

# Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Laidlaw Center Board Room

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Steve Adelstein officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:02 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 Hiyane-Brown; Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Luca Lewis, Vice President for Student Services; Eva Schulte, Executive Director for Institutional Advancement; Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Special Assistant to the President.

## ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

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

## INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

- President Kathi thanked John and Joyce Pedlow for hosting a welcoming reception for Eva Schulte, Executive Director for Institutional Advancement. She then introduced Eva Schulte.

Eva has over 20 years of experience working in the area of community-based investment, impact management and securing major capital for underserved communities.

Before joining Whatcom, Eva served as the vice president for economic opportunity at Travois Inc., a mission-driven business and Certified B Corporation focused exclusively on promoting housing and economic development for American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian communities. Previously, she was the president and CEO of Communities Creating Opportunity, a non-profit organization that works to transform Kansas City communities by bringing people together to build relationships, develop strong leaders, and improve the quality of life. Eva has dedicated her life's work to bringing capital and equity to underserved communities. Her passion, experience and expertise brings strategic foresight to lead the advancement team to expand the College's relationships with business, civic and cultural leaders, and to secure resources to support innovative initiatives and student scholarships.

She received her Master of Arts in Ethics and Social Theory from Graduate Theological Union in

Berkeley California and her Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and Spanish from Central College in Pella, Iowa. She has also received numerous leadership awards for her work in building communities.

Eva relocated to Whatcom County with her spouse Brock, 5-year-old daughter Nicha, and Water Dog Chewie. Their favorite activity is walking and enjoying state and national park adventures.

## STRATEGIC CONVERSATIONS

### ➤ **Residence Life Updates – Terri Thayer, Director for Community Standards and Residence Life, Mo Whalen, Community Standards & Residence Life Coordinator**

Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services, stated that Brian Keeley, Senior Director for Facilities and Operations and Gordon Durham, Operations Manager were not able to attend today's board meeting. Langstraat provided an update on the construction progress and an overview of pricing structure. WCC's student housing is under market prices in comparison to other community and technical colleges' including Everett Community College, Bellevue College, Edmonds Community College, and Shoreline Community College.

Luca Lewis, Vice President for Student Services shared that Student Services have been working to a residence life program in support of students living on campus. He introduced Terri Thayer, Director for Community Standards and Residence Life, and Mo Whalen, Community Standards & Residence Life Coordinator.

Thayer shared a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of residence life program with key focus on enhancing students' experiences on WCC campus.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### ➤ **Consent Agenda**

- a. Minutes of the December 11, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting (Attachment A)
- b. Proposed Fall 2019 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 ITEMS

### ➤ **Proposed revision to Policy 401 Leave or Absences for Reasons of Faith and Conscience Policy (second reading, possible action)**

Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction presented the proposed revision to Policy 401 stating that the proposed language is consistent with current state legislation. He shared that similar language is included in syllabi to provide additional flexibility for faculty.

Chair Adelstein asked trustees Bohlke and Johnson to work with Harri to review the language and present to the board for action at the next meeting.

➤ **Proposed new Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Applied Business Management (first reading, possible action)**

Trustee Taylor moved to approve the Bachelor of Applied Science Degree in Applied Business Management. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the motion was approved unanimously.

➤ **Proposed Board Resolution 20-01 – Waiver of high school graduation requirements (first reading, possible action)**

Trustee Taylor moved to pass a resolution supporting the College's action to apply for a temporary waiver of revised high school graduation requirements for adult high school completion students for the graduation classes of 2019 and 2020, as allowed by RCW28A.230.090(1) (e) (ii) . It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

- The College received \$100,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project titled "Situating Ourselves in the Salish Sea: Using Experiential Learning and Storytelling to inspire Critical Thinking about Place."
- Diane Hacker, one of our English faculty, received the TYCA award for Outstanding program in English
- Ceclia DeLeon, an Adult Basic Education (ABE) student, was recently awarded the National Adult Learner of the Year award from the Coalition on Adult Basic Education. The award comes with a \$10,000 scholarship.
- Area Health Education Center Western Washington (AHECWW) Scholars program
- The College is scheduled to go live with ctcLink in October 2021. The College presented its deliverable in December to the state board and received high scores. Many of our staff will be going through intensive training and the College is expected to meet the projected timeline.
- The Teaching and Learning Center formally opened in January 2020.
- President Kathi highlighted three bills that the Washington Association of Community and

Technical Colleges (WACTC) were paying close attention to including: HB6492 – Workforce Education Investment Act funding to support college grant, guided pathways, and salary increase for nursing and other high demand faculty positions; SB6484 – allowing counties to run levy measures to fund community and technical colleges; and SB6505 – expanding access to dual credit opportunities by eliminating direct costs to students and families.

