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1996 - Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes

Board of Trustees, Central Washington University

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**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
April 12, 1996
11:00 a.m.**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Central Washington University was called to order by Board Chair Ron Dotzauer at 11:07 a.m., April 12, 1996, in Room 412 of Barge Hall on the Central Washington University campus.

ROLL CALL

Present

Mr. Ron Dotzauer, Chair
Ms. Gwen Chaplin, Vice Chair
Mr. Frederic L. "Fritz" Glover
Mr. Frank Sánchez
Mr. Mike Sells
Mr. Wilfred Woods

Absent

Dr. R. Y. Woodhouse (out of state)

A quorum was present.

Others

Mr. Dick Brown, Science Facility Project Coordinator
Ms. Agnes Canedo, Executive Assistant to the President
Mr. Brian Dolman, President, Board of Directors, Associated Students of Central Washington University
Mr. Mike Hardiman, Interim Director, Facilities Management
Ms. Teresa C. Kulik, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ms. Judy B. Miller, Secretary to the Board
Dr. Thomas D. Moore, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Ivory V. Nelson, President
Dr. Sarah E. Shumate, Vice President for Student Affairs
Dr. Robert Perkins, Chair-elect, Faculty Senate
Mr. Mark A. Young, Vice President for University Advancement

Mr. Dotzauer welcomed those gathered and expressed his appreciation for their interest and participation. He indicated that the meeting format would include position statements from members of Citizens for a Beautiful Community (CBC), audience input, questions from the Board, and remarks from Mike Hardiman, Interim Director of Facilities Management, before the meeting concludes. The Board does not have a prepared resolution or a particular plan of action to present.

Statements from Citizens for a Beautiful Community (CBC)

Steve Jefferies, a CWU faculty member in the Physical Education, Health Education, and Leisure Services Department and spokesperson for CBC, expressed community feelings of dismay and anger regarding the university's decision to reroute the Puget Power lines to 14th and Alder. Dr. Jefferies referenced a joint report submitted to President Nelson and the Board from a committee whose membership included Mike Hardiman; Dick Brown, Science Facility Project Manager; Dale Comstock, Emeritus Professor of Mathematics; and Dr. Jefferies. The group's joint report outlines two possible alternatives to the 14th and Alder route. Dr. Jefferies encouraged the Board to endorse an alternate route.

Dale Comstock reviewed the impact of urban renewal on the development of the university's campus, the establishment of Nicholson Boulevard (formerly 14th Avenue), and the acquisition of the Dean Hall building site. The 1986 Central Washington University Master Plan proposed power line rerouting options. The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process and corresponding dates of Board action concerning the 14th and Alder rerouting option were reviewed.

David Pitts, Ellensburg attorney and legal counsel to CBC, stated that those involved in the decision-making process acted in good faith, but it was impossible to realize the full impact of the poles until they were sited. SEPA was enacted to protect and support the environment, further environmental education, and provide a trust for the future. The university met the requirements of the act in good faith, but public outcry indicates that something went wrong in the SEPA process.

According to Mr. Pitts, two factors have contributed to the current problem--the length of time between initiation of the power pole relocation project and its culmination, and health and safety concerns.

Bill Smith, professor of Anthropology, discussed Electromagnetic Field (EMF) health and safety issues. Martha Duskin-Smith, Communication Department secretary, reviewed possible negative impacts on residential property values. Dale Otto, a faculty member in Teacher Education Programs, expressed concern with the university's decision-making process and public input into that process. Kathy Fyall, a CWU employee in Testing Services, presented Mr. Dotzauer with petitions bearing 3,000 signatures collected from members of the community protesting placement of the power poles and urging their removal.

Mr. Dotzauer recessed the meeting for a short break at 12:30 p.m. and reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

Members of the audience were encouraged to express their opinions on the issue. Several individuals related their concerns regarding the proposed relocation; two expressed support for the decision. David Darda, a faculty member in Biological Sciences, encouraged the Board to support the new science facility and preserve its funding. Expenses incurred using an alternate route for the power line relocation would be taken from the new science facility funding.

