

Trustees Attending:

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

Trustees Absent:**Staff Present:**

George Bridges, President
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations
Wendy Endress, Vice Provost for Student & Academic Life
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
JuliA Metzger, Director, Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education
David McAvity, Vice Provost for Academic Budget & Planning
Greg Mullins, Academic Dean for Instructional Support and Library & Media Services
Therese Saliba, Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success
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 Fraser called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Chair's opening remarks

Board Chair Karen Fraser confirmed a quorum and introduced President Bridges.

President's report and agenda overview

President George Bridges reported that our priorities in responding to the COVID-19 situation include protecting the health and safety of students, faculty and staff, maximizing retention of current students and increasing recruitment of new students, in addition to providing the best possible academic

experience. He noted that the College continues to comply with the Governor's directives regarding operations, moving as many staff as possible to remote work, shifting the mode of spring quarter to remote learning, and maintaining close contact with as many students as possible. He shared that the Board has a critical role during the Coronavirus outbreak to meet fiduciary and strategic goals including mitigating the risk of the viral spread, mission fulfillment, maintaining the financial health of the College, and continuing to consider the impact of the future of the institution. President Bridges stated that we will continue to work collaboratively with the Board.

President George Bridges presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

Public Comment

Chair Karen Fraser called for public comment. Students Eric Duvall-Wincher and Cody Cook began sharing their public comment, however the connection was lost

Student Melinda Bratsch-Horsager addressed the Board sharing concerns regarding her capstone project and how she has not been able to complete this work due to the COVID. Melinda shared concerns about the fish being euthanized which are vital to her capstone work. Melinda shared additional concerns regarding experiences with faculty and students and indicated that with all these issues she is not certain she will be able to continue her work at the College. Chair Karen Fraser stated that she trusts that someone will be looking into this.

Students Eric Duvall-Wincher and Cody Cook were able to regain connection.

Student Eric Duvall-Wincher Eric raised concerns regarding remote access for students and the administrative leave for students. Student Cody Cook shared that the protection of the student body is the most important thing, however the College needs to be careful how to also preserve and protect mental health. He applauded the College for some of the actions that have been taken. Cody encouraged the College to provide paid administrative leave to student employees and keep areas open such as the Library and Student Health Services.

College response to COVID19

Caring for our people and mitigating risk

Vice Provost for Student & Academic Life Wendy Endress reported how the College is responding to COVID-19 in ways that prioritize safety, care, and risk management. Vice Provost Endress serves as coordinator of the COVID-19 Planning and Response Team and our Evergreen Remote Coordinating Group. She shared the COVID Team's priority of ensuring alignment with public health directives in guiding decisions focused on health and safety operations in a new landscape, in communication with the campus community. Elizabeth McHugh, Director of Wellness, Recreation & Athletics, remains Evergreen's primary contact with public health officials. Vice Provost Endress reported that of the 24 reported, confirmed, cases in Thurston County, none have been identified in the Evergreen community at this time.

Vice Provost Endress shared that the COVID-19 Response Team's work initially focused on cleaning facilities, advising broadly about prevention and planning for emergency. They have emphasized care for self and others in all of their messages, recommendations, referrals, and decisions. They are currently focused on student, employee, and facility safety, college-wide guidance for physical distancing, safe

distribution of equipment and resources to students. Services and support for students living on campus have been sustained including available staff, police services, room cleaning kits, and meal distribution. The number of residence hall residents has been reduced to approximately 50%. Frequently asked questions from students and families are focused on financial aid and logistics regarding housing. Most areas were advised to support employee's work from home if possible, utilizing paid administrative leave, supporting teleworking by providing technology platforms and communication tools. Staff across the College have been coordinating efforts to shift to remote working by prioritizing coordinated efforts in order to provide students with a more seamless and unified experience focused on academic success and an emphasis on retention and recruitment.

Vice President for Finance and Operations John Carmichael noted with the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation, Evergreen employees are expected to work from home if possible and to practice social distancing. The College is exploring alternative work assignments and when necessary employees are taking paid administrative leave when other options are not identified. The Federal stimulus is a two trillion-dollar package with \$14 billion allocated to higher education. It is expected that higher education will need closer to \$50 billion to recover from the setbacks of COVID-19. Vice President Carmichael noted that COVID-19 will have impacts on the finances of the College. He also shared that the work of employees adapting to a remote environment should be commended.

Trustee Miguel Pérez-Gibson noted that that the state Department of Enterprise Services (DES) has a Master contract for teleconferencing the College could consider which may assist with remote communications and better allow the public to participate. In addition, Trustee Pérez-Gibson suggested the College consider a letter to the congressional delegation to request additional funding. He also posed the question on where the risk is for the College and asked that this question be considered.