## REPORTS

### ➤ **ASWCC** –Mario Alem, President

Alem introduced members of the ASWCC Executive Team: Marcella Jennifer, VP for Programming; Junellen Dillard, VP for Campus Advocacy; Surabhi Subedi, VP for Clubs.

Alem shared that the executive team recently participated in Legislative Advocacy Day in Olympia; preparing to submit an application for vote friendly designation; and WCC won the food fight challenge between WCC, Bellingham Technical College, and Skagit Valley College. WCC collected approximately 1004.8 pounds.

### ➤ **WCCFT** – Tommaso Vannelli, President

Vannelli read a letter from WCCFT in support of the AIM program. (see attached letter)

President Kathi stated the College recognized the accomplishment of the program and the benefit to our students. She asked Luca Lewis, Vice President of Student Services, to provide an update on next steps on the program. Lewis shared that the College will apply for a no-cost extension for one year so that we can continue to the program and provide additional time to explore ways to sustain best practices and continue to support students using this model.

## DISCUSSION/TACTC/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

### ➤ **February Board Retreat – date change to March 3, 2020**

The one-day board retreat has been rescheduled to March 3, 2020. It will be held at the Bellingham Golf and Country Club.

### ➤ **ACT Conference/Transforming Lives Dinner**

Trustees Taylor and Bohlke are planning to attend the dinner.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:55 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed Executive Session of the Board for approximately thirty minutes to review the performance of a public employee... and ...as provided in RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a), to discuss collective bargaining...and ...to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to Litigation or legal risks of a proposed action or current practice that the agency has identified when public discussion of the litigation.

At Chair Adelstein announced that action may be anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, vice presidents Ed Harri and Nate Langstraat, and Assistant Attorney General Kerena Higgins.

- The Executive Session adjourned at 4:25 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:25 p.m.

## ACTION ITEMS

- Trustee Johnson moved to approve the contract language related to nurse educators' salary improvements in the Agreement by and between The Board of Trustees of Whatcom Community College and Whatcom Community College Federation of Teachers. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke and the motion was approved unanimously.
- Trustee Pedlow moved to approve Faculty Emeritus status for David Kehe. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the motion was approved unanimously.

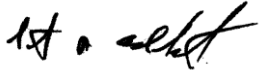
## PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Adelstein called for public comment.
- Nadine Hensley, Title II Student Completion Specialist/Manager addressed the board. She commented on the importance and benefits of AIM program to first generations and marginalized students. She stated that there were significant challenges identified in the Title III grant submission:
  - Disadvantaged students from BTC and WCC have low retention, graduation, and transfer rates
  - Failure to identify individual student barriers to success and implement appropriate interventions jeopardizes student retention and completion
  - Poor student retention, progression and completion rates reduces state support and tuition and fee revenue and jeopardizes the fiscal stability of both colleges

The AIM program funded by the Title III grant had made significant impact in overcoming these challenges and discontinuing the program will negatively impact student retention rates.

## ADJOURNMENT

➤ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.



---

Chair of the Board

March 18, 2020

---

Date



---

President and Secretary of the Board

March 18, 2020

---

Date

January 31, 2020

Dear President's Cabinet and Board of Trustees,

The focus of this letter is the AIM program and its future at Whatcom Community College. While we trust that the college is creating a plan to continue supporting our most disadvantaged students, the faculty union would like to take this moment to express our clear support for AIM and to voice concerns for the absolute dissolving of such an important and successful program.

We know that the AIM program was “created specifically to serve students with limited income, students with disabilities, students who would benefit from additional academic support, students of color, and/or students who will be the first in their families to graduate with a bachelor's degree.” We also know that there are system wide priorities related to these services, such as the SBCTC goal of “increasing student completions of certificates and degrees while closing completion equity gaps.” We also think about our own established Whatcom Community College Equity goals such as indicator 3.1 in the strategic plan, to “ensure all students have access to campus resources that support educational success.” These systemic goals remind us that we need to focus on equity when we think of student success.

The data on the success of the AIM program is crystal clear. From the AIR site and from data compiled for our accreditation report, “we know AIM has shown positive results, with data indicating participants have higher retention rates than other students, both traditionally underserved and advantaged.” We also know that “after three years of implementation, AIM students now experience significantly higher retention rates. For example, new students enrolled in AIM have a fall-to-fall retention rate 10 percentage points higher than similar students not enrolled in AIM.”

Given the priorities of our institution and the proven coaching strategy that AIM utilizes, the faculty union hopes that WCC is making and taking steps to ensure that our most disadvantaged students continue to get the support they need and that we know works. In this vein, we hope that the Board of Trustees and college leadership are striving to find ways to institutionalize AIM programing, practices and staff.

Thank you for your continued attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

WCCFT Members