratitude to the VPs and staff doing onboarding presentations with the Board. It has been very informational, and it is much appreciated.

### **III. PRESIDENT'S WELCOME**

President Peters welcomed all the Board of Trustees to campus in person or virtually. President Peters is excited about the two-day format and thinks it will improve how the Board of Trustees can engage with the students and the campus community.

### **IV. STAKEHOLDER UPDATES**

#### **1) SHARED GOVERNANCE**

##### **a. Faculty Senate | Dr. Steve Scheck**

Dr. Scheck, President of the Faculty Senate, highlighted his submitted report, which is in the docket for review. He emphasized that the Faculty Senate is committed to partnering with the administration to ensure that the students get access to the academic programming support they need to succeed.

##### **b. ASWOU | Hunter Hall**

Hunter Hall, ASWOU Vice President, gave the Student Government update. The Associated Students of Western Oregon University (ASWOU) are committed to improving safety on campus. They are working with Public Safety and University Computing Solutions to get more lights around campus. Over the last couple of months, ASWOU, Campus Public Safety, and representatives from Housing walked around campus for an hour and identified spots where lighting that is not working needs to be fixed and other places where more lighting is needed. ASWOU appreciates that the university has been responsive and added more lights around the J lot. Rebecca Chiles sent ASWOU a step-by-step action plan of where they will add lighting.

Another initiative that ASWOU is working on is putting together student panels that visit local high schools and talk to graduating seniors about the college experience, pull back the veil a bit and answer questions and give them an idea of what it is like to go to WOU. They already had Central High School on the agenda for February 22. They are looking for more schools to visit.

##### **c. Staff Senate | Jenna Otto**

Jenna Otto, Staff Senate President, gave the update for the Staff Senate. Her full report is in the docket for review. Ms. Otto's presentation focused on staff concerns with the budget reduction conversations. Ms. Otto expressed concerns about how those

decisions will be made and communicated and how resources will be available for those impacted.

## 2) **UNION**

### a. SEIU | Jackson Stalley

Jackson Stalley, President of WOU82, gave the update for the Staff Union. Mr. Stalley shared the report with SEIU 82 Vice President Amanda Bales, who shared her personal story about her family connections to WOU and how the staff on this campus are what make WOU so special. They called that special connection the WOU Way. Mr. Stalley expressed gratitude to President Peters and his team for the increased communication from the administration even when the news was scary. He also emphasized the staff union's commitment to doing its part to put the university on a sustainable path. Their commitment includes increasing the time they are advocating for and sharing the story of WOU at the State Capitol. Finally, Mr. Stalley asked the Board of Trustees to do their part by looking at cost efficiencies in the university's administration and to join the staff union at the Capitol advocating increased funding from the Legislature.

### b. WOUFT | Dr. Melanie Landon-Hayes

WOUFT President Dr. Melanie Landon-Hayes gave the report. Dr. Landon-Hayes emphasized that WOUFT has been busy building bridges with the administration and ensuring continued outreach and advocacy with our state union leaders and our State Legislators. WOUFT is aware of the budget shortfalls WOU faces and the cuts being discussed across the campus. Bargaining was scheduled to start this month, and WOUFT knew that budget outlooks remained grim and that a more precise picture would be available after the adjournment of the Legislature this summer. Therefore, WOUFT has agreed to a delay in bargaining with a commitment to extending the current contract for one year, which WOUFT members ratified nearly unanimously. WOUFT sees this as a huge win and allows the campus community to continue building bridges. Dr. Landon-Hayes then discussed the partnership with the other regional universities' faculty unions, staff unions, and student groups to advocate in the Capitol for more financial support for the regional universities.

## **VI. TRUSTEE COMMENTS, OBSERVATIONS, AND QUESTIONS**

Trustee Koontz attended the town hall President Peters hosted at the WOU campus about the budget situation. The questions were thoughtful, and there was clear anxiety about the process. People offered all the help about how the campus community can get through the process together. Trustee Koontz indicated that she loves the people on this campus and is continually impressed with how the staff interacts in these situations. She also wanted to thank President Peters and the empathy that he showed and the trust he is building.

**VII. BOARD CONVERSATION: Accreditation Update |Dr. Sue Monahan**

As the Accreditation Liaison Officer, Dr. Sue Monahan gave an overview of the upcoming comprehensive evaluation and site visit by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), WOU's regional accreditor. The NWCCU is coming for a campus visit on April 12th-April 15th. The presentation focuses on the recommendations from the 2016 accreditation trip and the changes the university has made to implement the recommendations. The PowerPoint can be found in the docket for review. The Board asked several questions that were discussed at length.

**VIII. RECESS**

At 5:02pm Chair Komp moved the Board into recess until Wednesday, February 15, until 10 am.

**FEBURARY 15, 2023**  
**10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**  
**WERNER UNIVERSITY CENTER | COLUMBIA ROOM**

**I. CALL-TO-MEETING/ ROLL CALL**

Chair Komp gaveled the meeting back into session at 10 am on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Chair Komp asked Interim Secretary Vickers to take the roll.