Trustee Fred Goldberg recently learned that Thurston County Health Department is not required to notify campuses if a person from the campus has been diagnosed with COVID-19. He noted that we need to think about how this impacts the safety of the College.

Representative Przybylowicz raised concerns regarding impacts of the pandemic and possible recession. He recommended the Board consider these future impacts.

Chair Karen Fraser questioned if the labs are open as she understood that labs could be open with social distancing measures in place. Vice Provost for Academic Budget & Planning David McAvity responded indicating the College has transitioned solely to remote learning for the safety and health of the campus community.

Mission fulfillment

Director of the Washington Center for Improving Undergraduate Education Julia Metzger, Academic Dean for Instructional Support and Library & Media Services Greg Mullins, and Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success Therese Saliba reported the ways in which many College partners are prioritizing mission fulfillment during the outbreak.

Director Metzger reported that the Learning and Teaching Commons is a major initiative of the Washington Center, which serves as a hub for learning and teaching support for Evergreen faculty. The Washington Center is a longstanding public service center at Evergreen that also has a significant national and regional portfolio in supporting 2- and 4- year campuses across the country to manage organizational change in support of student success and equity. They have suspended their national and

regional work to divert all of our resources towards the Keep Teaching and Learning efforts at Evergreen. Access to this level of expertise and network makes Evergreen well positioned to navigate the challenges of COVID-19.

Director Metzker shared that in less than three weeks, a cross-divisional team, the Keep Teaching team, formed and designed a suite of supports for faculty. This team consists dedicated staff from Academic Technologies, Library and Media Services, The Washington Center and Student and Academic Life. This team developed a remarkable 6-hour Keep Teaching Institute that was delivered remotely in 3-hour blocks. Day 1 focused on the pedagogical thinking around teaching remotely and Day 2 focused on the technological learning faculty need in order to teach remotely. The institute was offered twice and over 150 people attended. This work is anchored by a digital course in our learning management system, referred to as the Keep Teaching Canvas Course. Currently 160 faculty have registered for this course to date. The team continues to support faculty by offering small group discussions through zoom on topics such as conducting seminar, lab and studio courses, teaching language, and experiential learning. As an institution, we continue to teach in teams, provide narrative evaluations, build learning communities, coordinate our studies, and remain supportive and flexible, which makes Evergreen particularly poised for remote teaching.

Academic Dean for Instructional Support and Library & Media Services Greg Mullins commended the COVID communications team for their work keeping the Evergreen community informed. He noted the COVID communications team has created a webpage with information available to all community members. Dean Mullins reported the library is also in a strong position to meet the needs of the moment with talented staff, such as Electronic Resources Librarian Ray Zill and Library and Archives Paraprofessional Lorri Trimble, who provide students with electronic resources, conduct speedy purchases and catalogue eBooks and other resources. Robust digital resources are available with accelerated purchases of materials specific to academic programs, and dramatically increased access Chromebooks that are available for students to check out. The library will have 367 Chromebooks in circulation next week. The library is working with partners across the College, specifically programs that provide services to low-income and first-generation students, to prioritize getting materials to students with the greatest need. Media and IT staff are prepared to help students learn tools and platforms, trouble shoot, and problem solve. The Writing and Math Centers have quickly pivoted to online tutoring, so that students continue to have access to those support services.

Chair Karen Fraser shared that she has toured the library previously and noted that the resources available in the library are exceptional.

Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success Therese Saliba reported that the division has been working hard to center equity and community care in the work. It is recognized that COVID-19 will have differential impacts on community members and staff are keeping in mind the institutional barriers that become more pronounced during crisis. Advising, TRIO, Access Services, First Peoples, Trans & Queer Services, and New Student Programs have been instrumental in reaching out to our students to stay engaged, providing updates, and answering questions. The CARE team has put together a clearinghouse of resources available to students which includes food, housing, and emergency fund relief. The division is also raising awareness about racial stigmatizing and seek to amplify our values of inclusivity and belonging.

In response to Trustee Miguel Pérez-Gibson's earlier suggestion for a letter to the Congressional Delegation, Chair Fraser suggested the College move forward with preparing the letter. In addition,

Chair Fraser recommended that we have a coordinated legislative strategy moving forward. President George Bridges noted that the Council of President's (COP) has shared concerns will connect with them to work on a coordinated strategy.

Trustee Pérez-Gibson underscored for students that there resources available to students.

President George Bridges asked for suggestions from the Board on agenda items for upcoming Board of Trustees meetings. Suggestions included risks, enrollment, impact of current circumstances on the institution's reserves, plans to close the gaps, and impact on pre-existing commitment to paths of learning. Categories of risk suggested include financial, legal and regulatory, operational, accreditation, and reputational.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Irene Gonzales, Secretary