

MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Laidlaw Center Board Room
Wednesday, February 18, 2009
1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Barbara Rofkar officially called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Present were trustees Sue Cole, Steve Adelstein, and Tim Douglas. Absent: Trustee Chuck Robinson. Others present were President Kathi Hiyane-Brown; Ron Leatherbarrow, Vice President for Instruction; Patricia Onion, Vice President for Educational Services; Ray White, Vice President for Administrative Services; Linda Maier, Dean for Workforce Education; Jason Tetzloff, Dean for Instructional and Academic Support; Anne Bowen, Executive Director for Foundation and College Advancement; Lisa Wochos, Assistant Attorney General; Bob Riesenberg, WCCFT President; John O'Neill, WSFE Representative; David Burkett, ASWCC President; guests: and Keri Parriera, Executive Assistant to the President.

STUDY SESSION

Budget Strategies

President Hiyane-Brown and Vice President Ray White presented the study session on the current budget climate. State revenue estimates are still declining. The presentation outlined Whatcom's guiding principles for budget determinations that have been identified by the Budget Committee:

- Maintain student access
- Eliminate or reduce select programs & services
- Protect positions where possible
- Protect core programs
- Do not inhibit revenue generating operations
- Continue working toward strategic goals
- Minimize impact to people and programs

The College's Budget Committee is currently developing scenarios for 7, 10, and 15 percent reductions to current budget--at a 10 percent level, the College may not be able to reduce budget from infrastructure reductions only. The College hopes to have these models ready when the legislature adopts a State budget. A budget timeline was shared which includes dates for campus budget forums to be held in April and May, as well as budget training sessions for the departments. Ray and Kathi will also provide "road shows" which will be departmental-specific presentations. A final budget is scheduled to be presented to Board at the May meeting for a first reading with final consideration at the June meeting of the Board.

Discussions included options under consideration to meet the reductions. An increase to student fees is under consideration by the student government. We have many challenges and no easy answers. The College will work together to maximize efficiency with current resources. Whatcom has instituted a moderate hiring freeze and is evaluating vacant positions on a case-by-case basis.

Trustees who attended the recent TACTC meeting in Olympia shared the sobering financial updates that they received.

CONSENT AGENDA

✦ **Consent Agenda (Calendar)**

- a. Minutes of January 14, 2009 Board of Trustees Meeting—

Trustee Steve Adelstein requested that item b) *Memorandum of Understanding* be removed from the consent agenda as it was an inappropriate consent agenda item. It was removed.

Chair Rofkar stated: "If there is no objection, this item will be adopted." As there were no objections, **item a. was adopted with the correction of the date of the Martin Luther King event changed to January 17 from January 18.**

ACTION

- ✚ **Memorandum of Understanding --WCCFT Collective Bargaining Agreement Extension**
Trustee Steve Adelstein moved that the existing WCCFT Collective Bargaining Agreement in effect from June 17, 2006, through January 31, 2009, be extended in full force and effect from January 31, 2009 through March 25, 2009, or until a new agreement is ratified and signed into effect by both parties, whichever occurs first as provided for in the Memorandum of Understanding dated and signed on January 21, 2009, by parties for the union and the employer. Trustee Sue Cole seconded the motion and **the motion was passed unanimously.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- ✚ President Hiyane-Brown reported on the success of the grants dream team, Michael Shepard, Linda Maier, and Cindy Burnam-Woods for their work on the 1.8 million dollar US Department of Labor nursing grant that was awarded to WCC. The same grants team with the addition of Connie Rockstad, received a \$8,000 software award from the St. Luke's Foundation. Jason Tetzloff was also instrumental in securing a \$10,000 planning grant from Campus Compact for service learning.
- ✚ February 27 is Professional Development Day at WCC and the program was shared with the Board along with an invitation to attend. The President thanked the Professional Development Committee for their work in arranging the program.
- ✚ A Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) interim accreditation visit will be held on Tuesday, April 28, with Dr. Jeff Fox, Chief Academic Officer at the College of Southern Idaho, presiding. Vice President Ron Leatherbarrow will be coordinating the College's response and the visit.
- ✚ President Hiyane-Brown shared the award trophies that the College was awarded by the state and county Combined Fund Drive boards for the 2008 campaign. She thanked the CFD team, in particular, campaign leaders Keri Parriera and Becky Rawlings, for their hard work that took WCC to the forefront of the campaign.
- ✚ The President has joined the Bellingham Mayor's Sustainable Council and attended the first meeting. She will keep the Board apprised of the council's work.
- ✚ Several administrators attended the Northwest Washington Commission on Colleges and Universities Accreditation Commission meeting and workshop in early February. The new standards and new accreditation process was introduced which is comprised of a seven-year process with two-year visits and interim reports. This is perceived to be an improved process. In 2011 Whatcom will have a full evaluation and team visit. Most of the work will be based on the College's Mission Statement.
- ✚ The President continues to meet with individual supporters, including collaborative efforts with WWU such as the 2+2 proposal which is a pathway to WWU for international students; a math and science pipeline; and a possible pilot program on mentoring under a bill that Ms. Cyndie Shepard is spearheading.
- ✚ President Hiyane-Brown asked the trustees for their assistance in speaking to legislators about our importance of our Learning Commons capital budget project, and its absence on the capital projects list in the Governor budget.
- ✚ Four probationary faculty will be presented to the Board in March for tenure review. Tenure books are available for review by trustees in February and early March.

