

MINUTES
Washington State University Board of Regents
April 18, 2025

The Board of Regents of Washington State University (WSU or University) met pursuant to call on the WSU Spokane campus, Spokane Academic Center, room 241-245.

I. OPENING AND ROLL CALL

Chair Lisa Keohokalole Schauer called the meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 9:37 a.m.

Regents present were Chair Lisa Keohokalole Schauer, Enrique Cerna, Marty Dickinson (virtual), Sam Hunt, Judi McDonald, Doug Picha, Lura Powell, Jenette Ramos, Kassandra Vogel, Howard Wright, and President Elizabeth Cantwell.

Regent Brett Blankenship was absent.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Regents heard from those who requested to provided public comment to the Board:

- WSU student Audrey Atchley, fossil fuel divestment

III. REPORTS FROM LEADERSHIP

A. Report from the Chair, Board of Regents. Chair Schauer reported on the Regents' participation WSU activities across the system since March including but not limited to participation in College Success Foundation events, advocating for WSU at the Capitol, attending a national conference for governing trustees, attending or participating in WSU Murrow Symposium events.

Chair Schauer shared that today's meeting marked two special occasions: Regent Vogel's last regular meeting serving as the student regent, and Chancellor Netzhammer's last regular meeting serving as the WSU Vancouver chancellor. To honor each, a commendation was read for Regent Vogel, resolution #250418-728, and Chancellor Netzhammer, resolution #250418-729.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents adopt resolution #250418-728. Carried.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents adopt resolution #250418-729. Carried.

B. Report from the President, WSU System

President Cantwell reported on her activities since assuming the role of President on April 1. Focus areas include Cougar athletics; system operations and financial performance; business leadership; government affairs; philanthropy; research; and strategic initiatives. These are also outlined in the 100-day plan, which will be shared on a presidential transition website. Engagmenet opportunities have included touring each campus; signing the memorandum of understanding with the Native American Advisory Board; connecting with Faculty Senate, Student Government Council, and philanthropic supporters; and the upcoming commencement ceremonies.

C. Report from the Chancellor of Spokane

Spokane Chancellor Daryll DeWald provided an update on the WSU Spokane campus and health sciences enterprise, sharing the need for additional healthcare providers in Washington and how WSU Spokane is helping to alleviate that need; reviewing the Spokane campus mission, enrollment, and research awards and expenditures; and highlights from 2024.

IV. REPORTS FROM SHARED GOVERNANCE GROUPS

The following representatives from the University Shared Governance Groups provided an update on their respective areas; a written report provided by Tony Burt for the Administrative and Professional Advisory Council was included in the meeting packet:

- Associated Students of WSU Health Sciences President Hadyn Fernholz-Hartman and Vice President Liam Quinn
- Faculty Senate Chair Tracy Klein
- Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) President Ajay Barman
- WSU Advancement
 - WSU Alumni Association President Katey Koehn
 - Vice President for Advancement and CEO Mike Connell

V. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Schauer reported that there was one item on the consent agenda:

- March 7, 2025, meeting minutes

Chair Schauer asked if any Regent wished to remove this item from the consent agenda to be discussed and considered separately. Hearing no requests, it was moved and seconded that the consent agenda be approved as submitted. Carried.

VI. FINANCE AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Regent Ramos reported that the Finance and Administration Committee reviewed and discussed seven information items:

- Internal Audit Update presented by Chief Audit Executive Heather Lopez;
- Housing and Dining Financial Operations Update presented by Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration and Chief Financial Officer Leslie Brunelli, WSU Global Campus Chancellor and WSU Pullman Chancellor David Cillay, WSU Pullman Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Romando Nash, and WSU Pullman Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities and Operations – Housing and Dining Sean Greene;
- Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Execution – Financial Performance Update presented by Brunelli, Senior Associate Vice President and Deputy CFO Matt Skinner, and Assistant Vice President for Budget and Planning Chris Jones;
- Cougar Athletics Budget Performance Update presented by Brunelli, Assistant Vice President for Business and Financial Services and Athletics CFO Jon Haarlow, and Athletics Director Anne McCoy;
- Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Development – Government Relations State and Federal Budget Update presented by Brunelli, Jones; Vice President for External Affairs and Government Relations Glynda Becker-Fenter, and Vice President for Research Kim Christen;
- Regent Budget Ad Hoc Committee Update presented by Regent Cerna and Brunelli;
- Regent Financial Advisory Ad Hoc Committee for Health Sciences Update presented by Regent Picha, Brunelli, Executive Vice President and Chancellor of WSU Health Sciences Daryll DeWald, and Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine Dean James Record.

