



Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 13, 2023

Trustees Attending:

Allyson Brooks
Shane Everbeck
Karen Fraser
Miguel Pérez-Gibson
Kris Peters
Ed Zuckerman

Absent:

Fred Goldberg

Staff Presenting:

Dane Apalategui, College Budget Officer
Kelli Bush, Sustainability in Prisons Project Co-Director
John Carmichael, President
Dexter Gordon, Executive Vice President
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
James Jackson, Re-Entry Navigator Support
Holly Joseph, Dean of Students
Sandra Kaiser, Director for Government Relations
Abby Kelso, Vice President for Advancement and Director of the College Foundation
Dave Kohler, Interim Chief Financial Officer
John Reed, Interim Chief Enrollment Officer
Eirik Steinhoff, Adjunct Faculty
William Ward, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
Anthony Zaragoza, Member of the Faculty

Others Present:

Clarissa Dirks, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees
Sharon English, Assistant Attorney General
Susan Keefe, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees
Trygve Vandal, Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

Chair Karen Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Secretary Ed Zuckerman confirmed a quorum.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser welcomed the Board of Trustees to the first meeting of 2023 and wished everyone a Happy New Year. She noted the increase in enrollment and excellent work done toward fundraising. Chair Fraser continued, stating the college will be broadening the curriculum within the certificates program put in place last year, and will be doing significant work this meeting to expand the prison education program.

Executive Leadership Report

President John Carmichael thanked Chair Fraser and highlighted the upcoming MLK holiday weekend. He explained that many of the college's leadership, staff and faculty would be engaged in events to

honor the day. President Carmichael expressed intent to keep Board members in the loop, referencing the commitment to do so at the Board Retreat in November, and in that regard informed the Board they would be hearing a report this afternoon from the Board's Finance & Budget Committee. The Board will be asked to approve planning numbers for a tuition increase, with the final approval to come before the Board in the spring. President Carmichael stated that the increases the college is proposing at are well below inflation, noting it is important to aim low because students face many increases that are out of the college's control. He also mentioned that they would also be discussing current housing conditions in the area that are a concern for the students and invited Dr. Gordon to share more in regard to the prison education developments.

Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon began by giving a brief timeline of how Professional Studies and Community Education came to fruition; that it is now up and running and has become an important addition to Evergreen's slate of options to educate traditional and non-traditional students alike. Executive Vice President Gordon stated that in 2023, as the college seeks to build on the recent enrollment successes and are engaged in ongoing efforts toward recruitment and retention. One major effort that will be highlighted in the meeting will be the prison education initiative. Through this Prison Education Initiative, a team of faculty, staff and outside organizations are making efforts to expand access to educational opportunities to incarcerated youth and adults. He went on to inform the Board that within the presentation later on the agenda, Vice Chair to the Board of Trustees, Miguel Pérez-Gibson, and the faculty and staff involved in Evergreen's Prison Education Initiative will present to the Board a resolution for action. The team has been involved in comprehensive collaborative work and are very proud of the deliberate and consistent efforts in reaching out to agencies across the state that are involved in this work.

Approval of meeting minutes

Motion Vice Chair Miguel Pérez-Gibson moved to approve the meeting minutes for November
2023-01 8, 2022. The motion was seconded by Chair Karen Fraser and passed on a voice vote.

Public Comment`

Chair Karen Fraser called for public comment. Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris announced that there was no public comment for the day.

Representative reports

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees, Clarissa Dirks, stated there was no formal report, but expressed appreciation and thanks to Chair Karen Fraser and the Board for the email that went out acknowledging the efforts of staff and faculty toward recruitment and retention, as well as increased enrollment. She assured the Board that at the next meeting, she will have an extensive report on other work being done at the college.