The following trustees were present:

Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Lupe Diaz  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee Dave Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cec Koontz  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia  
Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
President Peters (ex-officio member of the Board)  
Trustee Michael Reis

The following trustees were absent:

Trustee Jerry Ambris

Quorum is present

**II. CHAIR'S WELCOME**

Chair Komp used her time to emphasize that the Board of Trustees wants to hear from the public. Sign-up sheets are available in the room, and the meeting is live-streamed.

There is an email address where people can sign up to provide public comments virtually, but that has to be done before the start of the meeting.

**III. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1) Meeting Minutes:
  - a. November 15-16, 2022
- 2) FY23 Management Report (As of December 31, 2022)
- 3) FY2022 Financial Statements Audit
- 4) Single Audit (Audit of federal funds received)
- 5) Minor: Ethnic Studies
- 6) Graduate Certificate: Healthcare Administration

Trustee Koontz moved the approval of the Consent Agenda, and Trustee Reis seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion:

Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Lupe Diaz  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee David Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia  
Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
Trustee Michael Reis

The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **IV. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one signed up for public comment.

#### **V. STAKEHOLDERS UPDATES**

##### **1) WOU FOUNDATION REPORT | Katie Wojke, Vice President for Advancement**

Ms. Katie Wojke presented highlights from her report that she submitted to the Board that can be found in the docket for review. In her presentation Ms. Wojke discussed her teams focus on engaging and building lasting and meaningful relationships with the campus, alumni community as well as other local leaders to grow the size of the foundation board. She also talked about the open positions that will really allow the department to grow and increase their reach. She gave an update about the Foundation's campaign and talked about WOU Giving Day. Trustees Koontz and Evans had a couple of challenges to the Board of Trustees to donate to giving day. One was a \$25 match for every Board of Trustee Member who donated \$50 or more. Trustee Mendez-Garcia said he would match this match. The other is to see how many new donors each Board Member can get to donate. The goal is 100% participation from the Board of Trustees to set an example for the WOU community.

##### **2) LEGISLATIVE REPORT | Ricardo "Rico" Lujan Valerio, Director of Government Relations**

Mr. Valerio highlighted his report, which is part of the docket for review. His priority is to build a system where the entire campus speaks with one voice to elected leaders at the Federal, State, and local levels. Mr. Valerio also wants to work on branding and image

with MARCOM and University Advancement to ensure that when lawmakers are thinking of higher education issues, they don't just think of the big universities but also the regional universities.

Mr. Valerio gave some context about Higher Education's challenges during the Legislative Session. Then he discussed at length the priorities for the university and the regional universities as a coalition, including the \$15 million for Regional Universities to coordinate and develop a plan for the future of regional universities. TRU Day at the Capitol will be held on May 4. WOU is working with OIT, EOU, and SOU to create an agenda and schedule and will set up individual meetings with legislators and staff. Mr. Valerio asked the Board of Trustees to participate in any way they felt comfortable.

President Peters asked Mr. Valerio to go into detail about how the Universities are coordinating and the Council of University Presidents are coordinating. Mr. Valerio stated that the Presidents of the other six universities and their government relations teams are using WOU Salem as a hub while in Salem. This allows for increased coordination and collaboration.

## **VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT | President Jesse Peters**

Dr. Peters highlighted the report he submitted in the docket for review. Dr. Peters introduced Brittany Kima, the new Assistant Director in Market and Communication. She is our new Public Information Officer (PIO) and social media manager. Part of her role will be dedicated to getting press releases to the media about news from campus. President Peters also wanted to introduce Carson Campbell has moved into the interim General Counsel role from the Deputy General Counsel role.

President Peters then gave various updates ranging from the progress being made in reaching out to potential students to the partnerships taking place on campus and externally. He also updated the board on the Equity assessment and how WOU is ahead of the other universities in doing this kind of assessment. He gave an update on the budget shortfall and the plan to put WOU on a more sustainable path, including feedback from a campus town hall he hosted that Trustee Koontz mentioned earlier in the meeting.

President Peters then gave an update on the process and timeline to create a new strategic plan. The board then discussed what they want to see as part of the conversation when the plan was updated.

President Peters gave an update about the effort for WOU to be recognized as a Designated Hispanic Serving Institution and, finally an update on the College Restructure Taskforce.

## **VII. BREAK**

At 11:45 am, Chair Komp recessed the meeting for fifteen mins for a break and then gaveled back at noon.

**VIII. LUNCH / SHOWCASE PRESENTATION:** Abby's House – Center for Equity and Gender Justice | Kristin Perry, Director

Ms. Tina Fuchs, the Vice President of Student Affairs, kicked off the showcase by giving a brief history of the evolution of Abby's House, how the organization is funded, the structure of the organization, and how they support students. VP Fuchs then introduced the Director of Abby's House, Kristen Perry, and two students who work and have been supported by Abby's House. Ms. Perry then spoke in detail about the specific services provided at Abby's House, data about the number of students they serve, and what the organization is doing to keep the grant funding going. Ms. Perry then introduced Maggie, the office support student at Abby's House, who shared her experience working there, and Kailey shared their personal stories and why Abby's House is important to them. Ms. Perry also shared several other students' stories of how Abby's House impacted them. The Trustees appreciated the presentation and were moved by the students' personal stories. There was then a robust conversation about community partners that Abby's House works with. There was also a discussion on the WOU community can support Abby's house.

