CALL TO ORDER

Regent Ayer called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Assistant Secretary Shelley Tennant called the roll: Present were Regents Ayer (Chair), Blake, Harrell, Jaech, Kritzer, Rice, Riojas, Shanahan, Simon; President Cauce, Provost Baldasty, Secretary of the Board Goldblatt; designated representatives: Professor Beauchamp, Mr. Bolton, and Mr. Wu.

Absent: Regent Smith

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS: Regent Ayer

Selection of a Public Employee and Related Delegations (Action)

Regent Ayer described the selection of the University President as the most important duty of the Board of Regents. Beginning in March, the Board committed to a deliberate and inclusive process to find the right President for the University at this time in its history and to taking whatever time was required to do that.

The Board took several initial steps:

1) The Board asked Chancellor Emeritus Kenyon Chan to serve as Chair of a search advisory committee comprised of 28 individuals representing all segments of the university community including five students, six faculty members, six administrators or staff, six community leaders, and four Regents. Students and faculty were from all three campuses.

2) The Board engaged a search consultant, John Thornburgh, from the Witt/Kieffer Executive Search firm.

3) Regents held a series of open forums in Seattle, Bothell, Tacoma, and Spokane, to hear perspectives from faculty, staff, students, and others about the future of the University and its leadership needs.

4) The Board and the Search Committee carefully developed a Presidential Leadership Profile identifying the criteria for a President given the opportunities and challenges of this University. Specifically, “an experienced, forward-looking, and progressive leader with an evident passion for the UW’s mission and future.”
Regent Ayer invited Kenyon Chan to briefly report on the search process. Chancellor Emeritus Chan reported the Presidential Leadership Profile yielded considerable interest across the country. UW is held in tremendous regard and generated lots of inquiries. Witt/Kieffer interviewed over 100 educational leaders to seek nominations. This activity yielded about 70 nominations for the committee’s review. By the end of the summer, the search committee reviewed a list of about 58 candidates and narrowed its focus to 29 prospects, including 17 sitting presidents, 9 provosts, and 3 non-university candidates. Of those employed by universities, all were from AAU (Association of American Universities) or similar universities with complexities and characteristics matching UW’s. Dr. Chan described this as a “rich and competitive” pool. The interest generated was a testament to the UW. After exercising due diligence, the search committee submitted its recommendation to the Board, whereupon the Board conducted its own review of the committee’s recommendation and additional analysis and interviews. He thanked the members of the search committee for their service, time, and hard work.

Regent Ayer thanked Dr. Chan, who received a robust round of applause. Regent Ayer also thanked the search committee members for their service, reflecting their dedication to the University. He also thanked the four Regents who served on the committee – Kristi Blake, Joanne Harrell, Jeremy Jaech, and Rogelio Riojas. He expressed gratitude to those seated at the Board table who were members of the search committee: Alex Bolton, Tyler Wu, Sophie Nop, and Norm Beauchamp.

On October 7, the Board held a special meeting and met in executive session to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for the position of President of the University, looking for a strong leader who best fits the qualities outlined in the Leadership Profile – looking, specifically, for someone with outstanding and inspiring leadership qualities who, as stated in the Profile, “should embrace the mission of this world-class public university and convey an absolute and genuine personal commitment to the UW’s success.”

Regent Ayer invited Regent Blake to make a motion regarding the selection of the next President of the University of Washington, subject to the negotiation of an employment contract.

Regent Blake stated the following, “It is amazing to me that sometimes you can cast the widest net to find what you are looking for, only to discover the perfect answer standing right next to you. There is no doubt in my mind that Ana Mari Cauce is the right person to be leading the University of Washington as we move to build on the excellence that is so ingrained in this institution, So, it is with extreme enthusiasm, utmost confidence, and great anticipation for the future of the purple and the gold, and with my heartfelt support, that I move that the Regents of the University of Washington select Ana Mari Cauce as President of the University of Washington.”

Regent Harrell seconded the motion, and said it was with extreme excitement, confidence in her ability, and joy, and as a member of the search committee and the Board of Regents, that it was her honor and pleasure to second the motion.

Regent Ayer invited comments and discussion.
Regent Rice said she was happy to support a tri-decade period for President Cauce in honor of her zeal, loyalty, and innovation.

Regent Simon said knowing President Cauce, she would talk about how humbled and honored she is, but for the Board, they are honored to endorse and vote for her, as she embodies the values and ideologies of the state and the mission of the University.

