

THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES

**“SPECIAL” MEETING
Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

**Final Minutes can be found on the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees website at
www.uwyo.edu/trustees**

**THE UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING
“SPECIAL” MEETING OF THE BOARD
MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES**

**Tuesday, June 23, 2020
7:00 a.m.
Via Video Conference
Laramie, Wyoming**

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Call to Order

UW Board of Trustees Chairman Jeff Marsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Deputy Secretary UW Board of Trustees RoseMarie London called roll. Trustees participating: Mel Baldwin, Brad Bonner, Kermit Brown, David Fall, Brad LaCroix, Jeff Marsh, John McKinley, Macey Moore and Michelle Sullivan. Trustees Scarlett, Schmid-Pizzato and True were not present. Ex officio Trustees participating: Acting President Neil Theobald, ASUW President Riley Talamantes, Wyoming Community College Commission Executive Director Sandy Caldwell and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow. Governor Mark Gordon was not present.

Public Session

Acting President Neil Theobald provided information regarding administration's request the Board approve limited double occupancy rooms in the residence halls. Theobald went on to report before the COVID-19 pandemic, the university had received approximately 400 student requests to live with specific roommates in UW's residence halls, further stating the university continues to receive similar requests from students and the threshold for single occupancy, as outlined in the Restarting On Campus Instruction Plan approved at the June 2020 Board meeting, had been met. Theobald stated Larry Kaiser, Alvarez & Marsal (A & M) who had proposed the plan to the Board in June, has advised limited double-occupancy rooms would not significantly increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission among the UW community.

Vice President for Student Affairs Kim Chestnut restated Theobald's report that the university has surpassed single occupancy residence capacity even with having brought Crane and Hill Hall back on line as additional resources. Chestnut discussed that a student can self-select a double occupancy room, which would enhance the student on campus experience.

Trustee Macey Moore thanked residence and student life to being responsive to student demands and allowing flexibility and consideration of these requests. Trustee Mel Baldwin inquired about liability issues and university insurance in response to COVID-19. Chestnut reported student affairs would work closely with general counsel and is prepared to modify housing if there are unique concerns.

Trustee John McKinley inquired whether insurance specifically provides coverage for liability related to virus outbreak or pandemic if the university does not follow the standard of care. Evans stated the university intends to follow CDC guidelines, orders from Governor Mark Gordon, and university rules, which would meet the standard of care. McKinley inquired about the recommendation from epidemiology experts regarding risk exposure for single room occupancy versus double occupancy. Theobald restated Kaiser's advice to the university that double occupancy rooms would not significantly increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission among the UW community. Chestnut discussed national guidance and bathroom to resident ratio recommendations and the university's ability to meet these recommendations as such: three double rooms per floor and the addition of an amplification of cleaning protocols. Chestnut outlined the process of selling double occupancy rooms in Honors, Tobin, Crane and Hill (138 additional beds)

in response to inquiry from Trustee McKinley about the number of recommended and available double rooms. In response to inquiry from Trustee Brad Bonner, Chestnut discussed the university's strategy to reasonably respond to demand adding the university was adopting flexibility to its on-campus requirements for the fall semester.

Trustee David Fall discussed the benefit of double occupancy living in terms of isolation and its effects on student mental health. Trustee Kermit Brown discussed the potential for the need to increase quarantine capacity in the event of an outbreak. Theobald concurred there was possible increased demand on the 14 quarantine spaces. Chestnut reported the desire to avoid inadvertently sending students into the community. In response to inquiry from Trustee McKinley, Evans discussed the ongoing work on a decision tree for when campus might have to revert to remote work and online classes.

Modification to the UW Plan to Restart Campus and Restore Normal Operations

Approved 06-23-2020 @ 7:03 a.m.

Trustee Michelle Sullivan moved to authorize modification to the UW Plan to Restart Campus and Restore Normal Operations to allow for limited double occupancy rooms in the residence halls as opposed to all single occupancy rooms. This change aligns with the recommendation from consulting physician, Larry Kaiser, that all single occupancy rooms is not necessary, and will allow for students who self-select to have a roommate, until such rooms are fully assigned. Trustee David Fall seconded the motion. The motion carried via roll call vote. Trustees Scarlett, Schmid-Pizzato and True were not present for the vote.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



RoseMarie London
Deputy Secretary, UW Board of Trustees