After the Showcase presentation, Chair Komp recessed the meeting for ten minutes and gaveled the meeting back in at 12:55.

**IX. ACADEMIC & STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (ASAC)**

1) Committee Chair Report | Trustee Leah Mitchell & Betty Komp

Chair Komp gave a brief update on the actions that the Academic & Student Affairs Committee took at their last meeting, including the recommendation of the Minor in Ethnic Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration, both of which were on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. The committee also recommended to the Board the Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies the Board of Trustees will consider next. They also heard an update on the accreditation process from Dr. Monahan and received an enrollment management update, which VP of Student Affairs Tina Fuchs went into more detail about.

2) Committee Recommendations for Board Discussion/Action

a. New Degree Approval: Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies | Dr. Mary Pettenger, Dr. Ricardo Pelegrin Taboada

A report on the degree plan, which goes into great detail, is in the docket for review. The presentation of the New Degree Approval of the Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies was started by Dr. Robert Winningham, who is the Provost of Academic Affairs. He gave some background information and invited Dr. Mary Pettenger and Dr. Ricard Pelegrin



Taboada to speak. Dr. Pettenger and Dr. Pelegrin Taboada went into detail about the need for the Degree path, including why its marketable, consistent with the mission and values of the university, relevant to students, and has a capstone that will give students real-world experience. There was also a conversation about the budget for the program.

Trustee Morse moved to approve the New Degree proposal of a Bachelor of Arts in Ethnic Studies. Trustee Mendez-Garcia seconded the motion. There was no discussion after the motion. The following trustees voted in favor of the motion:

Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Lupe Diaz  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee David Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia  
Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
Trustee Michael Reis

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **X. DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY COMMITTEE (DEIAC)**

### 1) Committee Chair Report | Trustee Susan Castillo

Trustee Castillo delivered a summary of the committee's action from their meeting on January 24. The report that the VP for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Dominique Vargas, was included in the docket. Trustee Castillo talked a bit about the Equity Assessment, which is in Phase 1 currently. Trustee Castillo also spoke about the Freedom Center and the work being done to find a sustainable way to fund the center, as well as look at the goals and mission of the center. Next meeting, the committee will look at the DEIAC Charter.

- ### 2) Committee Recommendations for Board Discussion/Action
- a. No action items.

## **XI. EXECUTIVE, GOVERNANCE & TRUSTEESHIP COMMITTEE (EGTC)**

### 1) Committee Chair Report | Chair Betty Komp

Chair Komp gave the update on behalf of the committee. They have met three times since the last Board of Trustees meeting last November. The update included the two action items listed next in the agenda and why they were important to review and update.

2) Committee Recommendations for Board Discussion/Action

a. Revision of Board Statement on the Delegation of Authority, section 1.6

The revision of the board statement on delegation of authority was discussed at some length about the need to update the delegation of authority. More information is in the report in the docket for review.

Trustee Koontz moved that the Board of Trustees accepts the Revision of Board State on the Delegation of Authority, section 1.6 as proposed in the docket and Trustee Reis seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the following trustees approve the motion:

Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Lupe Diaz  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee David Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia  
Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
Trustee Michael Reis

The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Revision of EGTC Charter

Chair Komp described the process taken to update the EGTC Charter, Chair Komp encouraged the other committees to use a similar approach. They then reviewed the proposed charter revision to discuss the changes and see if other trustees had any questions.

Trustee Morse moved to accept the revision of the EGTC Charter, and Trustee Nelsestuen seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The following trustees approved the motion:

Trustee Danielle Campbell  
Trustee Susan Castillo  
Trustee Lupe Diaz  
Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Angela Fasana  
Trustee David Foster  
Board Chair Betty Komp  
Trustee Cristian Mendez-Garcia

Trustee Leah Mitchell  
Trustee Doug Morse  
Trustee Kari Nelsestuen  
Trustee Michael Reis

The motion was approved unanimously.

## **XII. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (FAC)**

1) Committee Chair Report | Trustee Gayle Evans  
Trustee Evans gave an update about the last FAC meeting. She mentioned that the FAC committee had an update about some very clean audits. That is something to celebrate. Trustee Evans commended the team that worked to prepare for the Audit. There was a detailed and robust discussion at the FAC about the budget and what is being done to address it. They also heard and discussed a report which focused on upgrading the lighting and other safety enhancements on campus. They also presented a dashboard with some key indicators of the budget. This information is in the docket for review and is also on the budget website. There was a robust discussion about the data presented.

- 2) Committee Recommendations for Board Discussion/Actions  
a. No action items.

## **XIII. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT**

No one signed up for the second public comment.

## **XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS**

Chair Komp asked if there was any feedback about the meeting. Please email Chair Komp or LouAnn.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Komp adjourns the meeting at 2:43pm.