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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Pavilion 201

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- ➔ **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Wendy Bohlke officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, and John Pedlow, constituting a quorum. Teresa Taylor was absent. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Barry Robinson, Vice President for Instruction; Kerri Holferty, Acting Vice President for Student Services; Julie Nicholl, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

➔ Consent Agenda

Minutes of the December 14, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting.

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

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION

- **Support Services for students - program Updates**
 - **Residence Life – Terri Thayer, Director for Community Standards & Residence Life**
 - **Learning Center - Jason Babcock, Director for Learning Center**
 - **Athletics – Rob Pedicone, Director for Athletics & Recreation**

President Kathi introduced Terri Thayer, Director for Community Standards and Residence Life. She also thanked Thayer for serving as the Interim College Diversity Equity Inclusion Officer in the past two years and her continued commitment to support equity initiatives.

Thayer introduced the Residence Life team: Mo Whalen, Josh Davis, Kelli Miller, Chelsea Van Dyke, and the resident advisors: Max Hinrichs, Daniel Holmes, Lowell Theorner, Ruby Kisen, Naomi Petalwood and Emma Fankhauser (not all were available to attend the board meeting).

Cedar Hall Occupancy:

- Fall quarter occupancy - closed to 200 students.
- Winter quarter occupancy – 170 students, average age 19-20, including 27 athletes and 72 international students
- Factors impacting occupancy included:
 - The global economy - many students from Japan had to return home.
 - Students choosing to move out and share a rental house with other students
 - A strict no alcohol or drugs policy.

Thayer shared that the Residence Life team’s priority is building community. The team continues to dive into equity work to provide an inclusive living environment for residence.

Thayer introduced Ruby Kisen, a resident advisor. Kisen shared her experience living in Cedar Hall and working with students. She shared that she regularly creates and implements new programming to engage and support residents to further connections.

President Kathi introduced Jason Babcock, Director for Learning Center

Babcock shared that the center has fantastic staff including student tutors. The center began providing extended hours during the pandemic and have continued with the extended hours post-pandemic. He shared that students are shifting away from zoom to in-person. The Writing Center assisted 1,000 students with 5% accessing via zoom compared to 20% previously. Babcock shared that with fewer faculty and staff on campus, it is challenging to support students social and academic needs.

Learning Center usage:

1,200 fall this year vs 1,000 fall last year

530 unique users this year vs 422 unique users last year

Babcock introduced Cierra Lovelace, a second-year student and a tutor at the Learning Center. Lovelace shared that she was looking to get involved on campus after experiencing isolation during the pandemic. She became a tutor and participated in peer mentoring program and student clubs. She shared that she was excited to become more involved and found her experiences rewarding.

President Kathi introduced Rob Pedicone, Director for Athletics and Recreation. Pedicone shared a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of college athletics.

Highlights included:

- 2022-23 Goals – culture development, community engagement, on-campus relationship building and academic success.
- Overview of soccer, cross country, volleyball, basketball
- Achievements and challenges

Pedicone introduced Simon Woedl, student athlete, who shared his experience at WCC. He commented on great support he received from coaches and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Bohlke called for public comment. She announced a 15-minute public comment period with 2 minutes allocated to each person.
- There was no public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Kathi shared that enrollment appears to be flat which continues to present a challenge for the College. Presidents in the two-year system participated in a survey poll, colleges in metro areas have experienced 4-5% increase in enrollment.
- President Kathi shared that Nate Langstraat, Vice President of Administrative Services, will be preparing a short budget update at the next meeting.
- WCC Foundation received noticed that BTC and WCC have been awarded \$1,000,000 each from William and Bonita Waters, for endowed scholarships for nursing program at WCC and fisheries program at BTC.
- Kulshan Community Media /KMRE will be headquartered on WCC campus. This new partnership between WCC and KMRE will create new opportunities for WCC students. KMRE will become a learning lab where students and community members will receive hands-on training in radio broadcasting, podcasting, and news and information reporting. Working in partnership with the WCC journalism department will enable KMRE to expand local news and information coverage.
- WCC is working with Bellingham School District to provide Community Transitions students

access and interactions at WCC. Additional information will be presented to the board at the next board meeting.

- Strategic Planning Core Team continued to meet and making good progress. The team is working to draft strategic objectives. Sarah Simpson has been meeting with external stakeholders to solicit input. The team will review those input and incorporate into the draft. The morning of the Professional Development Day on February 21, 2023 will be dedicated to strategic planning to engage campus in reviewing the draft and providing feedback.
- Legislative advocacy – staff have scheduled meetings with legislators and will be working on talking points for the College’s capital project.
- Winter Employee Luncheon is scheduled on January 19, 2023.

REPORTS

- ASWCC – Josha Norton, president
Norton noted that there has been a transitional shift in ASWCC events attendance. The number of students attending have increased significantly.
- Student Services – Kerri Holferty, Acting Vice President
Holferty shared the POD Leaders phone campaign results:
 - Over 400 students who were contacted completed enrollment
 - Running start students were up, 793 students in comparison to 783 students last quarter

She also shared that TRIO Student Support Services took 10 students to visit UW Bothell campus to learn about the transfer process. The TRIO Upward Bound program hosted 11 students from Mt. Baker and Ferndale on campus to learn about financial aid.

DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

- **ACT Annual Conference and Transforming Lives Award Dinner**
Chair Bolke, trustees Johnson, Fairchild, and Pedlow along with President Kathi will be attending the conference and the award dinner in Olympia, WA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:25 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 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 Bohlke announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice President Nate Langstraat, Vice President, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Julie Nicoll.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

➤ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.



2/15/2023

Chair of the Board

Date



2/15/2023

President and Secretary of the Board

Date