

MINUTES
Joint Special Meeting between the Boards of Regents of
Washington State University and the University of Washington
November 26, 2011

The Boards of Regents for Washington State University and the University of Washington met in a joint meeting on Saturday, November 26, 2011, beginning at 12:45 p.m. in the CenturyLink Field Event Center Conference Room, Seattle, Washington.

Present from Washington State University: Regents Theodor Baseler (Chair), Jake Bredstrand, Scott Carson, Harold Cochran, Francois X. Forgette, Constance Niva, Michael Worthy; and the President of Washington State University, Elson S. Floyd.

Present from University of Washington: Regents Kristianne Blake (Chair), Stan Barer, Craig Cole, Bill Gates, Sally Jewell, Joanne Harrell, Kelsey Knowles, Herb Simon; and the President of the University of Washington, Michael K. Young.

Opening Comments and Introductions. Regent Blake called the special meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. and asked the Regents to introduce themselves. She also thanked Governor Chris Gregoire for attending the meeting.

Following the introductions, Regent Blake introduced the new President of the University of Washington, Michael Young, who provided introductory remarks. He stated that he was honored and pleased to welcome everyone to the meeting and mentioned that the location in which the group was meeting would be the home of the University of Washington Huskies for the ensuing year, while Husky Stadium is undergoing renovations. He also said he looks forward to working with Governor Gregoire over the coming year to help meet future challenges faced within the state of Washington. President Young also welcomed colleagues from WSU and said he also looks forward to working with President Floyd and the WSU Regents.

President Floyd also provided introductory remarks and congratulated the UW on 150 years of service to the state of Washington. He recognized UW's contributions to the state and globally and also expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Governor Gregoire for her leadership.

Presentation: WSU and UW Faculty and Student Research

President Floyd and President Young introduced faculty and student researchers from WSU and the UW. (Bios and copies of the presentations are on file in the WSU President's Office.)

The presenters were:

Diane Cook
Huie-Rogers Chair and Professor
School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, WSU
Health-Assistive Smart Environments

Hugh Hillhouse
Rehnberg Chair Professor
Chemical Engineering, UW
Lower Cost and Higher Efficiency Solar Cells by Nanoscale Science & Engineering

Samantha Lawrence
Ph.D. Student
Materials Science and Engineering, WSU
For Want of a Nail: How Small Things Make Big Differences

Jesse Salk
M.D./Ph.D. Student
School of Medicine, UW
Molecular Detection of Cancer Precursors in Ulcerative Colitis

Discussion: Higher Education and the State Budget

Following the presentations, Governor Gregoire and the Regents and Presidents of the two institutions held a discussion about higher education and the state budget. Regent Baseler began with a mention of an article published in *Trusteeship* magazine by the Association of Governing Boards, entitled "Whose University? The Decline of the Commonwealth and What That Means for Higher Education." Regent Baseler pointed out that this article demonstrates some of the problems higher education is currently facing. The article, in part, discusses the need for state government to recognize universities' societal value and that public universities need to be able to depend upon a base of support that includes adequate funding from state appropriations. Regent Baseler noted that there is a need for this state to recalibrate and move funding back to public universities for the greater good. Regent Baseler stated that we are fortunate to have a leader such Governor Gregoire, who has been working hard in this area.

Governor Gregoire recognized the faculty and students for their presentations. She also offered her thanks to the Presidents and Regents for their leadership and service. The Governor discussed the challenges faced within the state and particularly the budget process. She explained about the vulnerability of the higher education budget and stated that there are four areas from which to cut funding: health care, human services, public safety, and education. She said education is particularly vulnerable, because the legislature can cut where there is an alternate source of funding, which is in the form of

tuition. Tuition increases have offset some of the cuts that have occurred in state funding. She noted that the budgets of four-year colleges have been cut by 46 percent over the last three years. Governor Gregoire further explained that she has looked at every possible cut that could be made and noted that "nothing is off the table." She has also examined different models for increasing revenue, such as a proposal for a sales tax. She said this would be the first state sales tax increase since 1983 (.5 percent for three years), that it would raise a projected \$494 million, and that her budget would include \$411 to fund education (\$250 million for K-12 and \$161 for higher education).

Governor Gregoire further explained that during the recession, the demand for the services provided by state government are higher. Unfortunately, revenue projections have been impacted greatly due to decreased consumer confidence, which had a direct impact on sales in the state. She noted some positive economic signs in the following areas: aerospace, technology, global health and life sciences, and farming. Unfortunately, the decreased revenues from sales tax means that small businesses are not fairing well. Governor Gregoire also discussed the restructuring of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Lastly, Governor Gregoire requested the assistance and support from both Boards, who expressed their willingness to be a part of the solution to the current challenges. The Regents also praised the Governor for her leadership and hard work during her tenure. Regent Baseler reiterated that educational is a fundamental and core value within our society and that it needs proper funding. He also thanked the UW for hosting the special meeting.

Adjournment. Regent Blake thanked the Governor, the Presidents, and the Regents for attending the meeting. She adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Approved by the WSU Board of Regents at its meeting held January 27, 2012, Consolidated Information Center, Rooms 212-214, Richland, Washington.

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