

MINUTES  
Joint Meeting between the Boards of  
Regents of Washington State University and the University of Washington  
November 29, 2013

The Boards of Regents of the University of Washington and the Washington State University held a special meeting, beginning at 9:30 a.m., in the Jim Houston Boardroom at Husky Stadium. The notice of the special meeting was provided appropriately to the public and the media.

Present from the University of Washington: Regents Orin Smith (Chair), Joanne Harrell, Jeremy Jaech, Constance Rice, Rogelio Riojas, Kiana Scott, Patrick Shanahan, and Herb Simon; the President of the University of Washington, Michael K. Young; and the Provost of the University of Washington, Ana Mari Cauce.

Present from Washington State University: Regents Constance Niva (Chair), Ted Baseler, Ryan Durkan, Francois Forgette, Lindsey Schaffer, Ron Sims, and Michael Worthy; and the President of the Washington State University, Elson S. Floyd.

1. **OPENING COMMENTS AND INTRODUCTIONS.** Regent Smith welcomed the President of Washington State University, Elson Floyd, the Board Chair, Connie Niva, and other Washington State University Regents. He announced Governor Inslee was scheduled to join the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

He invited Presidents Floyd and Young to update the Boards on the WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, Idaho) Program Regional Medical Education Partnership collaboration in Spokane.

2. **REMARKS: Update on Regional Medical Education Partnership in Spokane (WWAMI).** President Floyd began the update by stating both institutions serve as huge economic drivers for the state. He thanked Regent Smith, President Young, and the UW Regents for hosting the meeting, and asked Regents to introduce themselves.

He reported the WWAMI program has been one of the leading medical education programs in the world. It was established to extend the footprint of the University of Washington throughout Washington and into Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho, by offering medical education to those other states that lack the infrastructure. The program was extended outside Seattle to include Pullman and Spokane. A transformative and exciting conversation about medical education has been held over the last two years. Currently a pilot program offers the second year of medical school education in Spokane. This is important for the economic vitality of Spokane. During this pilot year, nineteen UW students attend their second-year class in Spokane. Funding has been requested from the legislature for future years. Private contributions, jointly raised by UW and WSU, provided initial funding for the nineteen students. President Floyd said he expects continued collaboration as the two research institutions

move forward to provide medical education. Last year, WSU built a biomedical building funded by approximately \$35 million approved by the state legislature and an additional \$35 million from WSU's bonding capacity. President Floyd praised this as a "world class facility." WSU's Pharmacy program will relocate from Pullman to Spokane and occupy the new facility beginning in January of 2014.

The city of Spokane is instrumental to the state of Washington. Consequently the WSU Board of Regents designated the WSU Spokane campus as its Health Sciences Campus. Some of the work done there will be in collaboration with Eastern Washington University and in partnership with University of Washington for medical education. This, President Floyd said, makes strategic and financial sense.

Regents received a copy of the first volume of *WSU Spokane* offering an inside look at WSU's health sciences campus.

President Young praised the WWAMI program as "extraordinary." He termed it a genuine partnership with Washington State University. The program is in its forty-second year, signed into existence by Governor Dan Evans, and has delivered on the promise to provide inexpensive, high quality medical education. The American Medical Association has identified a shortage of doctors in this country and the WWAMI program is able to address this by training an increased numbers of physicians.

The partnership in Spokane is a particularly powerful one. Historically, students attended their first year of classes on site, the second year in Seattle, and then returned to the community locations to complete the last two years. Moving the second year to Spokane allows students to complete the full four years there, and creates cohesiveness and coherence that will be very powerful. As a pilot program, students were invited to attend their second year in Spokane, and nineteen opted to do so; fifteen of those had been there for their first year and four were from other locations. President Young praised the Spokane community as the reason the students chose to stay there. The community offered host families, engagement with local physicians, an outstanding physical facility, and high quality support staff. This is currently a pilot program, however the goal is to persuade legislators it is worthy of permanent funding.