Staff Representative, Susan Keefe, shared that the Employee Recognition and Wellness Team held an event on December 15, 2022, wherein the theme was pancakes and snowflakes. This event was to show appreciation for staff and faculty, and they had a wonderful turnout and very positive feedback. Representative Keefe then passed along appreciation from Ellen Shortt-Sanchez for the great work Penelope Partridge, Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC) Case Manager, is doing through the Washington State Achievement Council (WSAC). As well as a message from Elizabeth McHugh, Director of Student Wellness, Recreation, and Athletics, who would like the Board to know they have been hard

at work in getting students vaccinated; Evergreen is one of the very few four-year colleges to offer such services, as well as getting rapid HIV tests and monkey pox vaccines through working with other agencies.

Student Representative, Trygve Vandal, began by sharing what he perceives to be one of the largest challenges students are facing: the sense of uncertainty surrounding the future of the college. While college leadership's initiatives are being noticed, such as the combination of Inclusive Excellence and Student Success (IESS) and Student Affairs, additional academic programs, work being done toward resolving the housing crisis, on a larger scale there is a bigger question of what these changes mean to current students over their next three to four years at the college. Students need more detailed information regarding these initiatives and provided concrete timelines, as well as how exactly they will be impacted over their years as students. Many students are seeking refuge in whatever stable and secure place they can find. If the college capitalizes on this need by becoming that safe and stable place, it would be beneficial for both the students and the school. Representative Vandal stressed that transparency of information is critical, because of the small size of the student body and the way the college is organized as an institution, it is easy to hear a lot of contradictory information and perspectives that muddy the actual progression of the work being done on campus. He suggested that increased messaging would help the students to feel more included in the institutional initiatives underway, such as clearly outlining what the college is planning to do, how they came to the decision, how it will impact the student body, and how the students can become involved. Representative Vandal concluded by advocating for a more inclusive and communicative environment that fosters a stronger spirit of community and camaraderie across the campus.

Open Government Responsibilities

Sharon English, Assistant Attorney General, introduced herself and introduced her presentation by explaining various laws related to open government. Her presentation began with a brief overview explaining the Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act, which are also called sunshine laws, as they shine a light on inner workings of governmental agencies.

One highlight from the presentation included providing details regarding the Open Public Meetings Act, emphasizing that this act is about transparency. The people do not give public servants the right to decide what the public knows and doesn't know.

AAG English also explained the requirements of the act and that the Board is subject to the rules of the act as the Board constitutes a governing body. She shared what is considered a governing body, what is considered a meeting, and what is considered transaction of official business. AAG English clarified that emails and texts can inadvertently become meetings if Board members are not careful, which also extends to phone calls, social media, and chats. She also outlined differences and requirements in regular meetings and special meetings; executive sessions, what they are and what the specific statutory bases that must be in place in order to have one; and penalties for violating the Open Meetings Act including lawsuits, null and void actions, and negative media attention.

AAG English concluded by outlining what public records are, how they function, and what precautions Board members need to take to comply with the Public Records Act.

Update on Strategic Plan: Student academic success and support

Student Achievement and Success Committee update

Vice Chair Miguel Pérez-Gibson thanked Chair Karen Fraser and reported that the committee met on January 6, 2023. The committee includes Vice Chair Pérez-Gibson, Trustee Kris Peters, and Student Trustee Shane Everbeck. This committee is still determining what they will be focusing on, but what has been discussed was Title IX, course enrollment, what metrics will determine what they will be doing on the Title III grant, student issues, and continuing to observe and review Professional and Continuing Education progress.

