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1997 - Board of Trustee Meeting Minutes

Board of Trustees, Central Washington University

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Approved June 13, 1997

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
May 29, 1997
11:00 a.m.**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Central Washington University was called to order by Board Chair Gwen Chaplin at 11:00 a.m., May 29, 1997, in Room 412 of Barge Hall on the Central Washington University campus.

Roll Call

Ms. Gwen Chaplin, Chair
Mr. Frederic L. "Fritz" Glover
Mr. Frank Sanchez
Mr. Mike Sells
Dr. R. Y. Woodhouse
Mr. Wilfred Woods, Vice Chair

A quorum was present.

Others

Dr. Aims C. McGuinness, Jr., Consultant, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Ms. Judy B. Miller, Secretary to the Board
Dr. Ivory V. Nelson, President

Executive Session

Mrs. Chaplin announced that in accordance with RCW 42.30.110(g), the Board would meet in executive session for two hours to review the performance of a public employee. At 1:00 p.m. the executive session was extended to 1:30 p.m. The Board reconvened in open session at 1:30 p.m.

Open Session

Dr. Aims McGuinness and Dr. James Norton, consultants from the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, reviewed the performance of the Board of Trustees and President Nelson in a joint assessment. Dr. McGuinness presented an oral and written report of that evaluation.

Dr. McGuinness complimented the Board and Dr. Nelson for engaging in such a unique, joint evaluation of the board and president. Dr. McGuinness stressed that the assessment included only institutional leadership; it was not an accreditation visit. The report reflects perceptions gained from extensive on-campus and external constituency interviews.

The consultants reported that they were impressed with Central Washington University--its great potential, resources, faculty, programs, and campus. They found that Central changed dramatically over the last five years under the leadership of President Nelson. When Dr. Nelson was hired, he was given explicit directions by the Board of Trustees. In response to those directives, many institutional problems were resolved and remarkable progress has been made. Dr. Nelson is well known in Olympia as a person who is direct blunt, and honest. State officials regard him as a credible man who knows the public policy issues facing the state.

Tremendous potential exists at Central. New faculty and staff contribute to its strength. A viable strategic plan provides an outstanding beginning for the next phase of planning. In broad terms, the institution is healthy.

Good progress has been made toward achieving data-based informational decisions. Are we prepared to move forward?

Often, people look at a set of external forces affecting an institution and hold the president personally accountable. External pressures will present greater challenges in the next few years, creating a greater need for strengthened leadership from the Board and President.

Strengthened leadership will be supported by more visible, cohesive leadership from the Board of Trustees, a Board willing to forge a stronger partnership with the President. The President will contribute by building deeper consensus with the Board and the community, eliciting understanding and commitment to a well-stated institutional vision. He must focus on the vision and work with the university team to achieve its reality.

The institution is at a critical stage. Dramatic leadership approaches will enable us to meet the challenges of the future.

Board members expressed gratitude for the outside evaluation and appreciated the thoughtful comments. A Board retreat will be scheduled so the trustees can review the recommendations, understand the challenges, clarify the role of the board, and establish the direction of the university. Facing the challenges of higher education in the future will require commitment from the Board of Trustees, the President, and the university community.

The process of change is not easy and often is accompanied by anxiety. The basic message of the report clarified that during periods of intense change, everyone must work to meet the challenges.

Adjournment

The meeting was declared adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

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

Gwen Chaplin, Chair
Board of Trustees
Central Washington University

Attachment: Assessment Report