OREGON STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
COLUMBIA ROOM, WERNER MEMORIAL CENTER  
WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY  
MONMOUTH, OREGON 

CALL TO ORDER  
The special meeting of the State Board of Higher Education was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by President VanLuvanee.

ROLL CALL  
On roll call, the following Board members answered present:

- Mr. Kerry Barnett  
- Mr. Roger Bassett  
- Ms. Leslie Lehmann (via telephone)  
- Dr. Geri Richmond  
- Ms. Phyllis Wustenberg  
- Mr. Don VanLuvanee  

Absent:  
- Tom Imeson (business conflict)  
- Bill Williams (business conflict)  
- Jim Lussier (business conflict)  
- Erin Watari (personal conflict)  
- Tim Young (personal conflict)

SELECTION OF PRESIDENT FOR WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY  
President VanLuvanee thanked Director Bassett for taking on the task of chairing the Presidential Search Committee. He noted that it has been an enormous undertaking and thanked Directors Bassett, Richmond and Barnett for a job well done. He offered a special thanks to Director Wustenberg for her role as advisor in the process.

Mr. VanLuvanee noted that the Board has a comprehensive policy and detailed procedures on how presidential searches are conducted. The Western Oregon University Search Committee has followed that policy, with a few modifications, in a tireless and highly collegial manner. He thanked the Campus Screening Committee, noting that Mark Henkels did an outstanding job chairing the Committee which provided the Search Committee with insightful and useful reports. Other Campus Screening Committee members included Dale Abraham, Joel Alexander, Efrain Arredondo, Hamid Bahari-Kashani, Tom Bergeron, Hank Bersani, Jon Carey, Jim Chadney, Lonnie Guralnick, David Hargreaves, Julie Harding, Janeanne Rockwell-Kincanon, Roshani Shay, Torry Templeton, and Debra Young.

Mr. VanLuvanee thanked Penelope Repko who served as campus coordinator for the search. He noted that the Chancellor’s office
provided a great deal of staff support and thanked Diane Vines and Ben Rawlins for their exceptional efforts. Dr. Vines served as the liaison for the Chancellor, the Board, the campus and the communities. He also thanked Lynda Rose who worked with Dr. Vines and Ms. Repko on the numerous details and logistics of the process. Finally, he thanked the Search Committee members of the Board; Diane Baxter, Forrest Bell, Meredith Brodsky, Brian Caster, Ron DeVolder, Ryan Gleysteen, Anna Hernandez-Hunter, Mary Anne Linden, Darin Silbernagel, Ed Stineff, Bob Turner, and Galen Wish.

Mr. VanLuvanee stated that the work of the Search and Screening Committees resulted in a very large, rich pool of candidates and the Committees found it a challenge to narrow the pool and to make decisions as to which candidates would go forward to the Chancellor. He noted that the four highly qualified finalists were on campus last week and that yesterday the Board interviewed the four finalists in Executive Session. Following the interviews, the Board deliberated for a considerable length of time, then asked the Chancellor to negotiate, on behalf of the Board, with Dr. Phillip Conn.

Chancellor Cox reported that the negotiations were successful. He recommended that the Board appoint Dr. Phillip Conn as the next President of Western Oregon University, at a salary of $125,000 and $15,000 expenses incident to position, with appropriate faculty rank and other terms as spelled out and consistent with Oregon law and the statutes and rules of the Board.

Mr. Bassett moved and Dr. Richmond seconded the motion to appoint Dr. Phillip Conn to the position of President of Western Oregon University. The following voted in favor: Directors Barnett, Bassett, Lehmann, Richmond, VanLuvanee and Wustenberg. Those voting no: none.

Dr. Conn thanked the Board and stated that he and his wife, Julie, are looking forward to serving WOU. He felt that he has been preparing for this job for at least 20 years. He explained that he spent the better part of the '80s at Central Missouri State University, and has studied and contemplated the movement across the country from Independence, Missouri to the west, has explored the Oregon Trail and has reveled in the stories of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

He stated that the characteristics of WOU are characteristics with which he can identify. He recognized that it is an institution where
students are central, where people focus on being supportive, responsive and nurturing to students. He noted that the size of the institution is such that people take a real sense of ownership and pride in making the institution all it can be. He is looking forward to becoming an Oregonian and serving the mission of higher education. He complimented the Search Committees, and especially Mr. Bassett, for doing a phenomenal job and stated that it was a well conducted search handled in a professional manner. He stated that he looks forward to working with everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Wustenberg motioned and Mr. Bassett seconded the motion to adjourn. The following voted in favor: Directors Barnett, Bassett, Lehmann, Richmond, VanLuvanee and Wustenberg. Those voting no: none.

The Board meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Diane Vines  
Secretary of the Board

Don VanLuvanee  
President of the Board