Vice Chair Pérez-Gibson then introduced the main topic of discussion: Evergreen's Prison Education Program. In an effort to provide context, he stated that currently around 13k people are currently incarcerated in Washington state. Today, the Board will be asked to authorize Evergreen's administration to develop a Prison Education Program headed by Anthony Zaragoza, Faculty; Eirik Steinhoff, Adjunct Faculty; Kelly Bush, Sustainability Prisons Project Co-Director; and James Jackson, Re-Entry Navigator Support. In answer to why they have decided to bring forth a resolution, Vice Chair Pérez-Gibson cited RWC 28B which states that under the Board's authority they may establish such divisions, schools or departments to be carried out in purpose of the college. In this resolution, the program developed will address the requirements for accreditation under Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), as well as Pell Grant eligibility as established by the U.S. Department of Education; this resolution will also require our folks to work directly with Department of Corrections (DoC). He noted that the current Secretary to the DoC position is currently occupied by Cheryl Strange who is an Evergreen alumna. Vice Chair Pérez-Gibson informed the Board that the final proposal of the program shall be shared with the Board in their June meeting and in advance of submission of the program to the NWCCU for accreditation and approval, also in June. He shared one with a highlight from the resolution that explains how for every one dollar invested in college behind bars the state stands to accrue twenty dollars in tax credits. Vice Chair Pérez-Gibson concluded by sharing Evergreen's ongoing work in the area of prison education and how this initiative exemplifies the college's values and commitment to social justice. He stated that the work embodies Evergreen's model at its best; it manifests its commitment to social justice and environmental stewardship enshrined in Evergreen's mission; it clears obstacles to learning as described in the school's social contracts; it delivers local arts and sciences to underserved populations, which aligns with our mission statement; it brings action oriented interdisciplinary inquiry into one of the most pressing social issues of our time; and it complements the five foci by promoting equity and inclusion and bringing interdisciplinary learning to disadvantaged prospective students. He then turned the proposal over to the team.

Eirik Steinhoff, Adjunct Faculty, introduced himself and thanked the Board for the opportunity. He gave praise and thanks to the Executive Leadership Team for their help in bringing this together. He emphasized that the work they are proposing to do builds on decades of experience. Their goal is to collaborate with the community colleges to create a two plus two program, wherein the community colleges would offer the first two years to students and Evergreen would offer the latter two. He underlined the importance of engaging in partnership and collaborative efforts for a student-centered program with the community colleges in the area.

Kelli Bush, Sustainability Prisons Project Co Director, thanked Eirik for the introduction and expanded on the mission of the program and that the focus will be dual emphasis on quality education and reentry scholarship. She stated that when the college brings quality education into prison there are many other

benefits including reducing recidivism. The planning is responsive to the needs expressed by incarcerated individuals. There are five prisons and a juvenile facility within an hour of campus, which means the college is well positioned to meet the needs expressed by prospective incarcerated students. Co-Director Bush then gave an overview of the current climate surrounding prisons and opened the space to questions or comments.

Proposed action item: Prison Education

Motion Trustee Allyson Brooks moved to approve the resolution authorizing the Prison
2023-02 Education Program to move forward. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kris Peters and passed on a voice vote.

Student Presentation

Holly Joseph, Dean of Students, introduced Lily Stewart, River Scheuerell, and Jayden Upshaw, all current Evergreen student athletes. Students shared a bit about themselves and their positive experiences on campus and in interaction with the college. The students stated they feel supported and are able to achieve a good balance here on campus.

Dean Joseph asked the students questions about their goals and ambitions, how they are preparing themselves both athletically and academically. Mr. River Scheuerell is utilizing the school's studio and audio equipment that he hopes to support him in a lifelong career in music. Mr. Jayden Upshaw has made lifelong friendships and has found great enjoyment in an activity he is passionate about; he also feels supported in his efforts toward business management. Ms. Lily Stewart wants to be the best she can both athletically and academically; she expressed that being an athlete on campus is a lot of fun and that academically, she feels she has gotten a lot out of her courses and feels that Evergreen has prepared her successfully for going out into the world.

Suggestions for improved relations between athletics and the rest of the school include an increase in social media usage in order to make personal connections to all staff members, as well as incentives for people to come to games. All athletes would love to see more engagement from the college as a whole during at-home games. They would all benefit from an increase in attendance at games and to see more in-person support by staff, faculty, and students

President John Carmichael responded to Chair Karen Fraser's prompt to detail athletics expansion by explaining mens and womens wrestling and track were being brought back. He stated that there are specific donors who want and are supporting athletics expansion.

Update on Strategic Plan: Student academic success and support (Goal 3)

Finance and Budget Committee Update

Secretary Ed Zuckerman began by stating that they are making great progress. The Board will be reviewing a request from the staff for a preliminary recommendation for a small increase in tuition for next academic year beginning Fall quarter.

