MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION (#778)
WILLAMETTE BALLROOM, UNIVERSITY PLACE
DECEMBER 1, 2006

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MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOME

Chair Lorenzen called the special meeting of the Board of Higher Education to order at 9:02 a.m.

Board members present included: Henry Lorenzen, Kirby Dyess, Dalton Miller-Jones, Tim Nesbitt, Gretchen Schuette, John von Schlegell, and Tony Van Vliet. Director Adriana Mendoza attended by telephone. Director Don Blair was absent due to a business conflict and Directors Gerry Blakney and Howard Sohn were absent due to personal conflicts.

The following OUS staff was present: Chancellor George Pernsteiner, Neil Bryant, Ryan Hagemann, Jay Kenton, and Susan Weeks,

Others present included: presidents Mary Cullinan (SOU), Martha Anne Dow (OIT), Khosrow Fatemi (EOU), and John Minahan (WOU). Provosts Linda Brady (UO), Lesley Hallick (OHSU), and Sabah Randhawa (OSU) were also present.

Meeting attendees also included OUS staff, faculty, institution representatives, the press, and interested observers.

2. ACTION ITEM

a. WOU, Interview Recommended Presidential Candidate

Chair Lorenzen advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to interview Dr. John Minahan for the permanent position of president of Western Oregon University. He noted that because this position was not advertised nor were candidates solicited, special procedures were to be followed. As such, the Board authorized the Chancellor to begin his inquiry to determine the appropriateness of appointing Dr. Minahan as president of Western. He called upon Chancellor Pernsteiner to advise the Board on the status of his internal investigation.

Chancellor Pernsteiner advised that subsequent to the November Board, he proceeded to engage people from Western Oregon University campus and community with respect to the possible appointment of John Minahan as the president of the University. He stated that
considerable correspondence has been received from faculty, staff, students, alumni, community members, foundation members, and other supporters of Western Oregon University. He also spent two days at Western Oregon University in consultation with faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and supporters of the University in an attempt to glean from them their desires with respect to the leadership for that campus, the qualities that they would anticipate would be needed in a leader for the campus, and their assessment of whether or not Dr. Minahan possesses those qualities. He also reviewed criteria established for the evaluation of presidents in order to evaluate the performance of Dr. Minahan’s interim presidency in the same manner in which the other presidents were evaluated last year. Based upon that and after consultation with the subcommittee appointed by the Board chair (Directors Lorenzen, Dyess, and Van Vliet), Chancellor Pernsteiner recommended that Dr. Minahan be appointed as president of Western Oregon University.

He further stated that there was an overwhelming level of support for Dr. Minahan to become the president of the University; voiced by every category of person associated with the University. There were specific items voiced with regard to the leadership of Dr. Minahan which members of that community thought were important and boded well for the future success of the campus: that included his commitment to students; academic excellence; the rigor of academic disciplines and respect for the truth; his ability to work well with the union and with other people on the campus; and his overall commitment to and love for the University. In addition, it was pointed out that the finances of the institution had been stabilized and that there has been a view toward the future as evidenced by the “Western Oregon University Promise” (the tuition plan brought to the Board for approval).

He noted that the only suggestion that was made with respect to improvement dealt with a view that it would be desirable for the new president—whoever that new president may be—to engage in a campus-wide discussion with regard to planning for and the vision of the mission and role of the University in the future.

Following Chancellor Pernsteiner’s comments, the Board engaged Dr. Minahan in a discussion of plans to increase diversity, strengthen faculty recruitment and retention, and his vision for Western Oregon University.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Lorenzen advised that the matter would be discussed and voted upon during the regular December meeting of the Board.

3. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lorenzen adjourned the meeting at 9:38 a.m.