



Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

February 25, 2020

Trustees Attending:

Monica Alexander
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg (by phone)
Irene Gonzales (by phone)
David Nicandri (by phone)
Miguel Pérez-Gibson
Ed Zuckerman (by phone)

Absent: Lucera Cox

Staff Present:

George Bridges, President
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation

Others Present:

Melinda Bratsch-Horsager, Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative to the Board of Trustees
Cathy Flora, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees
Paul Przybylowicz, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Chair Karen Fraser called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in Room 3201 of the College's Daniel J. Evans Hall. A quorum was present.

Public comment

Chair Karen Fraser called for public comment.

Evergreen student, GSU member, and GSU Disability Representative Eric Duvall-Winscher addressed the Board on risk aversion. Eric shared "An Essay to the Board of Trustees" with the Board. Eric reiterated a previous recommendation that the Board not let risk deter the College from trying new and innovative solutions. In addition, Eric encouraged the Trustees to become active in the Evergreen community by actively interacting and getting to know the students.

Evergreen student and Geoduck Student Union (GSU) member Cody Cook addressed the Board regarding sustainability on campus. Cody shared ideas on how the Trustees could become engaged with the campus in an effort to improve trust between students, administration, and Trustees. Suggestions included attending the Evergreen Climate Symposium May 16, 2020 and Disability Justice Day on May 8, 2020. Cody also recommended that the Trustees consider engaging with students in informal spaces to help break the culture of distrust and build solutions together.

Chair Fraser thanked them for attending the meeting and presenting to the Board.

Succession process

Chair Karen Fraser announced that President George Bridges has informed her of his desire to retire from the presidency and return to teaching. He will conclude his tenure as President at the end of his current contract June 30, 2021. She indicated that there would be a lot of work ahead for the Board and the College community as we begin this major transition.

Chair Fraser thanked President Bridges and recognized him for significant work including: making significant advance in our academic programs and supporting the pathways; support for students including raising significant funds for scholarships; creating a more equitable and inclusive campus; and laying the foundation for a major fundraising campaign.

Chair Fraser noted that the Board looks forward to continuing the work with him and campus community over the next year to enhance the College while we conduct a national search for the next president. She noted that the selection of a new president is a lengthy, complex process that normally takes up to a year. Beginning now will allow the Board to proceed thoughtfully and carefully. This will require involvement by the Board and the entire Evergreen community.

Motion Trustee Gonzales moved that the Board direct the Executive Committee to work with
2020-06 the executive leadership at the College to identify best practices for presidential search
 processes for consideration by the Board at its March meeting. The motion was
 seconded by Trustee Goldberg and passed on a voice vote.

The Trustees briefly discussed different processes, including the dynamics of open searches.

Trustee Fred Goldberg noted that President George Bridges has always expressed a desire to teach and this is a natural step. Trustee Goldberg honors his choice. Trustee David Nicandri thanked Chair Karen Fraser and commend her on the appropriateness of her comments on the President's contributions. He also commended the work of the Provost, Deans, and faculty on the work done on academic visioning and pathways. Trustee Nicandri thanked President Bridges for his contributions.

Commendation on academic visioning

Chair Karen Fraser read the proposed letter of commendation on academic visioning and asked the Board for feedback:

Dear Evergreen State College community members,

We wish to convey to you our great appreciation for the important, ambitious, and visionary work so many of you on campus are engaging in to develop thoughtful proposals for future academic programs at the College.

Your work is vital to the College's future.

Thank you to each of you for your commitment, creativity, hard work, and time to help fashion Evergreen's future.

We want to ensure that the highly regarded, high quality Evergreen education is accessible and relevant for students today and tomorrow while preserving key values and components of Evergreen's culture and curricular approach.

We look forward with eagerness to the results of your research and deliberations.

Again, thank you to each of you who are participating.

Sincerely,

The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees

Karen Fraser, Chair

Motion Trustee Goldberg moved to approve the letter of commendation on academic
2020-07 visioning. The motion was seconded by Trustee Pérez-Gibson and passed on a voice
vote.

The Board will share the letter of commendation on academic visioning with the Evergreen community.

Concluding Remarks

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Irene Gonzales, Secretary