President Young praised WSU as a remarkable partner in this endeavor.

Questions and discussion followed the Presidents' presentation.

### **3. DISCUSSION: Higher Education in the State of Washington with Governor Jay Inslee**

Upon the Governor's arrival, Regent Smith welcomed Governor Jay Inslee to the meeting and invited him to make a few remarks. Commenting on the WWAMI program, Governor Inslee said it was great to see the two institutions working together. Funding for this and other programs depends on the ability of the state of Washington

to develop a resource and revenue base that is consistent with the expectations of its citizens. Revenue, as a percentage of the economy, on a per capita basis is going down in the state of Washington and is thirteen to twenty percent below what it was six years ago. The state needs to establish a foundation of revenues to make it possible to accomplish its great work and fund the universities.

Questions and discussion followed. Regent Smith asked how UW and WSU might work with the Governor and the legislature to help the Governor achieve his goals for the state.

Governor Inslee asked that Regents on both Boards maximize the incredible assets of their campuses to educate legislators about the work being done at both Universities. He encouraged Regents to invite legislators to their campuses and challenged a competition between the two schools for hosting the most legislators.

He also asked Regents to become personal advocates for the larger mission of the state. He described the challenge to find revenue sources that would be politically possible and are as least unfair as possible. He plans to look at existing exemptions that are no longer economically productive or meaningful to the state.

President Floyd commended the Governor for his leadership in pushing both universities to focus on economic growth and vitality for the state. He cited the Governor's advocacy as making a huge difference. The Governor replied that the universities are principal economic drivers for the state.

Regent Niva expressed concern about the elimination of sales tax on transportation construction projects, which would reduce general fund revenue. The Governor described the current situation.

Regent Simon welcomed Governor and Mrs. Inslee. He said colleges in the state do a fairly good job of inviting legislators to their campuses but acknowledged they could do a better job to educate them about the importance of higher education. It is challenging to compete in a world of limited resources – competing with “transportation, incarceration, and medication,” three major issues that have more stakeholders and voters than education. He requested the Governor's leadership to increase state funding for higher education.

Regent Harrell asked for the Governor's reflections on ways UW and WSU can work together more effectively, as research institutions and with the higher education community, to tell the story of the importance of higher education to the state. The Governor suggested both Boards act individually and collectively to talk about successes, saying it is important to show successes and efficiencies, and highlight the access both schools offer. He described the structural economic problem as being beyond the recent recession. The current method of generating revenue is structurally inadequate to support higher education and the K-12 systems. The state's per person

revenue production is decreasing, while there is increasing demand per person for state services.

President Young praised the Governor's understanding and passion for higher education. He agreed with the Governor's suggestion to invite legislators onto campus saying it's more meaningful for them to experience the Universities than to hear about them.

Regent Smith commented on the challenges of the current tax structure and the state services caseload growth caused by demographic changes combined with the state's population growth resulting in a shortage of revenue to satisfy funding requirements.

Regent Jaech commented on the state's increasing population, saying the economic impact of the growth varies depending on if the increased population includes net service users or net revenue producers. He acknowledged this is a federal issue, and encouraged allowing increased immigration for graduate students and then permitting them to stay in the state to build businesses or work in high-paying jobs. Governor Inslee suggested the option of either changing the minds of the current congress or changing the representatives themselves. He added the President, senators, and the American people understand and support the importance of entrepreneurship and growing businesses.

Provost Cauce commented on the value of educating "first generation" students, those who are the first in their families to attend college, saying this adds to the number of people in the state who will be net contributors to revenues and also potentially decreasing the number of users of services.

**ADJOURN.** Regent Smith thanked the Governor, University Presidents, and Regents for attending and adjourned the joint special meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting held January 24, 2014, at the Consolidated Information Center 212-214.

SIGNED COPY AVAILABLE IN THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE