WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ITEM SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees
FROM: President Sabah Randhawa on behalf of:
Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services
Richard Van Den Hul, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs
DATE: October 13, 2017

SUBJECT: Emergency Rule Changes to:
Chapter 516-36 WAC, Use of University Facilities – Scheduling
WAC 516-24-130, Demonstrations
WAC 516-52-020 Firearms and Dangerous Weapons

PURPOSE: Action Item

Purpose of Submittal:
The manifestation of violence and intimidation observed in on-campus demonstrations in
Washington State and across the United States over the past six months necessitate immediate
changes to the rules in order to preserve the integrity of Western Washington University’s
educational mission, to protect the health, safety and welfare of students, faculty and staff, and
to preserve University property and scarce state resources while at the same time preserving its
strong commitment to freedom of expression.

Proposed Motion:
MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation
of the President, approve the emergency rule change to Chapter 516-36 WAC, Use of
University Facilities - Scheduling as submitted.

Proposed Motion:
MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation
of the President, approve the emergency rule change to WAC 516-24-130, Demonstrations as submitted.

Proposed Motion:
MOVED, that the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, upon recommendation
of the President, approve the emergency rule change to WAC 516-52-020, Firearms and
Dangerous Weapons as submitted.

Background:
In August 2017 the University formed a steering committee to consider the issue of how to
prepare itself to ensure safety and security on the campus while, at the same time, preserving
its strong commitment to freedom of expression. The steering committee was broadly
constructed from campus community leaders who would reasonably be involved in preparing for
or responding to serious acts of protest violence or intimidation that might occur on Western’s
campus. The committee was co-chaired by Ted Pratt, Dean of Students and Darin Rasmusson,
Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police. It included representatives from the following offices
and departments: President’s Office, Provost’s Office, Dean of Students, Equal Opportunity Office, Public Safety Department, Risk Management, Human Resources Department, Attorney General, Communications and Marketing, Space Administration/Management, and the Ethnic Student Center.

The committee met on a weekly basis to identify those most emergent issues that faced the campus. Through the use of a SCOT analysis that looked at the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats facing Western with regard to this particular concern.

Following the SCOT analysis, subcommittees were formed to focus on both the short-term and long-term needs, with attention placed primarily on addressing the short-term needs. These subcommittees included: Internal and External Events; Emergency Preparedness and Response Management; Conduct, Rights, and Responsibilities; Education and Training; and, Communications and Emergency Messaging.

The committee identified nine critical, but attainable priorities that could be achieved or at least be initiated in the brief time window that remained before Fall Quarter got under way. These priorities are:

- Development of an emergency rule change to Chapter 516-36 WAC, Use of University Facilities-Scheduling and to WAC 516-24-130, Demonstrations. The purpose of these changes is to immediately, on an interim basis, address designated forums, time and notice requirements, sponsorship requirements, risk assessments of campus events, and a cost recovery process.

- Development of an emergency rule change to WAC 516-52-020 Firearms and Dangerous Weapons. The purpose of this change is to immediately, on an interim basis, address weapons, armor, and armaments on campus.

- Identifying gatekeepers in the event scheduling and approval process and development of protocols and training to ensure consistent application to individuals seeking to hold events on campus.

- Implementation of a University Freedom of Expression webpage.

- Development of key talking points regarding freedom of expression boundaries that highlight the rights and responsibilities for university policies and freedom of expression. This included development of FAQ’s.

- Organization and production of an education and training event or series of events centered on freedom of expression, how to define it, and ways to allow different points of view to be expressed.

- Development of a University Communications Plan.

- Requesting funding for response equipment, barricades, bollards, and training for emergency responders including University Police, and in some cases support by Facilities Management personnel.

- Development of standardized checklists to be used for assessing the need for a risk assessment, conducting a risk assessment, and for operational response.