



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
April 9, 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:

Jim Reames, Chair
Nicole Bradshaw, Vice Chair
David Bishop, Trustee
Cherie Buckner-Webb, Trustee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Reames called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustee Bishop recited the CWI mission statement. No visitor introductions were made, and no public comments were received.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Jones reported that the legislative session concluded with a 3% higher education budget reduction, but community colleges were spared an additional 2% cut. He also highlighted the recent naming of the Micron Academic Center, noting it as a reflection of a long-standing partnership that supports high-demand programs and strengthens the regional workforce pipeline. In addition, President Jones shared that the institution's fourth annual Giving Day on April 7 raised just under \$44,000 from more than 160 individual donors, emphasizing both the financial support and the importance of building lasting community relationships.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: How does this year's Giving Day compare to years prior?

Vice President Arstein – Answer: We have seen an increase of donors since we started three years ago with only 50 donors to where we are today with 167.

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

President Jones summarized the legislative session as one focused on fiscal restraint driven by revenue concerns and federal tax policy alignment, resulting in across-the-board funding reductions despite Idaho's stable economy and continued enrollment growth at community colleges. These decisions included a 0% salary adjustment for public employees alongside rising benefit costs,

increasing financial pressure on the institution. Approximately 40% of the college's budget is determined by legislative funding, and the President emphasized that these policy decisions do not reflect the college's performance or value. The administration is developing a budget that avoids job losses, continues advocacy efforts, maintains strong fundraising, and may consider tuition or fee adjustments to sustain operations and educational quality.

V. MALLARD LEASE EXTENSION

Vice President Miller presented a request to extend the lease for the Mallard Building due to a one-year delay in the planned move to the Boise facility. While staff initially explored relocating Mallard functions to the Pintail Building, the Adult Education team raised concerns that reduced space would limit student capacity and potentially jeopardize funding, noting that the Boise location serves more than 2,000 Adult Education students alone, in addition to CNA, Academic Transfer, and Workforce Development programs. The current lease expires May 31, and staff proposed a 13-month extension retaining approximately 10,000 square feet while surrendering 7,000 square feet. The estimated cost of the one-year extension is approximately \$220,000.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Two Questions, the \$200,000 plus is not currently budgeted, correct? Also, what is in place to ensure that we are on track to move out after the proposed 13-month extension?

Vice President Miller – Answer: Correct, and the Adult Education program will be moving into the new Boise location June 13th of 2027 before the end of our extension.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Is the funding dependent on the address or the physical location?

Vice President Miller – Answer: No, it is dependent on the number of classrooms.

MS (Bradshaw / Bishop): To approve draw from capital project reserves in the amount of \$220,000 to fund the Mallard Lease extension, as presented. The motion carried.

MS (Bishop / Bradshaw): To approve the Mallard Lease Extension as presented. The motion carried.

VI. NAMING – HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING

Vice President Arstein requested approval to name the Health and Science Building the Norco Health and Science Building. This naming completes the first phase of the *Powering the Treasure Valley* campaign, resulting in leadership gifts for all campus buildings. Norco's contribution is part of a bundled partnership with St. Alphonsus and St. Luke's. Norco was recognized as a long-standing local business, making the naming appropriate for the Health & Science facility.

MS (Bradshaw / Bishop): To approve naming the new health sciences building the Norco Health & Science Building. The motion carried.

VII. FINANCE & BUDGET

Vice President Kline presented the FY26 budget associated with the acquisition of the Ford Idaho Center. Due to transition expenses, previously absorbed state budget cuts, and projected spending nearing current expenditure authority, an increase in expenditure authority for the current fiscal year was requested to avoid further departmental budget reductions. The proposal is to temporarily draw from the sustainability reserve, with a plan to replenish and adjust the reserve target in the next budget cycle to reflect the addition of the Ford Idaho Center as a permanent asset.

Several one-time transition costs were outlined, including an appraisal of the facility, project management support through Skill Navigators, accounting guidance from Eide Bailly, consultant and

legal assistance related to RFP development for the expiring OVG contract and potential land leases, updates to the campus master plan, wayfinding and signage, and a three-month engagement with Alvarez & Marsal to assess finances, sponsorships, and campus integration strategies. Many of these costs span multiple years or may not be fully expended in the current fiscal year.

