

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

**Staff Present:** Jadon Berry, Director of New Student Programs  
George Bridges, President  
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations  
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  
Jeremy Mohn, Director of Government Relations  
Cynthia Kennedy, First Year Experience (FYE) Faculty Fellow  
Trevor Speller, Academic Dean  
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.

At the request of Chair Karen Fraser, Vice-Chair Fred Goldberg chaired the May 1, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees. Vice Chair Goldberg called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m.

#### **Chair's opening remarks**

Board Chair Karen Fraser gave a short update on the presidential search, specifically, the request for proposals for a consulting firm. Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees will share the candidate evaluation form with all trustees.

#### **President's report and agenda overview**

President George Bridges reported that select groups continue working on campus to keep operations running and many are providing education and assistance to their campus partners. Students have been provided with technology, grants, financial aid and remote advising services.

President Bridges then presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

President Bridges called on Director of New Student Programs Jadon Berry, First Year Experience (FYE) Faculty Fellow Cynthia Kennedy, and Academic Dean Trevor Speller to provide an update of FYE Greener Foundations. Director Berry, Faculty Fellow Kennedy, and Dean Speller collaborated with many faculty and staff to create Greener Foundations designed to retain our first-time first-year students. Fall-to-spring retention in Greener Foundations has been very successful – 11% higher than average. Following this year's pilot, all first-year students next year will have access to the program.

The Trustees requested disaggregated data on Greener Foundations at the next meeting.

### **Public Comment**

Vice Chair Fred Goldberg called for public comment. Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris called for MPA Tribal cohort student Denbigh Perry, who was not present to provide public comment.

### **Government relations**

Director of Government Relations Jeremy Mohn presented a legislative update. Director Mohn congratulated those involved in the work of Greener Foundations, noting that program funding came primarily from the legislature.

Evergreen has begun distributing funding from the Federal CARES act including emergency grants to students. Additional CARES funding will assist in offsetting the institution's financial losses during the pandemic and has not yet been distributed to institutions. Additionally, Evergreen has co-signed a letter addressed to Senator Patty Murray to recognize economic needs of higher education institutions.

Chair Karen Fraser, President George Bridges, and Director Mohn met with our local state legislative delegation to provide updates, budget, and enrollment predictions. OFM is working on an advisory forecast to provide policymakers with information on the economic impact of COVID-19. Through the Council of Presidents, the presidents of public four-year institutions in Washington will offer guidance to the Governor and legislators in a letter of guiding principles suggesting how the sector would prefer to implement potential budget reductions. Presidents of Washington's four-year institutions are also working collaboratively on developing guidelines for returning to normal operations.

### **Budget**

Vice President for Finance and Operations John Carmichael reported the on two recent meetings of the finance and budget committee, in which trustees and staff discussed COVID-19's financial impact on the college.

The direct costs associated with COVID-19 have been relatively minor, but lost revenue has been significant. Spring enrollment is 4% less than anticipated. Auxiliaries, including housing and dining as well as conferences, childcare, bookstore and parking services, have also experienced revenue losses, which in total are around \$4 million. Risk assessment and management will continue to be necessary as future losses due to enrollment and reduction in state support are possible.

Staff are working to prepare a spending plan to reduce operating budget spending by 10% next year. Additional budget action will likely be necessary as state funding levels and fall enrollment levels become known with more certainty.

Vice President Carmichael discussed College reserves, including the Board reserve, the summer school reserve fund, and the housing reserve. The operating budget will not contribute to the operating reserve as we project expenses exceeding revenue in the current fiscal year.

Trustees recommended providing notice to the Board regarding significant spending from reserves. Trustees also highlighted the importance of the partnership with the Foundation during the next phase.

**Action item: Summer tuition**

A recommendation was made to approve a temporary modification for assessing summer 2020 tuition. A flat tuition rate would provide a break for students who take more than 10 credits. This is a one year pilot.

**Motion** Trustee Zuckerman moved to approve a temporary modification for assessing summer 2020 tuition: In lieu of the per-credit hour tuition rate typically used for summer quarter, for summer 2020 only, apply the flat tuition fee rate for credit loads from 10-18 credits as per the regular academic year. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gonzales and passed on a voice vote.

**Vision and academic directions**

Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life Jennifer Drake and Faculty Member Steven Hendricks presented on vision and academic directions.

Blue Sky and Big Bets conversations during this academic year involving many Evergreen faculty, staff, and students, case-studies of innovation occurring at other institutions, and research into market demand for curricular offerings and graduate employment opportunities have been considered as a model has been built to guide Evergreen's future academic direction. These models have been synthesized and are being shared with faculty, staff, and students for further input. Once finalized, this model for future academic direction will underpin Evergreen's strategic planning process. After presenting the model and gathering input from trustees, Provost Drake and Dr. Hendricks indicated that the conversation regarding Evergreen's vision and academic direction will continue at the retreat.

It was requested that Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris share the PowerPoint presentation with the Trustees following the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.



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Karen Fraser, Chair



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Irene Gonzales, Secretary