Eastern Washington University
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
April 19, 2005

MINUTES

Present:
Gordon Budke, chair
Kris Mikkelsen, vice chair
Bertha Ortega (via phone)
Paul Tanaka (via phone)
Neil McReynolds (via phone)
Ines Zozaya-Geist (via phone)

Call to Order and Quorum, I. and II.
Chair Budke called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. He noted that a quorum was present.

Executive Session, III.
Chair Budke announced that the Board would adjourn into executive session for purposes authorized in RCW 42.30.110(1) (g): to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment and/or to review the performance of a public employee. He anticipated that the Board would return to open session at approximately 10:30 a.m., and that no final actions would be taken during executive session.

Reconvene
Chair Budke reconvened the Board into open session at 10:40 a.m. and noted that no actions were taken by the Board in executive session.

Action Items, IV.

Designation of Bond Counsel, IV.A.
Deborah Danner reported that a contract for bond counsel is being issued pending the approval of the student recreation center. Cynthia Weed with Preston, Gates and Ellis is being assigned. We requested assistance with bond services as well as financial services. The RFP was executed from the attorney general’s office, all firms were interviewed, and Cynthia Weed with Preston, Gates and Ellis was recommended based on a combination of factors: mainly her general expertise, followed by theirs being the most economical cost proposals. Paul Tanaka said he will abstain from the vote as his sister-in-law is a partner at Preston, Gates and Ellis.

Motion 04-03-05: “I move that the Board approve the assignment of Cynthia Weed of Preston, Gates and Ellis as the bond and financial counsel for the proposed student recreation center.”
Motion by Trustee Mikkelsen; seconded by Trustee Ortega. The motion carried with 1 abstention.

Old and New Business, V.

Presidential Search Process, V.1.
There was a brief discussion of the presidential search process. Chair Budke recommended hiring a full service search firm for consistent search and follow through. We need to send out the RFP fairly quickly, so need to define the criteria, e.g., full service, higher education expertise. We should ask our contacts for a copy of their RFPs and finalize ours at the May 20 meeting. Mr. Budke asked the trustees to send him their thoughts on what should be included. Deborah Danner will work with Business and Finance to draft a RFP.

Presidential Search Advisory Committee, V.2.
Chair Budke discussed the Presidential Search Advisory Committee. He said he met with constituent groups a few weeks ago to discuss the formation of a committee composed of 3 trustees, 3 faculty (the UFE and FO provide 3 names each and we select a total of 3), 1 classified staff, 1 exempt staff, 1 dean, 2 students, 2 community members, 1 Alumni and 1 Foundation board member. The purpose of the committee is to be advisory to the Board in the search process. We will need to determine the charge for the committee, so he encouraged everyone to read the distributed material so the Board can decide the charge at the May 20 open session. We need to invite these constituent groups to provide the names of possible participants. We can lay out a basic timeline and revise it, if needed, after hiring a search firm. We will need to place an ad in the Chronicle of Higher Ed by July. Deborah Danner and Gordon Budke will work on criteria and look at previous presidential ads.

Chair Budke noted that the schedule for the May 20 Board meeting includes Executive Sessions from 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. and from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.,

Trustee Mikkelsen and others thanked Gordon for all the work he has put into this already.

Adjournment, VI.
The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.