Ongoing obligations related to the acquisition include property insurance; grounds maintenance, increased audit fees, and future incentive payments tied to the OVG contract cycle. A contingency was included to address potential overrun or unforeseen needs. Collectively, these items support a requested increase in expenditure authority of \$812,130 for the current fiscal year to manage the Ford Idaho Center transition.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Is OVG on the same fiscal year as CWI that ends in June?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Has some of this spending already occurred?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct. This is a mix of expenditures incurred, and then our projection of what will occur.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: How does an RFP cost \$50,000 per month?

Vice President Kline – Answer: This is legal advice, and the \$50,000 is the max amount we could spend in one month.

Chair Reames – Question: What is the approximate value of the revenue of the Ford Idaho Center contract?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Approximately \$22 million.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Are these expenses in addition to the ones we have already approved in prior meetings?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct, these are in CWI expenses that are in addition to OVG expenses.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: What is the time frame for those additional expenses to be paid back to the reserve fund?

Vice President Kline – Answer: They will be restored July 1.

MS (Bradshaw / Bishop): To approve the expenses for the Ford Idaho Center for FY26 as presented. The motion carried.

Vice President Kline gave an overview of the FY27 budget, developed under significant constraints, including a 3% state budget cut, elimination of the enrollment workload adjustment, and the transition to an outcomes-based funding model that removes the direct link between enrollment growth and state funding. At the same time, the institution experienced rising fixed costs, including a 15% increase in employer health care rates, the opening of the Student Success Center, and debt service for the Boise project. As a result, no new funds were available, and no new budget requests were funded for the year.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Are there any change that CWI could make to control the cost of healthcare?

Vice President Kline – Answer: We would have to leave the State Healthcare system to take control with no guarantee that it would save our employees money.

Vice President Kline reviewed the college's budget structure, including the General Fund, self-supporting student fees, CTE, Plant, and STEM funds, and approved the creation of a new auxiliary fund to operate a self-sustaining venue with separately tracked revenues, expenses, and indirect costs. The FY27 budget assumes 3% enrollment growth, while state appropriations reflect a net reduction of about \$552,000 despite partial funding for benefit increases. Property tax revenue

is projected to increase by \$457,000 based on a 3% levy increase and new construction, and course and program fees are expected to increase by \$504,000, while Workforce Development funding remains flat and interest income declines. The budget includes \$25 million in projected auxiliary revenue for operation of the Ford Idaho Center, with spending authority limited to actual revenue received and a balanced auxiliary budget planned for presentation in June. Planned expenditures include Student Success Center occupancy costs, COP debt service, and rising fixed costs, partially offset by savings from software consolidation and transitioning phone services to Microsoft Teams. Employer health insurance costs increased by 14.4%, with employees absorbing an average 8% increase, and due to the lack of state funding for Career Equity Compensation, administration proposed using \$477,000 from reserves for one-time employee payments to help offset benefit increases.

Trustee Bishop – Question: If this one-time payment is for employee retention, do you know what the cost would be to bring on a new employee to CWI?

Vice President Kline – Answer: No, we have not calculated that number, but it is a good point to bring up.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: When will the State normally send out its increases to employees?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Traditionally July 1 would be the effective date.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: And this would be an increase to their base compensations to compensate the increase to their medical increases?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: How did you come to the final number for that one-time payment?

Vice President Kline – Answer: We modeled it after looking at the highest increase of about \$660. So, after taxes are withheld from a \$1000 payout, our employees will still be covered.

Vice Chair Bradshaw – Question: Did most employees get an increase last year?

Vice President Kline – Answer: Correct.

Chair Reames – Question: Are certain employees on contracts?

Vice President Kline – Answer: We do have Adjuncts that are on contracts, and employees that are on contingent funding such as grants and other sources, but we have moved away from employee contracts.

