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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

2:00 p.m.

- **CALL TO ORDER** Chair Rebecca Johnson officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, Steve Adelstein, 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; Terri Thayer, Interim College Equity Officer; 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 additional agenda item, “Discussion of the Board”. It was seconded by Trustee Pedlow and the **motion was approved**.
- Chair Johnson announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Chair Johnson called for public comment.
- Kim Reeves, faculty member, shared she has held different union leadership positions during her tenure at WCC. She expressed her disappointment of the board’s response to the union letter shared during public comment at the November 2020 Board of Trustees meeting. She emphasized the critical need to increase faculty salaries, noting that WCC faculty base salaries were below those of Bellingham Technical College and Skagit Valley College.
- Anna Wolff, faculty member and member of union executive committee, shared her concern with the Governor’s proposed budget which included mandated furlough days and elimination of COLAs. She requested that Board/college legislative strategies be shared.
- Tommaso Vannelli, faculty member and union president, acknowledged receipt of the Board’s letter dated December 31, 2020. He shared that the change in meeting procedure due to shift to virtual meetings does not allow for union representative to report to the board during the

meeting. He offered clarification of the faculty union letter and comments to the board. “It was not a critique of the President’s performance but a response to the process and timing of the decision.” He shared that the board response to the faculty union letter did not address their questions.

- Amy Anderson, Director for K-12 Partnership, stated she stands in solidarity with the faculty.
- Ines Poblet, faculty member and secretary of faculty union, shared that many faculty present at the meeting might not feel comfortable speaking and she was there to represent them.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Consent Agenda

Minutes of the December 16, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting.

Chair Johnson stated: “If there are no objections, this will be adopted.” As there were no objections, this item was adopted.

- **Enrollment Update – Carla Gelwicks, Dean for Instruction, David Knapp, Director for Academic Advising and Career Services, and Nic Hostsetter, Director for Student Success and Retention**

Gelwicks shared a PowerPoint presentation with data highlights and two strategic enrollment management strategies: assigning specific advisors to students and new virtual front desk services. Knapp provided an overview of building advising capacity to serve students and Hostsetter provided an overview of the new virtual front desk.

DISCUSSION OF THE BOARD

- ACCT Legislative Summit 2021
Board members were asked to inform Rafeeka Kloke if they would like to register for the conference.
- Chair Johnson asked that the letter dated December 31, 2020 sent by the Board to the faculty union be included in the minutes for today’s meeting as the letter was referenced during public comment.

BREAK

- The meeting was adjourned for a five-minute break at 2:55 p.m.
- The meeting reconvened into open session at 3:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- At 3:00 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.

Chair Johnson announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Kathi Hiyane-Brown, vice presidents Ed Harri and Nate Langstraat, and Assistant Attorney General Kerena Higgins.

At 3:30 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for another 30 minutes.

At 4:05 p.m. the Executive Session was extended for another 10 minutes

The Executive Session adjourned at 4:15 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 4:15 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.



2/17/2021

Chair of the Board

Date



2/17/2021

President and Secretary of the Board

Date