



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 12, 2026  
MINUTES**

**Board of Trustees**  
Jim Reames, Chair  
Nicole Bradshaw, Vice Chair  
Molly Lentz, Sec/Treas  
Cherie Buckner-Webb  
David Bishop

**CWI MISSION**

**The College of Western Idaho is committed to empowering students to succeed by providing affordable and accessible education to advance the local and global workforce**

**CWI Nampa Campus Academic Building  
Room 122  
3:00PM**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Nicole Bradshaw, Vice Chair  
Molly Lentz, Secretary/Treasurer  
David Bishop, Trustee

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Bradshaw called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustee Bishop recited the CWI mission statement. One visitor was introduced as Heidi Estrem from the Office of the State Board of Education. No public comments were received.

**II. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. January 2026 Minutes
- B. Treasurer's Report
- C. Capital Projects Budget to Actuals Report

**MS (Lentz / Bishop): To approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried.**

**III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jones reported that CWI's Spring enrollment is up 4.2%, marking ten consecutive semesters of growth. The college now serves more than 34,000 individuals annually, driven by population growth, affordability, flexible programs, and strong participation from both traditional and adult learners. He noted that the legislative session is moving toward significant budget reductions due to decreased state tax revenues. Potential cuts could limit CWI's ability to expand high-demand programs such as nursing, automotive technology, and welding. A zero CEC (Change in Employee Compensation) year is expected, though he emphasized that this outcome reflects legislative constraints rather than employee performance.

February is Career Technical Education Month, and CWI is promoting student and program successes across multiple industry partnerships, including collaborations with the Nampa Fire Department, Lyle Pearson Mercedes, the mining sector, and Micron. Lastly, President Jones reported that the 2026 commencement ceremony will move to the Ford Idaho Center on May 19 at 7 p.m., allowing the college to host a larger, more campus-connected event.

**IV. FORD IDAHO CENTER OPERATING BUDGET EXPENDITURE APPROVAL**

Vice President Kline informed the board that Andrew Luther and Brandi Schmidt from OVG will be presenting their one-year fiscal overlook of the Ford Idaho Center's finances. Andrew Luther then reported that the Ford Idaho Center has significantly improved its financial performance since Oak View Group assumed management in 2015, moving from a historical \$1.8 million annual deficit to consistent profitability. After recovering from COVID-19 disruptions, the Center reached major milestones, including operating at a zero-budget requirement beginning in 2024 and contributing to a \$5 million fund balance retained by the City.

Concerts remain the highest-revenue events, but due to market volatility, the Center relies on a diversified schedule of recurring shows, expos, and sporting events to maintain stable revenue. Key income sources include rent, ticket-related fees, concessions, parking, sponsorships, and interest earnings. The arena generates the largest share of net revenue, with staffing and facility maintenance being the primary expenses.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Reviewing your 2025 actuals, were you above budget? If so, by how much?

Andrew Luther – Answer: We finished at a profit of \$991,000.

President Jones – Question: Given that CWI stepped into the City's role in the agreement with OVG, and the FY25 net income was \$991,336, what portion of that amount did the city receive under the revenue-sharing arrangement?

Andrew Luther – Answer: The OVG incentive fee coming out of that was around \$600,000.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: In your industry how do you respond when monthly financial projections show negative net income even though the overall year is projected to be positive, and what actions should be taken to manage operations back within budget?

Andrew Luther – Answer: The organization manages financial uncertainty by building a strong baseline of annual events to stabilize revenue and aggressively booking additional events whenever possible. This "high floor" approach provides flexibility and reduces the impact of difficult economic conditions. We have an ongoing goal to maintain enough stability, so we always have operational levers to pull if challenges arise.

Vice Chair Bishop – Question: Are you on track for the number of projected events that you have currently predicted?

Andrew Luther – Answer: Yes, we are.

Vice President Kline then asked to approve OVG's expenses from December 10 through June 30, representing the prorated portion of the budget following the ownership transition. Additional CWI and transitional costs will be presented later. OVG's fixed indirect expenses—unrelated to specific events—were also presented for approval and will be included in the college's auxiliary services budget.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: We are being asked to approve the entire revenue and expense budget, correct?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct.

**MS (Bishop / Lentz): To approve the FY26 CWI budget for the Ford Idaho Center as presented. The motion carried.**

V. ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Vice President Arstein gave an update report regarding fundraising of \$7.7 million year-to-date from 295 donors, including 60 new donors, with a 34% retention rate, which they aim to increase to 60% through upcoming outreach. Fundraising has grown significantly over the last three years, rising from historic averages of about \$400,000 annually to a projected \$12 million this year.

The Powering the Treasure Valley campaign is nearing completion of its \$30 million goal, with approximately \$25 million already secured and the remaining \$4 million expected to close within 4–6 weeks. Phase 2 of the campaign will continue under the same name, focusing heavily on funding needs related to the Ford Idaho Center and other program expansions. Materials are finalized, and 78 prospective donors have been identified for feasibility interviews scheduled for April–June.

A donor recognition celebration is planned for September, coinciding with the opening of the Cap-Ed Student Success Center, with additional events planned in the fall. Feasibility discussions will explore donor interest in new student pathways, expanded career technical programs, endowed faculty positions, and athletics/community integration tied to the Ford Idaho Center.

Looking ahead, the college is building a long-term advancement strategy centered on alumni engagement, community involvement, and stronger institutional traditions. Initiatives include launching a new alumni relations program, developing CWI Week, and planning a reimagined Opening Doors event for March 2027 at the Ford Idaho Center.

Finally, the Advancement team introduced a new Fundraising Fundamentals training program for faculty and staff. The first cohort is full, and recurring sessions are planned to help build a campus-wide culture that supports long-term fundraising success.

VI. ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

a. BOARD GOVERNANCE POLICY & HANDBOOK REVIEW

Chief of Staff McDermott reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule for the monthly Board of Trustee meetings. The Handbook was presented for review with staff recommending no updates.

The Governing Policies were presented for review, with recommendations for two updates. The first proposed change updates the Human Resources section to modernize benefits for Emeriti faculty and staff. The second proposed change strengthens language in the campus safety policy regarding firearms. At the recommendation of legal counsel, the revision clarifies the Board's statutory responsibilities and the delegation of related authority to the President.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Would this give the president authority and responsibility to enforce campus safety?

Chief of Staff McDermott – Answer: Yes, adding specific language will give the president

authorized responsibility to prescribe rules regarding firearms on campus.

**MS (Bishop / Bradshaw): To approve the changes to the Board Governance Policy as presented.  
The motion carried.**

b. EVENT CALENDAR REVIEW

The Board reviewed a forecasted calendar of events for the remainder of the year to provide guidance on improving communication to trustees about local events, and where their presence would advance CWI's interests. Trustees made suggestions for improved communication around events, including ensuring these are sent via calendar appointments as soon as possible, even if as "holds" to begin with. Additionally, it was suggested that staff assign different priorities to events to help trustees know which are most important to attend. Vice Chair Bradshaw noted how helpful it is when Board members communicate their intent to attend for planning purposes.

VII. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Bradshaw expressed appreciation for the recent strategic planning session and the insights provided by national consultants Jeff Selingo and Michael Horn. She noted the exciting progress of the Boise campus construction and emphasized its importance to CWI's long-term goals. She closed by expressing gratitude for the strong collaboration among the board, CWI leadership, and the Foundation Board.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:22pm.



Molly Lenty

Board Secretary

