

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES

Wednesday, October 18, 2017

**The final minutes can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees website at
<http://www.uwyo.edu/trustees/>**

TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING AGENDA
Wednesday, October 18, 2017

WORK SESSIONS

Approval of the September 13-15, 2017, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (public and executive sessions), MacPherson 1
15th Street Legislative Report, Boswell 2
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Roll Call

Date of Next Meeting – November 15-17, 2017

Adjournment

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Conference Call
Old Main Boardroom

As will be reflected in the public session and executive session meeting minutes, the Board of Trustees of the University of Wyoming held a conference call on Wednesday, October 18, 2017. Deputy Secretary of the Board of Trustees Shannon Polk took roll at [8:02 a.m.] Trustees participating: Mel Baldwin, Dave Bostrom, Kermit Brown, John McKinley, John MacPherson, Jeff Marsh, Michelle Sullivan, and Dick Scarlett. Trustees Larry Gubbels, David Fall, Dave True, and Wava Tully were not in attendance. Ex-officio Trustees UW President Laurie Nichols, ASUW President Ben Wetzel, and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow were in attendance. Ex-officio Trustee Governor Matt Mead was not in attendance. Ex-officio Trustee Executive Director of Wyoming Community College Commission was not in attendance.

Trustee President John MacPherson called the meeting to order at [8:04 a.m.] Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved that the Board enter executive session. Trustee Jeff Marsh seconded the motion. All trustees were in favor; the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:37 a.m. the Board reconvened in public session. Deputy Secretary of the Board Shannon Polk took roll when the Board returned to public session. The same trustees were present as the first roll call.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Approval of the September 13-15, 2017, Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes (public and executive sessions), MacPherson

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Trustee MacPherson moved to approve the September Board of Trustees Public Session meeting minutes. Trustee Sullivan seconded. All trustees were in favor; the motion passed unanimously. [8:41 a.m.]

Trustee MacPherson moved to approve the September Board of Trustees Executive Session meeting minutes. Trustee Sullivan seconded. All trustees were in favor, the motion passed unanimously. [8:42 a.m.]

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **15th Street Legislative Report**, Boswell

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Vice President of Governmental and Community Affairs Chris Boswell noted that, included in the packet provided to the Trustees was a draft report in response to the footnote on page 12. He added that no action from the Board was required.

Vice President Boswell shared an email from the Mayor of Laramie, Andi Summerville. In the email, she expressed her support for the draft put together and that additional conversations would be appropriate. He then added that on page 4 of the report, there was a footnote to the UW budget, which included the following language:

2017 Session Laws, Chapter 120, Original House Bill 1, Section 067 (12):

The University of Wyoming shall request a meeting with the City of Laramie to address the need for vacating Fifteenth Street between East Willett Drive and East Iverson Street to unify the campus and protect pedestrian traffic. The University shall report to the joint appropriations committee not later than November 1, 2017 regarding the findings, costs and impacts, including possible mitigation actions, of the plan.

Vice President Boswell stated how they are to report to the Legislators on final costs and possible actions about the plan, but that there is no final proposal or estimate of cost. The project needs much more study and examination. He noted that the comments at the public listening sessions were very opposed to the vacation of 15th street. He also added that the vacation of 15th street would have impact on other streets in Laramie, and that deserved more study and thought.

Vice President Boswell noted that the city of Laramie has plans to improve the intersection at 15th Street and Iverson. If that were to occur, it would not happen any earlier than the 2020 date. He added that there needed to be a change at the bottom of page 5, and the section having to do with accident history and traffic accounts. He stated that the line should read that there were six accounts of accidents involving pedestrians the last 10 years. In the report from the Wyoming Department of Transportation, some of the accidents were slightly outside of the area that would be impacted by the vacation of 15th Street. He also added that the changes in the past few years, like reduced speed limits, have been effective. In 2014, there were 11 reported accidents, and in 2016 and 2017, there were two accidents per year.

Vice President Boswell noted that the University and City of Laramie have brainstormed several different options like partial vacation, emergency vehicle and UW bus access, and a pedestrian underpass or overpass. None of those was the final option. He reminded the board that the

ownership of the street rests with Laramie, and they would need to agree to vacate. He added that in the discussions held, there has not been much spark to the question of campus unification. In addition, some have brought up that it may be more of a separation of distance rather than a separation by 15th Street. He also reminded the Board that there is a housing study underway, and this could affect how things look on the campus in the next 10-20 years.

Vice President Boswell added that there had been vacation issues in the past, like with Prexy's Pasture. However, this concept is different since the public owns 15th Street, and that needs to be considered as they move forward with this issue.

Trustee Kermit Brown added that he only attended one of the hearings, but he had three takeaways to share with the Board. He also noted that ASUW President Ben Wetzel had made a good presentation of the campus being divided, but now there was an argument that the vacation of 15th Street would divide the community. He noted that there was also discussion about adding a stoplight on the Fraternity side of Fraternity row. But that would result in stoplights at Willet, the Fraternity side, the Sorority side, and Ivinson.

