

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Laidlaw 143

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Teresa Taylor officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, and Wendy Bohlke, constituting a quorum. Trustee John Pedlow was absent. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Steven Thomas, Interim Vice President for Instruction; Julianna deHaan Rice, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Taylor began with a land acknowledgement to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Fairchild moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke and the motion was approved.
- Chair Taylor announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

INTRODUCTIONS

- The following employees were acknowledged for their services in our community:

Kelly Bashaw, Associate Director for Workforce Funding, has been serving on the school board of Bellingham School District for 16 years and was board chair twice during her tenure.

Sophia Shang, Senior Professor, received the First Friend Award at the Whatcom Literacy Council Breakfast in November. This award is given to volunteer, supporter, or community partner who has made significant contribution to literacy in Whatcom County. Shang works closely with the Whatcom Literacy Council to identify and place volunteers in her classes. She continues to

enhance the college's connections with the greater community.

Lucas Ward, Accountant, volunteers his time with Coffee and Sandwich Together (a partnership with Interfaith Coalition) that provides basic food items and hygiene products to community members in need. He transports and distribute supplies at their distribution site. In addition, he volunteers his time with the Road 2Home Winter Shelter which provide shelter for community members experiencing homelessness from December to February.

CONSENT AGENDA

➔ Consent Agenda

Minutes of November 8, 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Chair Taylor stated: "If there are no objections, item in the consent agenda will be adopted." As there was no objection, this item was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

➔ Chair Taylor called for public comment. There was no public comment.

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

➔ **International Programs update – Kelly Kester, Director for International Programs**

Steven Thomas, Vice President for Instruction, introduced Kelly Kester, Director for International Programs. Kester shared a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of current initiatives and future plans for International Programs.

Highlights included:

- Introduction of the International Programs team: Karrie Keenan, Program Specialist; Beth Robinson, Associate Director for International Advising; Sandra Kimura, Associate Director for Marketing and Recruitment; Ulli Schraml, Associate Director for New Student Support and Internationalization
- One-plus one plus two model – online classes for the first year at home country and in-person classes for the second year on WCC campus. The model has proven to be well received by international students. There are plans to explore partnerships with new schools around the world
- Greater competition among colleges post Covid
- Most of our international students comes from Asia
- International student alum stories

ACTION ITEM

➤ Proposed amendment to Policy 521 – Tuition Waiver

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the proposed amendment to Policy 521. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Kathi shared plans to introduce new faculty at upcoming board meetings. In addition, the College will begin recruitment on several faculty positions.
- On November 30, 2023, Lana Frazier, one of the longest serving employee at WCC passed away. Frazier had been at the College for over 40 years supporting and guiding instructional needs through her role in curriculum and scheduling. She was a great colleague and friend to many. President Kathi thanked Cynthia Hoskins and Karrie Keenan for the support they provided to Frazier's family during a very difficult time.
- Senator Sharon Shewmake visited WCC campus and met student leaders to learn about their needs and shared her legislative priorities.
- US Representative Rick Larsen met with trustees Wendy Bohlke and Jeff Fairchild and staff to learn about WCC's new BAS in Social Work program. He also toured the Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons.
- The State Board of Community and Technical Colleges went through a recent reorganization. Choi Halliday will be leading the ctclink project.
- President Kathi asked Adam Beals, Acting Dean for Enrollment Management, to provide an enrollment update for winter quarter.

FTE data 67% into the registration period:

Winter 2024 FTEs - 2248

Winter 2023 FTEs - 2186

% change from Winter 2023 - 3%

Application data

Winter 2024 - 961 applications that have been deemed non-fraudulent

Winter 2023 - 952 total applications

% change from Winter 2023 - <1%

An additional 418 Winter 2024 applications have been marked as potentially fraudulent.

DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➔ **ACCT National Legislative Summit – February 4-7, 2024**

Due to scheduling conflicts and costs, the board made the decision not to attend this summit.

➔ **Proposed mid-year board retreat – February 7, 2024**

Trustee Bohlke moved to approve adding a mid-year board retreat on February 7, 2024. It was seconded by Trustee Fairchild. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ➔ At 3:10 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for forty minutes as provided in RCW 42.31.110, to discuss collective bargaining and a Executive Session immediately after the closed session... to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee...; and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation or legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency...

Chair Taylor announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice Presidents Nate Langstraat, and Assistant Attorney General Juliana deHaan Rice.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- ➔ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



1/10/2024

Chair of the Board

Date



1/10/2024

President and Secretary of the Board

Date