

Board of Regents Media Statement

2.23.24

The Board of Regents has proactively engaged in conversations with members of the Concerned Faculty Group over the last year. It's clear they care about WSU and its future, even if we don't always agree on the path forward.

The challenges we face as an academic institution are not unique to WSU. The Board and the university administration have been proactively looking at these issues and positioning WSU for the future. Universities and colleges around the country are being forced to do things differently in response to an environment of record change in higher education. WSU leadership and its Board of Regents have been intentional and strategic, creating an enrollment office in 2019, adopting the "OneWSU" systemwide strategic plan in 2020, and prioritizing financial sustainability. We recognize not everyone is comfortable with change.

The Board of Regents is confident WSU is on the right path. President Schultz has provided strong leadership during his tenure, and he has the confidence of the Board.

"The future of higher education is not going to look like the past, and that means we have to do some things differently," said Marty Dickinson, past chair of the Board of Regents. "We will continue to move forward by implementing our OneWSU strategic vision. In the past year, we've seen an increase in enrollment, a rise in our annual rankings, and unprecedented investments in WSU and its future. In the face of challenge, Cougs will always rise to the occasion."

OneWSU is the university's strategic vision for a system of campuses across the state that allows the university to meet Washingtonians where they are—fueling our state's workforce and future. Bringing this vision fully to life requires change and innovation, which is creating discomfort for some. However, the Board believes it's the right direction to fulfill WSU's mission for the benefit of Washingtonians.

While there is much work to do, the university is making meaningful progress. The Board is grateful for the tremendous partnership from WSU Faculty Senate and the support from Cougar Nation. We are committed to fulfilling WSU's mission for the future of Washington. We will continue to be accessible and open to meaningful dialogue as we advance WSU into the future.