

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE STATE BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND, OREGON
AUGUST 24, 2005

Table of Contents

	Page
1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome	925
2. Discussion Item	925
a. Interview of Recommended Candidate for Interim President of Western Oregon University.....	925
3. Action Item.....	926
a. Potential Appointment of Recommended Candidate for Interim President of Western Oregon University	926
4. Adjournment.....	927



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SMITH MEMORIAL STUDENT UNION, ROOM 327
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY, PORTLAND, OREGON

AUGUST 24, 2005

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/WELCOME

Board Vice President Kirby Dyess called the special meeting of the State Board of Higher Education to order at 3:09 p.m. Vice President Dyess chaired the special meeting as some Board members, including President Lorenzen, participated via telephone.

On roll call, the following Board members were present: Henry Lorenzen, Kirby Dyess, Bridget Burns, Tim Nesbitt, Geri Richmond, and Tony Van Vliet.

Don Blair, Adriana Mendoza, Gretchen Schuette, Howard Sohn, and John von Schlegell were absent due to either personal or business conflicts.

OUS staff present included: George Pernsteiner, Ryan Hagemann, Jay Kenton, and Ben Rawlins.

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

2. DISCUSSION ITEM

a. **Interview of Recommended Candidate for Interim President of Western Oregon University**

BOARD DISCUSSION:

Vice President Dyess opened the special meeting by reviewing the Board process necessary to appoint an interim president of Western Oregon University. She reviewed requirements of the Board's internal management directive, including the authorization of the Chancellor to assess candidates and recommended a candidate to a Board subcommittee and the subcommittee's responsibility to assist the Chancellor and act upon a recommendation to bring a candidate to the full Board for an interview and appointment. Vice President Dyess observed that Acting Chancellor Pernsteiner recommended Dr. John Minahan to serve as WOU's interim president and that the subcommittee had agreed with the recommendation.

Before turning to Dr. Minahan for remarks and questions, Vice President Dyess asked Acting Chancellor Pernsteiner to briefly explain why he recommended Dr. Minahan to



the Board. Pernsteiner observed, after reviewing statements of interest from various people, and meeting with two highly qualified candidates, he decided to recommend former WOU dean and provost, Dr. John Minahan, to the Board for the position of WOU interim president. Pernsteiner reviewed Dr. Minahan's qualifications and experiences, observing, "John knows the people, culture, the mission, and the students of Western Oregon University and he has demonstrated repeatedly his commitment to and passion for the campus, its students, its faculty, and its staff." Pernsteiner concluded that Dr. Minahan shared the values the Board had advanced and is "uniquely suited and qualified to lead Western during this transition period."

Vice President Dyess turned to Dr. Minahan for some remarks about his experience and interest in serving as Western Oregon University's interim president. Dr. Minahan observed that when he arrived at WOU, there were 2,700 FTE and that he came with the specific mission of building the arts and sciences. He noted the campus was growing and "the issues of Western's stasis is a recent thing in terms of its enrollment issues and I'm interested in being helpful in getting it back into a position of economic viability." Dr. Minahan added that he has a good understanding of the WOU budget and concluded, "I have a very special place in my heart for that school and this state, and I would like to be helpful if I can."

Vice President Dyess opened the floor to questions and after Directors Van Vliet and Richmond expressed their support for Dr. Minahan, Director Richmond asked for some specific replies to what challenges Dr. Minahan saw facing WOU right now. Dr. Minahan discussed WOU's location in proximity to Oregon State University and Portland State University as an issue, particularly considering the enrollment concerns facing Western. Dr. Minahan stated: "I think the first agenda has to be moving the enrollment and paying attention to what has happened in the last few years that has degraded the recruitment efforts of the institution."

Vice President Dyess asked how Dr. Minahan would approach an open discussion or exploration of various alternatives, such as the closure of WOU or change in status to become a satellite campus. Dr. Minahan, from the outset, offered: "Western is paid for and owned by the citizens of the state for the common good and it needs to recognize that its public utility is, in fact, the ability to educate and recruit students." He stated that any discussions to close or change the status of WOU needed to be addressed openly, and initially, with the faculty.

3. ACTION ITEM

a. Potential Appointment of Recommended Candidate for Interim President of Western Oregon University

BOARD ACTION:

With no further questions or discussion, Vice President Dyess called for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. John Minahan, the candidate recommended by the



Board's nominating subcommittee, as interim president of Western Oregon University. Director Van Vliet moved the approval of Dr. Minahan as interim president of Western Oregon University and Director Burns seconded the motion. All in favor: Dyess, Burns, Nesbitt, Richmond, Van Vliet, and Lorenzen. Opposed: none. Motion passed.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice President Dyess adjourned the meeting at 3:23 p.m.



Kirby Dyess
Vice President of the Board



Ryan J. Hagemann
Secretary to the Board