Mr. Dotzauer recessed the group at 1:40 p.m. for a lunch break. The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding EMF concerns and possible voltage increases for the power lines. Brian Lenz, Puget Power Area Manager, responded that the present lines carry 115kv. The new route is a different configuration of the same lines and would also carry 115kv. Within the next decade Puget Power may rebuild and upgrade the line to 230kv capacity. Levels of EMF on the new, higher poles would be less than near the existing poles.

Mike Hardiman, Interim Director of Facilities Management, expressed his appreciation for the cooperative efforts of community members who worked on the joint report committee. He stated that relocation of the power lines is important to the university and that the university supports the 14th and Alder route. That route is consistent with the master plan prepared in 1986 defining a campus green concept. A jog route around the new science building would limit the university's ability to expand building sites and would require redesign of the science facility and other projects.

An alternative route around the new science facility was discussed. Dick Brown, Science Facility Project Manager, indicated that modifications would need to be made to the new science facility to accommodate moving the lines between it and Dean Hall. Steve Feller of Puget Power explained EMF measurements. Placing power lines overhead is preferable to underground burial for EMF reduction.

Brian Lenz stated that Puget Power's first relocation proposal to jog around the buildings was never fully examined as the university wanted to move the lines away from the center of campus. When asked if the alternative was feasible, Mr. Lenz responded that many variables would have to be considered to determine the cost of that option. The new poles were custom made so would have only scrap value if removed. Cost of

any option would include expenses to remove the poles and their foundations. The jog option would still require approximately four steel poles to span underground conduits.

Mr. Dotzauer expressed the Board's commitment to the new science facility and indicated that the Board will not consider any option that impedes progress on the science facility. Complete elimination of the power lines from the campus is the ideal solution and legislators should be encouraged to support funding this option. In lieu of complete removal of the power lines, the jog route around the new science facility could provide a feasible alternative.

Motion 96-06: Trustee Chaplin moved, seconded by Trustee Sells, that the Board of Trustees approve an option to jog the Puget Power line from its present location along the Old Milwaukie right of way around the new science facility (north of Dean Hall or between Dean Hall and the new science building). Trustees Chaplin, Dotzauer, and Sells voted for the motion; Trustees Glover, Sánchez, and Woods voted against. Motion failed.

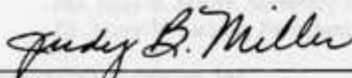
Brian Dolman, President of the Board of Directors of the Associated Students of Central Washington University, indicated student government support of the university's decision on the power line relocation. The university's decision is consistent with the Campus Master Plan and is in the best interests of the students. Costs of a rerouting alternative should not impact the science facility.

Trustee Sánchez moved that the Board approve completion of the current rerouting plan along 14th and Alder and request additional funds to camouflage the poles. There was no second. Motion failed.

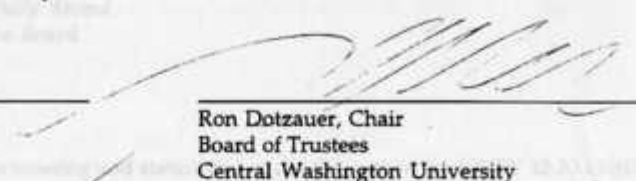
Motion 96-07: Trustee Glover moved, seconded by Trustee Sells, that the Board of Trustees of Central Washington University approve completion of the current rerouting plan, investigate potential EMF impact, and seek support to reroute power lines away from Ellensburg. Trustee Woods moved to table the motion. Trustee Dotzauer agreed. Motion was tabled.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was declared adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



Judy B. Miller, Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Central Washington University



Ron Dotzauer, Chair
Board of Trustees
Central Washington University

CAMPUS CLIMATE TASK FORCE REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

President Nelson received university approval to the Campus Climate Task Force Report recommendations and indicated that the Board of Trustees will be reviewing the report and making recommendations on the level of awareness of climate issues is heightened. Implementation of existing opportunities for all opportunities is being explored as well as ideas for providing theoretical alternatives. Facilities Management is being advised to assess its staff and how to address.

Recommendation of individuals to all administrative departments opportunities to include climate issues in meetings, ensuring that individuals are aware of climate and energy and are able to provide feedback. Results of our efforts to create a more positive working and learning environment must be identifiable.

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