

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY RETREAT

WCU at Biltmore Park, Asheville, NC

November 2-3, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Western Carolina University (Board) met for the Board of Trustees Retreat on November 2-3, 2023, at WCU at Biltmore Park in Asheville, NC. Chair Greeley welcomed everyone to the retreat and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**Thursday, November 2, 2023****Attendance:**

**The following members of the Board were present:** Chair Kathy Greeley, Ms. Haden Boliek, Mr. Bill Brawley, Ms. Becky Brown, Mr. Casey Cooper, Mr. Joe Crocker, Mr. Dan Field, Ms. Kathy Harrington, Mr. Tim Haskett, Mr. Ken Hughes, Mr. Bob Roberts, Mr. Jake Robinson, and Mr. CJ Mitchell.

**Guests Present** – Board of Governors Member, Phil Byers.

**Present - Faculty and Staff of Western Carolina University:** Chancellor Kelli R. Brown, Dr. Richard Starnes, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Mr. Shea Browning, General Counsel; Dr. Melissa Wargo, Chief of Staff; Mr. Mike Byers, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance; Dr. Sam Miller, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs; Mr. Craig Fowler, Chief Information Officer; Ms. Jamie Raynor, Vice Chancellor for Advancement; Mr. Alex Gary, Director of Athletics; Ms. Jessica Woods, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trustees; and Ms. Christy Agner, Deputy Chief of Staff and External Relations Director.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Greeley welcomed and recognized Board of Governors' member, Phil Byers. She welcomed the Trustees and Executive Council. She shared that the annual retreat is a great time for open discussion and getting to know each other better. She shared that this was a great venue to plan and continue to build our knowledge of Western Carolina University and the board's role. She thanked the trustees for taking the time to attend the retreat. Chair Greeley shared her appreciation to the Trustees for their dedication to the board.

**Roll Call**

Ms. Woods called the roll of the Board members in attendance. A quorum of the board was present.

**Ethics Statement**

Chair Greeley read the Ethics Statement as follows:

“As Chair of the Board of Trustees, it is my responsibility to remind all members of the Board of their duty under the State Government Ethics Act to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest as required by this Act. Each member has received the agenda and related information for this Board of Trustees' meeting. If any Board member knows of any conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matter coming before the Board of Trustees at this meeting, the conflict or appearance of conflict should be identified at this time.” **No conflicts of interest were disclosed.**

Chair Greeley shared that Trustees would hear information and updates from WCU Leadership and Board of Governor member, Phil Byers. She shared that the trustees would have plenty of opportunity to ask

questions. Chancellor Brown welcomed the trustees and thanked them for their dedication to the board. Chancellor Brown thanked the Trustees for their support and advocacy to Western Carolina University.

### **BOG Update and Q&A**

Governor Powers provided a BOG update. He shared information on NC Promise, Graduation Rates, ROI Study, Lab Schools, and The Catamount School. He thanked Chancellor Brown for her dedication to WCU and thanked the Board of Trustees for their support of WCU.

### **Administration and Finance Update and Q&A**

Mr. Mike Byers shared information on the Financing Plan for \$30 million debt for Athletics Facilities. Mr. Byers shared the Athletic and Debt Service Fee Comparison for 2023-24. Mr. Byers shared the Master Plan Concept for the Housing Partnership in Little Savannah, Jackson County. He also shared the Comprehensive Renovation plan for Moore Building.

Mr. Byers shared that WCU received authorization from the NC General Assembly for up to \$95.3 million in non-recurring funding for a replacement of its aging engineering building, with up to \$2 million of that coming in FY 24-25 for advance planning. He shared that WCU also received a grant from Dogwood Health Trust in the amount of \$400,000 to be used as soon as possible toward advance planning for the replacement of its aging engineering building. Mr. Byers recommended to facilitate and expedite the planning effort for a replacement engineering building, that the Board of Trustees authorize planning for the new, replacement engineering building by advertising for a designer and executing a selection process. Mr. Crocker made the motion to advertise for a designer and to execute a selection process. Ms. Brown seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

### **Student Affairs Update and Q&A**

Dr. Sam Miller shared an update on Student Affairs. He shared updates on Homecoming Events, Mental Health, SGA, Admissions, and FAFSA/Pell Process. He shared information on the Proposed FY 2024-25 Tuition and Fees and Proposed FY 2024-25 Rates and Surcharges.

### **Academic Affairs Update and Q&A**

Provost Richard Starnes shared Academic Updates. He shared information on the new master's Entry Prelicensure Nursing (MEPN) Program, Academic Affairs Initiatives, new Policy on Faculty Load Reporting, new Policy on Post Tenure Review, new Policy on Teaching Effectiveness. He also discussed HB 8 and shared the key aspects of HB 8. Provost Starnes also discussed the new accreditation process. Provost Starnes also shared the Highlights from Academic Affairs for 2022-2023.

### **Discussion (Feedback/Future Recommendations) – Chancellor and Board Only**

Chair Greeley discussed Chancellor Brown's performance with Trustees. Discussion ensued. Feedback and future recommendations were provided.

### **Friday, November 3, 2023**

### **Legislative Session Recap and Q&A**

Dr. Melissa Wargo, Mr. Mike Byers, Mr. Richard Starnes, and Ms. Christy Agner provided a Legislative Session Recap. They discussed sessions laws that impacted Western Carolina University and the UNC System. They provided an update on the House Bills that are now Session Law and Senate Bills that are now Session Law. Dr. Wargo and Ms. Agner shared information on the impact on the Catamount School/Laboratory School. Ms. Agner mentioned the 2023-25 Appropriations Act and shared information. She also shared information on WCU specific Bills that are included in the Budget for WCU Engineering Funds. Discussion followed on Session Law and the FY 2023-25 Operating Budget and Capital Budget Comparison.

### **Campaign Update and Q&A**

Ms. Jamie Raynor and Mr. Alex Gary presented on the WCU Fill the Western Sky Comprehensive Campaign Update. She shared information on the Campaign Dashboards. She shared an update on the Campaign Summary, Current Fiscal Year Summary, Fiscal Year Trends by Gift Level, and Opportunity Overview. She provided an updated on the Campaign priorities for Academics and Engagement. Ms. Raynor shared information on the Academics and Engagement Progress to Goal and Breakdown of New Funds Established. She shared gift examples in support of Academics and Engagement. Ms. Raynor shared requirements for the program endowments per college. She shared the pipeline to the Academics and Engagement \$30 million goal.

Mr. Alex Gary shared the current numbers, current donor examples, principal gift requests, lead gift requests, and the pipeline for Athletics for the \$30 million goal. He shared the current progress of gifts and pledges and includes three facility funds.

### **Division Updates and Accolades**

#### **Athletics Update**

Mr. Alex Gary provided an Athletics Update. He shared an update on football, FCS playoffs, women's soccer, and Athletics staff positions.

#### **IT Update**

Mr. Craig Fowler provided an IT Update. He shared information on Web 2.0.

#### **Chancellor's Division Update**

Dr. Melissa Wargo provided a Chancellor's Division Update. She shared information on student experience, the new cat statue, UCM/Marketing, the WCU Magazine, and Two Sparrows Magazine.

#### **Office of Legal Counsel and Institutional Integrity Update**

Mr. Shea Browning provided a Legal Counsel and Institutional Integrity Office Update.

### **Adjournment**

Chair Greeley adjourned the Board of Trustees Retreat at 3:35 pm.