ASUW President Ben Wetzel noted that in regards to the unification of campus, much of the feedback was that there is a divide. He added that there are conversations that need to be had about the distance and need for development, and they need to see where the 10-year housing plan goes.

Vice President Boswell stated that he would offer some changes to the report and that University President Laurie Nichols would review them, and they will submit them to Joint Appropriations Committee by the November 1 deadline. They will then have a meeting with the committee in December.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Trustee Committee, Sullivan/MacPherson

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Trustee President John MacPherson noted that Trustee Michelle Sullivan had requested to draft a charge for an Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Committee, and did so. Trustees David Fall and Mel Baldwin were appointed as committee members, and had agreed to it.

Trustee Sullivan stated how this had been developed with Vice President of Student Affairs Sean Blackburn and Provost for Academic Affairs Kate Miller. It was developed with the intent to provide a broader scope of Student and Academic Affairs to the Trustees. Trustee MacPherson noted that this would be an Ad Hoc Committee for the present time, but would be amended with bylaws and made a standing committee.

Trustee Dick Scarlett noted that there has been the concern before that the Trustees were too involved in the workings of the University. He added that he was not implying that this committee would reach that level, he wanted to make sure that University President Laurie Nichols and others felt that this was important, and that the Trustees were not encroaching on their territory.

University President Nichols noted that she thought this would be very beneficial to gain feedback so that the Trustees can be as informed as possible on the Academic and Student side of the University. Provost Miller added that she and Vice President Blackburn felt that it would be helpful for some of the Trustees to see issues before they were brought to the full board. Vice President Blackburn added that he wholeheartedly agreed.

Trustee Scarlett moved to approve to establish an Academic and Student Affairs Ad-Hoc Committee. Trustee Kermit Brown seconded. All Trustees were in favor, the motion passed unanimously. [9:08 a.m.]

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

UW/Community College Preliminary Legislative Report, Miller/Aguayo

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
-

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Provost for Academic Affairs Kate Miller noted that this was an information item for the Board. The actual report was submitted to the legislature on September 30, and it was presented to the Board in a preliminary sense at the September meeting. She added that they will be moving forward with a more detailed plan to meet the December deadline.

University President Laurie Nichols added that she had met with Wyoming Community College Director Jim Rose about the full report. No changes were made, but they worked on coming forward with strong action items for the next three years. She added that the full report would be presented to the Board at the November Board meeting. She also added that they are laying out 8-10 action plans, and taking it to a different level.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Science Initiative Update**, Synakowski

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Vice President of Economic Development and Research Edmund Synakowski provided an update about the Science Initiative to the Board. He referred the Trustees to the information on page 16. He noted that a committee of about 10 people had been formed to drive major interior and exterior design elements. There have been two in person meetings, along with two meetings by video, and another was scheduled for the upcoming week.

Vice President Synakowski noted that in the packet there were the latest renderings of the building. He explained how they were planning to include a gateway arch, stonework with degrees of texture, and a greenhouse on the roof, which would be intended to serve as a scientific instrument. He also noted that they were looking at the main focus areas that would go into the building.

Vice President Synakowski stated that another group of faculty had been formed, and was currently being called the group of 10. They were looking at answering some questions about the use of the building. He also noted that he had presented a one-pager to the Governor at the budget meeting. He added that they were planning to have an Exterior Design public meeting at the Berry Biodiversity Center on November 2, and that he would provide more detail at the November Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Honorary Degree Committee Update**, Sullivan/Nichols

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
 - Information Item
 - Other Specify:
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Trustee Michelle Sullivan updated the Board that the Honorary Degree Committee had met a couple of weeks previously, and they decided to extend the deadline for nominations into November. She added that nominations were open, and that the announcement was in the packet. She noted that they will be meeting in mid to late November to discuss the proposed nominations, and will bring them to the Board in the next meeting after.

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Construction Update**, Mai

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX(ES):

- Work Session
 - Education Session
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Vice President of Administration Bill Mai referred the Board to page 24, and noted that the projects were all progressing well.

Matt Kibbon noted that the only update he had was that the architectural design on the BSL3 lab was out for pricing right now. They hoped to have the pricing from the contractor in two weeks.

Trustee John McKinley added an update on landscaping. He reminded the Board that there was an Exterior Advisory Committee that was put together for the landscaping of the area of construction on the AA and RAC-2, specifically on the East side of the AA, up to Willet. The committee has had several meetings, with the last meeting productive to focusing final thoughts. He noted that Melanie is in the process of getting a face-to-face meeting for late October or early November, and if something is finalized at that, they will present it to the Board in November. If nothing is finalized, they will present in January.

Trustee McKinley noted that that landscaping is anticipated to be put in during Spring 2018. He also added that the Facilities Committee had met the day before regarding the cell phone and connectivity issues on the east side of campus. Specifically the area with the stadium and AA. It is being worked on with the Administration side, and they hope to have a report for the November meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: November 15-17, 2017

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shannon Polk
Deputy Secretary, Board of Trustees