Regent Kritzer said legally she must abstain from the vote, but wanted to express her whole-hearted support for the action. She has been impressed by President Cauce’s ability to work with students, faculty, and staff and have different perspectives in her work and keep the dialogue going. She will be a fantastic president for making sure UW builds great relations with the Seattle community and throughout the state. Regent Kritzer said she can’t wait to see the wonderful innovations President Cauce will bring.

Professor Beauchamp said President Cauce’s “work is love made visible.” When the search started it was clear to the faculty the great care she has shown for them, and as a part of them, from her earliest time here. He praised her remarkable, continual commitment to teaching and the great sensitivity with which she listens to and responds to faculty input. He said faculty members are enthusiastic about the selection.

Mr. Wu said it’s no question that students wanted Ana Mari Cauce to serve as the President from the start of the process. Many students were present at the meeting to share the moment. He reiterated that students are honored to have her serve as President.

Mr. Bolton thanked the Regents for making sure there was such a strong student voice on the Search Advisory Committee. He thanked President Cauce for her continued willingness to engage with students, meet with them, and try to work things out. He has no doubt she will be an amazing President.

Professor Beauchamp added his thanks to the Regents for listening to the faculty about what was important to them and what they were passionate about, rather than moving in the direction of more corporatization of academia as has happened at other universities recently. It is clear to him that the Regents and Kenyon Chan were tireless in soliciting the voice of faculty.

Regent Shanahan said Regents recognize Ana Mari as a lifelong learner, and that they believe she will be able to “play at this next level.” Her long experience with the University makes her the best qualified candidate to represent all of the University’s employees. Most importantly, she has a demonstrated record of performance. He feels the Regents have made a very strong choice.

Regent Ayer summed it up by saying it’s clear that this is a “pretty good idea.” He said Regents have a responsibility to think not just about today but about the future, to insure the University pursues the right opportunities and effectively addresses challenges. Leadership really matters in steering the right course. The Regents know President Cauce has a deep love for, and belief in, this university. She has an incredible work ethic. She is unmatched in her ability to connect with people both inside and outside the University. She is extraordinarily smart. She possesses tremendous integrity and humility and, in his experience, one seldom finds all of those traits in one person.
The bottom line is she is exactly the right leader for the University for today and into the future and he knows she has the full confidence and enthusiastic support of the Board.

Regent Ayer called for the vote. Regents voted unanimously in favor of selecting Ana Mari Cauce as President of the University of Washington, subject to the negotiation of an employment contract. As required by state law, Regent Kritzer, the student member of the Board abstained. Although Regent Smith was unable to attend he voiced support for the selection.

President Cauce received a long and enthusiastic standing ovation from the audience and those at the table.

Regent Ayer invited Regent Cauce to comment.

She thanked the Regents, the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, and Chancellor Chan.

She said the University is a special place and her home. She arrived here almost thirty years ago as an assistant professor of psychology and over the years has held many faculty positions up through the ranks. This is an exciting day for her and for the University. It’s a vote of confidence in the University and moving in the right direction. She anticipates changes and said, “Standing still is moving backwards,” adding that the world is changing quickly and the University must adapt and adopt. She feels privileged and humbled to have been selected.

The President will deliver her annual address on Wednesday, October 14, and she said it will be more fun for her from her newly-approved position, because when she talks about the future, it’s a more certain one.

A few key points she plans to emphasize in her address:

- The absolute commitment to the student experience and developing lifelong skills.
- Support for the good work of others at the University - continued support for research and innovation.
- Impact - what matters to the UW, and to her, is the impact of the work – how it saves and changes lives. All of this supports the University’s proud public mission in service to citizens across the state and to creating a world of good.

The University’s commitment to access and excellence is what has kept her at the University and remains a core value. Together things can just get better.

Delegate Authority to the Board Chair to Negotiate an Employment Agreement with Ana Mari Cauce (Action)

Regent Ayer requested a motion for the Board of Regents to delegate authority to the Board Chair to negotiate an employment agreement with Ana Mari Cauce. Regent Rice moved, Regent Blake seconded, and the Board voted to approve the motion. As required by law, Regent Kritzer abstained.
ADJOURN

Regent Ayer closed by saying this was a great and momentous day for the University. He thanked everyone for attending. He thanked the Board for its diligence throughout the process.

He encouraged everyone to attend the Annual President’s address on Wednesday, October 14, at 3:30 p.m. at the Intellectual House.

Regent Ayer adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

Approved at the meeting of the Board on November 12, 2015.