The budget review explained the strategic use of reserves for one-time expenses, including expiring leases and remaining costs of the Collegis student lifecycle contract, which are not expected to continue beyond the current year. The budget includes carry forward funding to allow delayed or multi-year projects to proceed and reflects a more aggressive approach that assumes enrollment growth to offset state funding reductions. Projected revenues total \$92.7 million, while expenses are estimated at \$99.1 million, creating a \$6.4 million gap. To close this gap, a 10% tuition and fee increase is proposed, bringing the rate to \$172 per credit hour, which remains below inflation-adjusted levels and less than half the cost of four-year institutions; combined with approximately \$3.1 million in reserves, this approach balances the budget.

Chair Reames – Question: Do you know what that means for the average student annually?

Vice President Kline – Answer: It would be a 10% increase per semester.

Vice President Kline then presented the proposed tuition and fee adjustments within a balanced financial framework, reflecting a \$99.1 million general fund budget, \$25 million in auxiliary operations, and \$9 million in private funds and grants, resulting in an estimated total enterprise budget of \$133 million.

MS (Bishop / Bradshaw): To approve the 2026-27 tuition and fee rates as presented. The motion carried.

MS (Bradshaw / Bishop): To approve one-time payments to employees in FY27 as presented. The motion carried.

VIII. SECOND AMENDMENT TO PRESIDENTIAL EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

General Counsel Fontaine presented a proposed non-substantive amendment to the President's employment agreement. She explained that the amendment does not change compensation amounts, payment timing, or any material contract terms, but instead updates the agreement to reflect the availability of a new employer contribution account (PERSI 401(k)) after a previously used account became unavailable. The amendment also authorizes the Board Chair to approve future non-substantive administrative changes that do not affect significant terms of the contract.

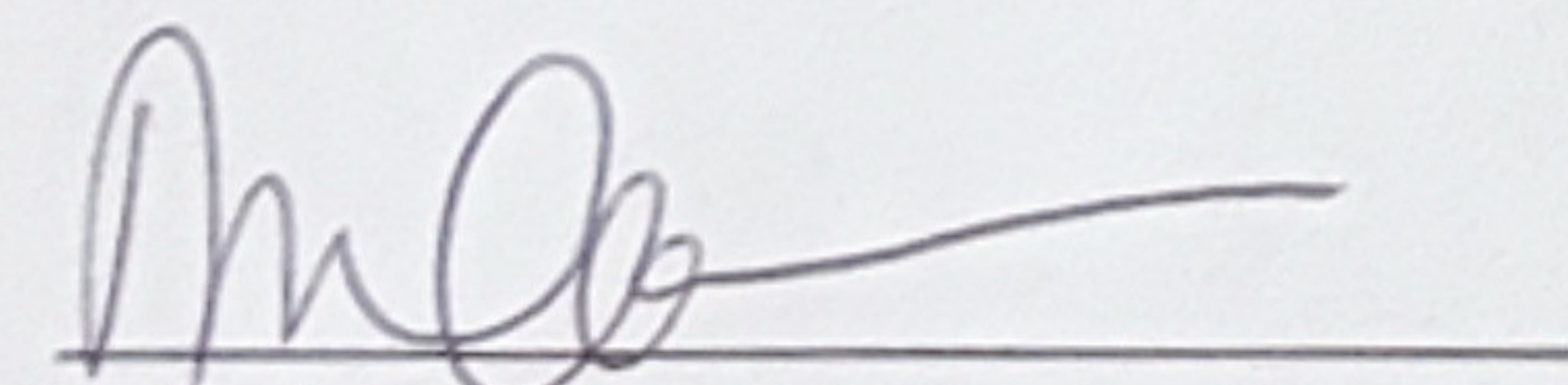
MS (Bishop / Bradshaw): To approve the Second Amendment to the President's Employment Agreement as presented and to delegate authority to Board Chair to execute any additional amendments proposing non-substantive changes to the President's Employment Agreement. The motion carried.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Reames shared positive reflections on attending a recent event at Micron, noting the value of seeing the community come together. Major partners such as Norco, Cap Ed, Micron, and Simplot were recognized as key stakeholders investing in the region and supporting ongoing efforts. The Chair emphasized that progress is the result of collective work rather than individual efforts and expressed appreciation to all contributors.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:39pm.



Molly Lenty
Board Secretary