

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Laidlaw Center Board Room

Wednesday, November 13, 2019

2:00 p.m.

- ➔ **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Steve Adelstein officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, Rebecca Johnson, John Pedlow and Teresa Taylor constituting a quorum. Others present included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown; Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Luca Lewis, Vice President for Student Services; Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Special Assistant to the President.

ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- ➔ Trustee Bohlke moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the motion was unanimously approved.
- ➔ Chair Adelstein announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda

INTRODUCTIONS

- ➔ **Transforming Lives student**

Chair Adelstein thanked trustees Bohlke and Johnson for reviewing the list of nominees. He asked Trustee Johnson to introduce Jodi Borrelli, Whatcom Community College's (WCC) 2020 Transforming Lives student. She shared that the trustees were impressed by Borrelli's inspirational story and proud of the services the College provides our students.

Borrelli, a recovering drug addict "went from soccer mom and PTA president to living on the streets of Tacoma and making an appearance on Washington's Most Wanted," Borrelli has dramatically turned her life around and credits the staff in the College's Basic Food Education Training (BFET) office with helping open doors she was afraid would never open for her. Borrelli is currently in her 7th quarter, maintaining a 3.94 GPA, and in spring 2020 she will graduate from Whatcom's Substance Use Disorder Program. Her goal is to help other women who, like herself, are determined to improve their lives. Along with her personal essay, her packet includes two glowing letters of reference from the College's faculty and staff.

➔ **Dean for Workforce Education**

Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction, introduced Tonya Wagner, new Dean for Workforce Education. Tonya began her new position on November 4, 2019. She spent the last five years as a Dean, Associate Dean, and Project Director in the Wisconsin Technical College System, where she helped create new programs and new delivery methods for students to access programs. Increasing diversity in workforce training programs is a particular passion. Her doctoral research topic is examining ways to increase the participation of female students in two-year college information technology programs.

Tonya has an undergraduate degree in Comparative Religion and International Studies from the University of Washington and a master's degree focus looking at contemporary religious movements. In addition to her work in education, Tonya spent more than a decade as a leader in marketing, business development, and sales in the creative and specialty coffee industry in Seattle. She grew up in the Pacific Northwest and is excited to return from the Midwest. She lives with her son (Jude, 15), husband (Jed), and cat (Jimmy).

CONSENT AGENDA

➔ **Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the October 10, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting (Attachment A)
- b. Proposed Summer Quarter Graduates (Attachment B)

Chair Adelstein stated: "If there are no objections, these items will be adopted." As there were no objections, these items were adopted.

ACTION ITEM

➔ **Naming of Student Housing (First reading, possible action)**

Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services, introduced Guava Jordan, a member of the facilities naming committee who was present at the board meeting and provided an overview of the work of the committee and the recommendation.

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the recommendation to name the new residence hall, Cedar Hall. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke seconded and the motion unanimously approved.

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

➔ **Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Update – Cori Garcia-Hansen, Director for AHEC; Kate DiNitto, Associate Director for AHEC; Carolyn Watson, Associate Dean for Health Professions**

Ed Harri introduced Carolyn Watson, Associate Dean for Health Programs who then introduced Cori Garcia-Hansen, director and Kate DiNitto, co-director, of the Area Health Education Center for western Washington (AHECWW).

Garcia-Hansen and DiNitto provided an overview and update of the center.

Highlight included:

- The center housed at Whatcom is one of two centers in the state of Washington.
- The purpose of the program is to develop and enhance education and training networks within communities, academic institutions and community based organizations.
- Key strategic priorities included:
 - o Increase diversity among health professionals
 - o Broaden the distribution of the health workforce
 - o Enhance health care quality
 - o Improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and population

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- The College recently received a gold medallion from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for its annual report.
- Based on discussions at the board summer retreat to increase community engagement with small cities and the county, President Kathi has had a number of meetings with community partners.
 - o She met with Christine Perkins, Executive Director for Whatcom County Library System to explore opportunities for partnerships and is looking to better connect with our local tribes.
 - o President Kathi met with Bellingham School District Superintendent Greg Baker. Dr. Baker was interested in exploring locating the district's community transition program on or near the College's campus.
 - o President Kathi along with vice presidents from the College met with Western Washington University (WWU) President Sabah Randawa and WWU provost and vice president for student services. Discussion topics included institutional priorities, capital projects, and a tour of the new multicultural center at WWU.
- Recent college events included: Indigenous Peoples Day, WCC Foundation Donors Appreciation Breakfast DAB, and Annual Prof-tech Advisory Dinner. All events were well attended.
- Eva Shulte was hired as the new Executive Director for Institutional Advancement and will begin her position in January 2020.

- President Kathi asked Luca Lewis, Vice President for Students Services to discuss the College's plan to add a cross-country running program in fall of 2020.
- President Kathi will be attending the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Conference and Expo. She is looking forward to the opportunity to further promote the College's Cybersecurity and STEM programs; learn about best practices in STEM education; and network with other institutions, industry, and government agencies.
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) presented a proposal to state legislature to provide opportunity for any students in dual credit to take courses at no cost. The president's council (WACTC) is reviewing the proposal and discussing impacts.

REPORTS

➔ **ASWCC President – Mario Alem**

- Orca Pantry had 122 visits and served 234 individuals in the month of October.
- Get Out to Vote campaign was a great success with 138 new voter registration. ASWCC student leaders spent 19 hours tabling and encouraging students to register to vote and to complete and turn in their ballots.
- ASWCC hosted a candidate forum with over 50 people in attendance.

➔ **Administrative Services – Nate Langstraat, Vice President**

Langstraat provided an update of two capital projects and shared new renderings and timeline videos.

DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➔ **2019 ACCT Leadership Congress**

- Trustee Taylor shared two interesting sessions she attended one on strengthening relationship between tribes and community colleges and another on the need for continue training needs for workers to increase their technology skills.
- Trustee Pedlow shared that there was a key focus on diversity, equity and inclusion; and it was interesting to hear best practices and update on federal legislations.
- Chair Adelstein attended an accreditation workshop and heard a number of best practices that Whatcom has already implemented.

➔ **ACT Fall Conference**

- Trustee Bohlke expressed that it was a good conference. There were discussions on challenges faced by the two-year system, and a task force is working on refreshing

curriculum for onboarding new trustees.

- Trustees Pedlow and Johnson attended the Legislative Action Committee meeting and shared that the last session was productive and the key focus for our system in the upcoming session is capital funding request.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- ➔ At 3:30 p.m., the meeting was adjourned for a closed Executive Session of the Board for approximately thirty minutes "...review the performance of a public employee..."

Chair Adelstein announced that no action was anticipated. Guest included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Assistant Attorney General Kerena Higgins, and Vice President for Instruction Ed Harri.

- ➔ The Executive Session adjourned at 4:00 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ➔ Chair Adelstein called for public comment. There is no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

- ➔ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Ed Adelstein

Chair of the Board

December 11 2019

Date

Kathi Hiyane-Brown

President and Secretary of the Board

December 11, 2019

Date