REPORTS

- ✚ **ASWCC – David Burkett, President**
Vice President Trish Onion spoke on behalf of ASWCC President David Burkett regarding items that the executive team is reviewing including fund of the entire student life and diversity position, student fee proposal, and their work with Josh Turpen and Mike Langey for improvements in the Council's efficiencies and leadership.
- ✚ **WCCFT – Bob Riesenber, President**
Dr. Riesenber had nothing new to add except that the union is working with the faculty regarding the re-organization issue to achieve a broad consensus.

- **WFSE** – John O’Neill, Representative
John O’Neill reported that the union has cost saving measures on their website to help with the state’s losses. The union wants the Governor to kill the all-cuts budget and have revenue increases. Also, inaccurate rumors are circulating that need to be addressed. For example, graduates from a community college transferring to a four-year institution will be required to pay the four-year institution for any transferred community college credits.
- **Instruction Office** – Ron Leatherbarrow, Vice President
Vice President Leatherbarrow reported that on March 17, Sherman Alexie will be on campus, presenting at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., both sessions in the Pavilion. Trustees are invited to this free event which is being supported by two grants, one from WCC Foundation and one from the Whatcom County Library.

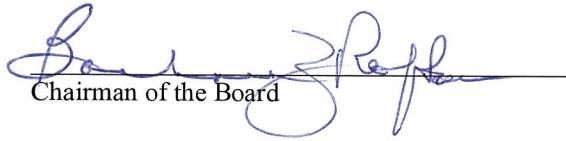
Ron also spoke about the reorganization in Instruction area, providing a brief overview of the anticipated responsibilities that the division chairs will assume. The anticipated four divisions will replace the current 14 instructional department structure, and is a standard model across the nation (95 percent of community colleges across the nation use this four-division model). This proposal is being considered in union negotiations.
- **Administrative Services** – Ray White, Vice President
Vice President Ray White reported that the classified contract negotiating teams may be going back into negotiations for the 2009-11 due to an appeal process. If the courts uphold the decision, the contract will then be void and there will be a need to begin again. We may not have a contract at the end of June, 2010.
- **Educational Services** – Trish Onion, Vice President
Vice President Onion reported that the Enrollment Services area is identifying their core service needs during this budget time. She is working with staff in her areas and across the College to insure that we have a plan to meet those needs, identify areas that can facilitate some cuts, and other areas that require increased services.
- **WCC Foundation** – Anne Bowen, Executive Director; Sue Cole, Trustee
Anne Bowen reported that her marketing and communications area has developed a few talking points for the trustees. She also reported that she is scheduling a joint editorial with the Bellingham Herald for Presidents Kathi Hiyane-Brown and Tom Eckert, from BTC.

DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

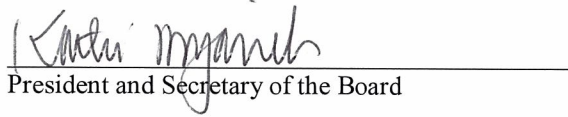
- Trustee Tim Douglas reported on the ACCT in Washington D.C. He met with both of our Washington State senators. Funding levels were clear and appropriate on the federal stimulus package: 1) strong case for Pell and Perkins grant increases; 2) discussion about capital funding—require that proportion of distribution of funds with K-12 would be maintained. The Bill was passed on the last day they were there—State Board working on the distribution.
- Chair Rofkar reported that the presidential evaluation tool and process is being finalized and that a contract will be issued to Robert Fong in the amount of \$2,360 (based on 2003 amount of \$2,000 plus COLA), plus an addition amount for fees such as postage to facilitate the process. Anonymity will be an important element in the process, and the Board plans on being finished by May or June.
- A draft of a Policy Review packet was distributed. Keri has been asked to post the packet online. First section for review is the governance process. Discussions will continue next month.
- Dates for future Board retreats were discussed. Three agenda items were identified: 1) College Mission Statement; 2) budget strategies incorporated in strategic plan; and 3) presidential review. A tentative date for the first retreat was identified for March 18 in the late afternoon-evening. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.


Chairman of the Board

3/9/09
Date


President and Secretary of the Board

3/9/09
Date