

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Laidlaw 143

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- ➔ **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Wendy Bohlke officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Jeff Fairchild, Rebecca Johnson, John Pedlow and Teresa Taylor, constituting a quorum. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Barry Robinson, Vice President for Instruction; James Siegel, Vice President for Student Services; Julie Nicoll, 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 Taylor 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 February 15, 2023 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 2:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for 15 minutes to evaluate the qualification of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee...

Chair Bohlke announced that action was anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice President Barry Robinson, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Julie Nicoll.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 2:20 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

➤ **Tenure Consideration**

Chair Bohlke thanked the probationer and probation review committee members for their extraordinary work. She shared that she was proud to serve as a trustee at an institution with such talented faculty. She was pleased that professional development continued to be a priority at WCC.

Trustee Johnson moved to award tenure to Saeed Niyati. It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the motion was approved unanimously.

BREAK

- The meeting was adjourned for a break at 2:23 p.m.
- The meeting reconvened into open session at 2:40 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Bohlke called for public comment. She announced a 15-minute public comment period with 2 minutes allocated to each person.
- Joshua Norton shared comment regarding continuing education and license renewal for nursing faculty.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Kathi extended her congratulations to Saeed Niyati and thanked members of the tenure committee for their work and support of the Niyati.
- President Kathi asked Barry Robinson, Vice President for Instruction, to provide an enrollment update. Robinson shared that enrollment has improved: Spring 2023- 803 FTE compared to Spring 2022 - 372 FTE.
- On Professional Development Day, Stephen Shields, strategic planning consultant, and the Strategic Planning Core Team along with Cabinet members facilitated an interactive session for faculty and staff to provide feedback on three areas: vision, objectives and institutional readiness to achieve the vision and objectives. All feedback were collected at the end of the session and being reviewed by Core Team members to further refine the draft vision and strategic objectives. Chair Bohlke shared that she attended one hour of the session and appreciated the engagement of faculty and staff.
- President Kathi shared the names of recipients of the two excellence awards announced at Professional Development Day.
 - Robin Preisinger, Director for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Interim Director for Transitional Learning Program, received this year's Judy Hoover Excellence Award. Preisinger has been at Whatcom for over twenty plus years and has made tremendous contributions to our students and our college. Examples of her contributions included rewriting policies during the pandemic, navigating the pandemic by helping the ESOL program pivot to an online testing and placement processes.
 - Chris Bouchard, Assistant Director for Financial Aid, received this year's Fran Hudson Classified Excellence Award. Bouchard has been at Whatcom for over 30 years. Her leadership and commitment to the WCC's mission have greatly benefited our students and campus community. She was instrumental in assisting with the distribution of millions of dollars in HEERF funds to students and ctLink implementation.
- President Kathi shared a few upcoming events:
 - 42nd District Legislative Townhall – March 18th at Ferndale High School
 - Winter Nursing Pinning Ceremony – March 23rd at Heiner Theater
 - President's Circle – April 21st at Phyllis and Charles Self Learning Commons

REPORTS

➤ WCCFT - Anna Wolff, President

Wolff shared that members of faculty union met with 40th and 42nd legislators and/or their staff with the exception of Representative Debra Lekanoff office.

DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➤ ACT Spring Conference – May 15-16, 2023

Chair Bohlke encouraged all members of the board to attend the ACT Spring Conference in Walla Walla, WA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for fifty - five minutes as provided in RCW 42.31.110, to discuss collective bargaining and a Executive Session immediately after the closed session, to evaluate the qualification 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 Bohlke announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice Presidents Nate Langstraat and Barry Robinson, Executive Director Rafeeka Kloke and Assistant Attorney General Julie Nicoll and Drew Nishiyama.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 4:10 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.



4/12/2023

Chair of the Board

Date



4/12/2023

President and Secretary of the Board

Date