Regent Ramos further reported that the committee reviewed 14 future action items:

- Fiscal Year 2026 University Operating Budget Approval presented by Brunelli and Jones;
- Fiscal Year 2026 Cougar Athletics Budget Approval presented by Brunelli, McCoy, Haarlow;
- Proposed Revisions to Board of Regents Policy #5 Debt Management Policy presented by Brunelli, Skinner;
- Authorization to Establish a Revolving Bank Line of Credit Under Board of Regents Policy #5 Debt Management Policy presented by Brunelli, Skinner;
- Fiscal Year 2026 Supplemental Operating Budget Request presented by Brunelli, Becker-Fenter, Jones, Senior Director of State Relations Chris Mulick, and Provost and Executive Vice President Chris Riley-Tillman;
- Fiscal Year 2026 Supplemental Capital Budget Request presented by Brunelli, Becker-Fenter, Mulick, Riley-Tillman, and Associate Vice President for Facilities Services Olivia Yang;
- WSU Pullman, College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS), Knott Dairy Center Digester, Project Budget Approval presented by Brunelli and Yang;
- WSU Pullman, Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture Schweitzer Engineering Hall Increase Project Budget Approval presented by Brunelli and Yang;

- WSU Pullman, Dodgen Hot Cell Facility Design Approval presented by Brunelli and Yang;
- WSU System, 2025-27 State Minor Capital Renewal (MCR) and State Minor Capital Improvement (MCI) Projects Procurement and Contract Execution Approval presented by Brunelli and Yang;
- WSU Spokane, Health Sciences Team Health Education Building Project Budget Increase Approval presented by Brunelli, DeWald, and Yang.

VII. ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Regent Picha reported that the committee reviewed and discussed three information items:

- Mission Moment: Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine presented by Record;
- Fallen Cougars Project presented by Associate Professor of History Raymond Sun and Interim Dean of Libraries Trevor Bond;
- Presidential Delegated Authority Item presented by Provost and Executive Vice President Chris Riley-Tillman.

Regent Picha further reported that the committee reviewed one action item and submitted the following for Board consideration:

Discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering for WSU Pullman

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents that the Board of Regents discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Degree on the WSU Pullman Campus. Carried.

VIII. EXECUTIVE AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Schauer reported that the committee reviewed and discussed one action item and submitted the following for Board consideration:

Board of Regents Election of Officers

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Regents approve Jenette Ramos to be elected as Chair of the WSU Board of Regents for the year beginning July 1, 2025, and that Enrique Cerna be elected to serve as Vice Chair of the WSU Board of Regents for the year beginning July 1, 2025, with the understanding that he shall act as Chair pro tempore in the absence of the Chair, with the power to preside at the meetings and to sign all instruments required to be executed by the WSU Board of Regents. Carried.

IX. STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE REPORT. Committee member Regent Picha reported on behalf of committee chair Regent Dickinson, sharing that the committee reviewed and discussed one information item, a risk management update presented by Associate Vice President, Chief Compliance and Risk Officer Sharyl Kammerzell.

Regent Picha further reported that the one action item on the committee's agenda, a proposed naming, would be deferred to a future meeting date.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair Schauer reported that on Thursday, March 6, 2025, the Regents met in Executive Session with legal counsel to discuss with legal counsel litigation or potential litigation, per RCW 42.30.110. The Board would not be taking action as a result of those discussions.

XI. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting held on September 19, 2025.

Signed Copies Available in the Office of the System President