

WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of the Meeting  
December 13, 2019

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Western Illinois University convened at 8:01 a.m. in the University Union Heritage Room in Macomb. Chair Radosh presided.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Trustee Brown moved to approve the October 3-4, 2019 Board Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes. Trustee Aguilar seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Justin Brown                      Yes

Tom Carper-As a former Board member he says the Board's job is to hire a President and a CEO and also can fire that person, making sure the person is doing his or her job.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

First I would like to thank all of you for engaging with the Board as we have tried to gauge the best path forward for WIU in the appointment of the next president. We have had some very rich discussions and have had hard dialogue in our focus groups. One of the most consistent themes running through all of our meetings is how much people have wrestled with the hard questions of what to do next. With only a couple of exceptions, the tone of the sessions was civil, respectful of differing opinions, and as people spoke it was clear that each participant had been torn by what should be done under normal circumstances, and what should be done under our particular critical circumstances. It was heart-warming to see so many people who were able to shelve their own opinions in order to assess what is best for WIU.

we may be able to re-build lost diversity through these hires; we have been 5 years without a permanent provost and if we wait through the search to hire one, it will be 7 years without a permanent provost; we are moving forward and if we engage in a search for the next 18 months, we may lose our momentum; he would be 2 years into a 3-year contract by the time the search has finished.... You know the arguments, because you wrote them. In fact, you submitted 95 pages of comments about this process. I don't need to explain it to you. I would be willing to bet that almost all of you started with the thinking that a national search is the best way to go—and as Andrea Henderson pointed out, that is also where I started—but you have changed your opinions based on a pra\_starto h(on)Tj ( )Tj (a)Tj (t)-6 (ar)-oi94 0 Td5.2 Tw (to)Tj 0 Tc 05tpoialso

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

First, I wanted to recognize all of our graduates. Overall, we have 815 total students eligible to graduate this semester. This includes 537 undergraduate students, 184 master's-level students, and 6 doctoral students earning their Ed.D. I had the pleasure of going up to Quad Cities Wednesday evening to recognize our students there. This will be my first commencement here at Western, and I am looking forward to both of our ceremonies tomorrow. I always find commencement to be a tremendously uplifting experience because, quite frankly, that's what we do as a University. A hearty congratulation to all of our graduates.

I also want to take a few minutes to recognize the hard work of our admissions staff. I've been following the enrollment funnel carefully, watching both spring and fall numbers. You'll hear more from the admissions team later this morning, but generally speaking, the data suggests that applications and admissions for fall are consistent with last year. With slight increases in transfer and graduate students, and assuming this holds through registration, we are on target to achieve our goal of having an increase in the size of our incoming class. This woul10 (r)3 (w)2 ( w)4 (2 (u) t)-2 (o 5)-2 ( w

about what they see going forward. I have been pleased to serve as the Interim President for the past six months, and I am extremely proud of what we have all accomplished in this short amount of time. I would be extremely thrilled to be able to continue to do that as your President, and if you choose to have me continue as Interim President I will be happy to serve in that role for as long as you'd like me to do that. But I also know that there things that I can do, that we can do as a university, if you choose to appoint me as President that we will not be able to do if you do not make that hard choice. I encourage you to listen to the people who have worked so hard and given us the spirit of hope and make the right choice.

Trustee Brown moved to move to closed session at 8:50 am to further discuss Resolution 19.12/1. Trustee Aguilar seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee	

Trustee Twomey read the resolution. Discussion followed.

Trustee Stutz stated that Dr. Abraham has 100% support for his plans and the Board wants a way forward







Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes

Motion carried.

Trustee Brown moved to approve Resolution 19.12/5 Reorganization. Trustee Shaw seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	No
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution 19.12/6: Bond Refinancing**

Interim Vice President for Administrative Services Letisha Trepac and James McNulty ( (d.4 s2 368.4 tTm20 Twy5490)



Trustee Brown moved to amend the Resolution 19.12/8 Retention or Destruction of Closed Session Audio Recordings. Trustee Shaw seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	Yes
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes

Motion carried.

Trustee Brown moved to enter into closed session to discuss personnel at 11:42 am. Trustee XX seconded the motion. Motion carried on a voice vote. Chair Radosh indicated they would try to return in 90 minutes.

Motion to reconvene to open session was made in closed session at its conclusion.

