

# Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Laidlaw 143

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

2:00 p.m.

- ➔ **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Teresa Taylor 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, and Wendy Bohlke, constituting a quorum. Trustee John Pedlow was absent. Others present included President Hiyane-Brown; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Steven Thomas, Interim Vice President for Instruction; James Siegel, Vice President for Student Services; Julianna deHaan Rice, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

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

## INTRODUCTIONS

- ➔ The following new employees were introduced:
- Michele Robinson, Senior Director of NCyTE
  - Dr. Steven Thomas, Interim Vice President for Instruction
  - Deborah DeWees, Interim Executive Director for the Foundation
  - Elizabeth Johnson, Dean for Health Professions and SEM
  - Adam Beals, Interim Dean for Enrollment Management

- President Kathi invited James Siegel, Vice President for Student Services to introduce the following members of ASWCC Executive Board:
  - Alaina Hirsch, President
  - Krystan Andreason, Vice President for Campus Advocacy
  - Bella Nugyen, Vice President for Operations

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### ➤ **Consent Agenda**

Minutes of August 29-30, 2023 Board of Trustees Retreat and WCC Graduates Spring and Summer 2023.

Chair Taylor stated: "If there are no objections, items in the consent agenda will be adopted." As there was no objection, these items were adopted.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Chair Taylor called for public comment. There was no public comment.

## **STRATEGIC CONVERSATION**

### ➤ **Draft 2023-27 WCC Strategic Plan Update**

President Kathi shared that there were a number of comments submitted through the strategic planning survey and the listening sessions during Opening Week. The Strategic Planning Core Team will review the comments and a final draft of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board at the November meeting for board action.

## **ACTION ITEM**

### ➤ **Proposed Ground Lease with Bellingham Public School – Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services**

Langstraat shared a PowerPoint presentation with an update on a few changes to the ground lease with Bellingham Public School.

Trustee Fairchild moved to approve the ground lease with Bellingham Public School. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson. The motion was approved.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Kathi shared that the Donor Appreciation Breakfast was well attended. Donors heard from four student scholarship recipients.
- President Kathi asked James Siegel, VP for Student Services, to share an enrollment update. Siegel shared that enrollment is up 6% this fall quarter compared to the last. Running start enrollment was up 17%.
- President Kathi shared Cyberpsychology is an emerging field focusing on the connection between psychology and the human-technology connection. Applying the science of psychology to cybersecurity helps cybersecurity professions to design security with people in mind.
- President Kathi will be participating in a fundraiser event for the Bellingham Music Festival along with presidents from WWU, BTC and Northwest Indian College on October 19, 2023.
- Whatcom Community Foundation is hosting a Community Conversation with US Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the White House Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) on WCC campus on October 23, 2023. The purpose of the event is for Kiran Ahuja, Director of OPM and See Yew Mo, Assistant Director of ONCD to engage students and community leaders in how to best support a diverse and distributed workforce.

## REPORT

- **ASWCC** - Alaina Hirsch, President  
Hirsch highlighted the Executive board's work with the League of Women voters.

## DISCUSSION/ITEMS OF THE BOARD

- **Proposed 2024 Board of Trustees Meeting schedule**  
Chair Taylor asked members of the board to review the proposed schedule and provide feedback to Rafeeka Kloke prior to the November board meeting.
- **ACCT Leadership Congress**  
Chair Taylor shared that her along with President Kathi, Choi Holiday, and Rodney Lee presented at the ACCT Leadership Congress. The State Board has asked them to present again at the State in Spring.  
Chair Taylor congratulated Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President for receiving the Pacific Region Professional Board Staff Member Award the conference.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 2:50 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed session of the Board for thirty minutes as provided in RCW 42.31.110, to discuss collective bargaining and a Executive Session immediately after the closed session... to evaluate the qualifications 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 Taylor announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice Presidents Nate Langstraat, and Assistant Attorney General Juliana deHaan Rice.

The Executive Session was extended for an additional thirty minutes at 3:20 p.m.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:50 p.m.

## ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



11/8/2023

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Chair of the Board

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Date



11/8/2023

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President and Secretary of the Board

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Date