

Whatcom

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Steve Adelstein officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:01 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; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services; Ed Harri, Vice President for Instruction; 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 Bohlke moved to accept the agenda with one change: move Public Comment before Executive Session. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the **motion was approved.**
- Chair Adelstein announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

➤ Consent Agenda

- a. Minutes of the May 13, 2020 Board of Trustees Meeting (Attachment A)

Chair Adelstein stated: "If there are no objections, this will be adopted." As there were no objections, **this item was adopted.**

➤ President's Report

- President Kathi announced the recipients of this year's President Award and Laidlaw Award. Mario Alem is this year's President Award recipient. Alem is noted for his initiative and drive, his compassion and ability to work within a team dynamic. Most recently, he worked with student leaders and the WCC Foundation to provide over \$16,000 to support student emergency funding and the orca food pantry. He accomplished all of these things while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Maria Guadalupe Hernandez is this year's recipient of the Laidlaw Award this year in recognition of her record of service and personal growth and

development. Hernandez began her education journey at Whatcom taking English as second level classes after coming to the United States from Mexico 25 years ago. In 2016, she returned to the College to earn a degree. Hernandez worked with English and writing faculty to identify where our educational system and practices may leave students like her behind, and advocated for culturally relevant pedagogy. She used her experiences in overcoming barriers to achieve academic success to help others.

- This year's Faculty Excellence Award recipients are Eric Davishahl, full-time faculty and Beth Tyne, Adjunct faculty. These two colleagues epitomize the commitment to equity, student success, and collaboration that Whatcom values.

Eric Davishahl has been instrumental in the growth and development of our engineering program. Davishahl's excellence in teaching, service, and his commitment to professional growth for the benefit of Whatcom's students demonstrate why he is so deserving of this award.

Beth Tyne have been working for WCC since 1988. She has helped countless students finish their degrees and secure meaningful learning experiences through her facilitation of learning contracts and prior learning assessment. Tyne takes the time with each student to ensure they have what they need in terms of clarity and support to be successful. One student wrote, "[Tyne] made me feel heard, empowered, and successful."

- Re-entry planning for campus operations and services continues. A draft plan will be shared with key stakeholders including the Whatcom County Health Department.
- Leadership continues to work on budget reductions to address an anticipated 15% budget shortfall for 2020-2021.
- A decision from the NW Athletic Conference was expected on June 15, 2020 regarding sport schedules for the upcoming year.
- The Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges (WACTC) adopted two resolutions denouncing anti-Asian discrimination and violence against Black Americans. WACTC's Equity Commission is developing an action plan in support of our equity and social justice issues.

ACTION ITEMS

➔ Proposed 2020-21 S&A Budget – Mario Alem ASWCC President (first reading, possible action)

Mario Alem, ASWCC President, shared a PowerPoint Presentation with the proposed 2020-21 S&A budget.

Trustee Bohlke moved to approve the 2020-21 S&A Budget. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the motion was approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➤ Election of Officers

Trustee Bohlke moved to nominate Trustees Johnson to serve as board chair for the 2020-21 academic year. It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Pedlow moved to nominate Trustee Bohlke to serve as vice chair for the 2020-21 academic year. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the motion was approved unanimously.

➤ Board of Trustees Retreat

Planning is underway for the retreat. Chair Adelstein asked board members to send agenda items to President Kathi and Rafeeka Kloke.

➤ Proposed Board Resolution 2020-03 - Denouncing Racism in support of students, faculty, staff, communities of color, and the Whatcom County community

Chair Adelstein thanked Trustee Johnson for preparing the Board Resolution. Trustee Taylor suggested adding Indigenous peoples.

Trustee Pedlow moved to approve Board Resolution 2020-03 with the addition of Indigenous peoples be inserted. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke and the motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

➤ Chair Adelstein called for public comment.

- 1) Dan Andreason, WSFE president, thanked the Board for passing the resolution. Bargaining is in process at the state level and he asked the board to support two items:
1) The union's request to continue the terms of the existing contract for the next biennium. 2) Consider furloughs before layoffs as a budget saving measure.
- 2) Suneeta Eisenberg asked the board to encourage support of Black Lives Matter, by placing it on the College's public website homepage.
- 3) Michelle McIlvory shared that she attended a workshop with 500 educators and 5 black gentlemen shared the words "I believe in you"; and how much those words meant to them. The College should convey those words to our diverse student population. Additional engagement on campus and discussion about fighting racism.
- 4) Leslie Brendible asked that statements be posted on the College's website to demonstrate the College cares about our student, faculty and staff of color.

- 5) June Dillard thanked the board for passing the resolution and agreed that it should include other unrepresented communities. She would like the College to share its action plan on combating racism.
- 6) Dave Knapp shared that WCC is the only college in the region that had not posted a statement on its website. Both WWU and BTC have posted statements on Black Lives Matter.
- 7) Nadine Hensley extended her condolences to Trustee Taylor for the passing of Lummi Chief Bill James. She hopes that the College will take action to address systemic racism. To date, there is no solid plan to institutionalize the AIM program.
- 8) Michael Singletary thanked the board for passing the resolution. He plans to incorporate some of President Kathi's message to campus on the registration webpage.
- 9) Guava Jordan said she appreciated the resolution and encouraged the revision of the resolution to include Black, Indigenous and people of color.
- 10) Surabhi Subedi said students are overwhelmed and do not feel comfortable reaching out to faculty and staff. It would be nice for faculty and staff to reach out to students of color to show they care.
- 11) Ines Poblet suggested having a clear statement of Black Lives Matter on the College website. She referenced keynote speaker Erin Jones who presented at the Student Leading Change conference, 3 steps: 1) Unpack your identity 2) Who are you serving? Who is silent and not being served? 3) Take action to change the system. She stated she is interested in being part of the third step, taking action.
- 12) Amy Anderson expressed appreciation for the resolution but would like to see it drive action. She asked the trustees to hold the institution accountable and asked them to help the institution to be the first in something. She also noted the photo on our website showed a blonde haired female.

BREAK

- The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute break at 4:00 p.m.
- The meeting reconvened into open session at 4:05 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 4:05 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for a closed Executive Session of the Board for approximately twenty 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 was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, Vice President 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.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.



September 23, 2020

Chair of the Board

Date



September 23, 2020

President and Secretary of the Board

Date