Reconvened at 1:13 pm

Trustee Twomey made a motion to include a second open comments section to the agenda. Trustee Brown seconded. The motion passed with a voice vote.

**Re**

Roll Call

Trustee Greg Aguilar	Yes
Trustee Justin Brown	Yes
Trustee Patrick Twomey	Yes
Trustee Kisha Lang	Yes
Trustee Carin Stutz	No
Trustee Polly Radosh	Yes
Trustee Doug Shaw	Yes
Trustee Erik Dolieslager	Yes

Motion carried.

**Resolution No.**

Trustee Stutz asked for highlights of retention initiatives. Two programs are Connections Mapping and Building Connections Mentoring.

**Report No. 19.12/4:**

more non-discretionary State scholarship/waiver winners from FOIA attempts. There are a few exceptions, like the State Scholar program to this change. Again, this bill is awaiting the Governor's signature.

- x SB 1300, is a large pension bill that includes changes to the retirement age for certain Tier 2 members who have at least 20 years of service as a police officer or firefighter (This will affect our university police.) This bill has also been sent to the Governor.
- x The ethics act, now Public Act 101-595, included a small provision that creates an online searchable database for those statement of economic interest statements that certain university employees have to fill out and file.
- x And finally, in Public Act 101-601, minor changes were made to the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) program affecting our procurement procedures. This includes adding in "commercially useful clauses" in eligibility requirements of minority vendors, and directing where the revenue for the noncompliance penalties will be directed

Issues that were discussed but were left for future action include:

- x The AIM High cohort fix that could be found in the supplemental bill did not move during Veto Session. We are hoping that the AIM High piece should move as its own legislation early in session.
- x With all of its press, HB 3904, the college athlete endorsement bill, passed the House and is currently sitting in the Senate Subcommittee on Special Issues. This legislation would mirror California's legislation and would give a student athlete the ability to earn compensation as a result of the use of the student athlete's name, image, or likeness. Earning compensation shall not affect the student's scholarship eligibility. In addition, student athletes may obtain professional representation. A student athlete's personal contract may not conflict with a university's team contract. And must be disclosed to the institution. Effective date: January 1, 2023.

During the second week of Veto Session, all of the public universities were called to testify in front of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee. Topics included future plans for enrollment and marketing. President Abraham testified for Western, along with Interim Vice President of Administrative Services Letisha Trepac and Doug Freed, Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Enrollment Services.

And finally, in other Illinois State Government news, IL Senate President John Cullerton announced his retirement the last week of Veto Session. One of our own alumna, State Senator Kim Lightford, is one of the frontrunners to take over leadership of the Illinois State Senate!

Regular Spring Session will begin January 28<sup>th</sup> for both the House and Senate with the Governors State of the State Address on January 29<sup>th</sup> and the Governors Budget Address on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

## ADVISORY GROUP REPORT AND COMMENTS

Colton Markey – President, Student Government Association—working on Mayor’s Round Table, finalized three scholarships (had over 30 applicants and normally award only two), students are having many emotions now and thanked Interim President Abraham, Interim Vice President Smith and Rocio Cortez.

Christopher Pynes – Chair, Faculty Senate—asked the Board what their reasons were for not discussing the first Resolution this morning and asked why they voted why they did. Stated that, after more than five hours of deliberation the public received no explanation or discussion. Some members of the faculty have not had their tenure returned. Asked the Board to appoint its member to the Presidential Search Committee today so that can begin. Challenged that former President Thomas created the exodus of diverse faculty and that Interim President Abraham inherited this.

Justin Schuch– Vice President, Council of Administrative Personnel—congratulated all December graduates and is looking forward to seeing everyone back in January.

Steve Whan – President, Civil Service Employees Council—attended the Scholarship Luncheon; CSEC

Council (also the Employees of the Year) was recognized and Brad Payne was named Employee of the Year. [2 7 (st).2 (P)



## **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Board of Trustees Training:** Distributed a packet on Board Governance as it pertains to K-12 school and pointed out that K-12 and Higher Ed are not that different. After additional research, has found that several institutions have a Higher Ed BOT Code of Conduct documents. Requested that this Board

Motion carried.

**NEXT MEETING**

March 26-27, 2020 University Union Heritage Room

**ADJOURN ACTION**

Trustee Aguilar made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board at 2:55 p.m., seconded by Trustee Brown.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried.