

Trustees Attending: Monica Alexander
Lucera Cox
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
David Nicandri
Miguel Pérez-Gibson
Ed Zuckerman

Staff Present: George Bridges, President
Jennifer Drake, Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Eric Pedersen, Chief Enrollment Officer
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
Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General
Paul Przybylowicz, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

In accordance with Governor Inslee's Proclamation 20-28, and to curtail the spread of COVID-19 this meeting took place via Zoom. All participated remotely.

Chair Karen Fraser called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser reported that the main purpose of today's meeting is to continue the strategic planning discussion.

President's report and agenda overview

President George Bridges reported that systemic change is necessary, and we need to continue to think about ways to change our practices and policies that may be creating barriers for students in minority populations. Our new model will emphasize equity, social justice, and structural support.

President Bridges presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

Public Comment

Chair Karen Fraser called for public comment.

Student Finley Newell addressed the Board. She addressed concerns regarding a blue flag in the police department's lobby. The student noted the flag has since been taken down but does not reflect an equity framework. She offered alternatives to policing strategies including social workers and EMTs.

Staff member Officer Elliot Edmunds addressed the Board and shared concerns regarding mistreatment from the campus community who see his uniform as being more important than his identity as a Black man. He noted that 47% of the campus police are people of color- a larger percentage than administration, faculty, and the student body- and that the Evergreen police force is more diverse than the national average. He stated that the blue flag was the only symbol of support for campus police. The flag is rooted in service to the community, rather than a perceived blue lives matter symbol. Officer Edmunds asked for a public declaration and recognition that Evergreen police are different than violent officers around the country.

Commencement update

Chief Enrollment Officer Eric Pedersen provided an overview of plans for a virtual commencement. The ceremony will start on June 12, 2020 at approximately 1:05pm, ending at 3:15pm. Content for the graduation ceremony will be finalized on June 9, 2020 and will remain posted on the website after the live streaming concludes so the graduates and families may view the ceremony on demand.

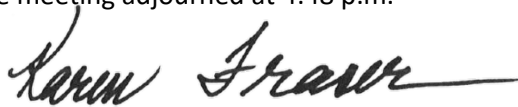
The Board discussed the Black Lives Matter Seattle chapter call for a state-wide general strike on Friday, June 12, 2020 that conflicts with the planned commencement ceremony. Trustee Ed Zuckerman suggested that the New York Times op-ed article published today, which identifies specific readings and videos to elevate understanding and awareness of systemic racism, would be worth reading.

Vision and academic direction discussion

Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life Jennifer Drake presented the conceptual plan for Evergreen's new academic direction that the faculty approved at their last meeting. The plan includes a proposed name change to Evergreen University, which would require legislative action to adopt. The plan also includes the development of 5 interdisciplinary schools and 1 school for graduate and professional studies. The model includes wrap-around advising; capstone experiences; first-year programs; and development and implementation of coaching for students, including revised transcripts and e-portfolios. Additional curricular design elements include creating levels of study; implementing certificates and credentials; integrating full- and part-time, online and hybrid programs; and community connections and partnerships with technical colleges. The inclusion of a racial equity statement in the new academic direction model was strongly supported.

Provost Drake indicated that feasibility assessment of the model and implementation planning will occur in the summer, during which impact on enrollment will be estimated and information will be gathered to establish goals in the coming years.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Irene Gonzales, Secretary