Dave Kohler, Interim Chief Financial Officer, began with a budget update for FY 2023. Last June the Board approved a budget that included a deficit of 3.7 million dollars. Enrollment success has generated about 1.1 million more dollars in revenue than expected, which helped cut the original budget deficit

into nearly half. The college is underspending their budget and if this pattern continues, they will be able to apply the savings to next year's budget. The college is currently projecting an increase in enrollment for the coming years and that additional revenue is expected to reduce the deficit by another million in FY24.

Secretary Zuckerman spoke again and informed the Board that at the Budget & Finance Committee meeting last week, one of the things they considered was a proposal from staff to increase student tuition fees. They are currently focusing on the undergraduate fee for in-state students; the recommendation is a 2.5% increase, which is well below the rate of inflation. They are waiting on the legislature to give the upper limit of what they can increase tuition by. Currently the college is in the process of offering placement for Fall 2023 and cannot wait on the legislature to set that limit.

Secretary Zuckerman expressed understanding in that raising any tuition fee on the backs of in-state students is a difficult decision for Board members. Things to consider are debt for students, value in future cost of a degree, housing crises and other external financial barriers and stressors that students are facing. However, sometimes there is not much choice when many extenuating circumstances are out of our control. The legislature has set this up as a use it or lose it, if the college does not do it now, it cannot do it in the future when it may be imperative. Secretary Zuckerman stated that the committee recommends the Board take a vote to support this preliminary request.

Motion Trustee Allyson Brooks moved to preliminary recommendation to increased tuition by
2023-03 2.5% for in-state students. The motion was seconded by Secretary Ed Zuckerman and passed on a voice vote.

Facilities Update

President John Carmichael preceded the facilities update by contextualizing for the Board the project being worked on now to bring the offline residence halls back into use. He stated that this is an update on a few facilities projects that may require some future Board action be made, but that the most urgent of those involves adding beds to the residence halls for next Fall quarter. President Carmichael noted that Saint Martin's University is struggling with the same issues, which reflects more than anything the failures in the local housing market, in which students and others simply cannot find affordable rentals in the area. Evergreen has been called upon to shift its usual public policy focus from solely education policy that directly impacts students to include engagement with community partners and organizations that are dealing with the regional housing crisis. All parts of this housing environment are connected, if the college adds more beds that helps the local community. The other thing to keep in mind are the resources already offered by the college that can be brought to the housing initiatives, including Advocacy and Resource Center (ARC) Case Manager, Penelope Partridge's, work in the Basic Needs Center; the staff who are focused on basic needs for students are also now focused on housing; the grant support that the legislature provided for the Student Achievement Council, and most significantly the buildings that can be put back into service. He shared that while it may sound easy, it is quite a challenging project to bring those dorms back online. President Carmichael then passed the update the William Ward, Interim Chief Administrative Officer.

Interim Chief Ward began by thanking President Carmichael for his remarks and echoed the importance of the work his team is doing. He informed the Board that they engaged the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) and will have an engineering study done by next week. DES along with a consultant will be reviewing that to see what options are available. William is confident they will have the engineering systems back up and operating by next year.

Interim Chief Ward also spoke to the second project being worked on, which is the installation of a cell tower on campus. He is working with AAG Sharon English to get the contract sorted as it is still under review and stated they should have something soon in the near future.

Interim Chief Ward also touched on the existence of a small facility called Geoduck House at the end of Beach Trail Drive. The college is looking to make plans for the demolition of this building, as the cost of maintaining this defunct space is too high.

Enrollment Plan

John Reed, Interim Chief Enrollment Officer, presented to the Board current numbers reflecting continued enrollment growth. He noted that the continuing student numbers have increased which is an outlier when compared to past patterns of that number decreasing. New student enrollment is also increased, and total undergraduate numbers are up as well. The graduate enrollment numbers are down, but total enrollment numbers across the college are up. John stated that the development of an annual enrollment plan is a fundamental aspect of enrollment management efforts at the college and would give Evergreen the best chance for enrollment success.

Legislative Update

Chair Fraser introduced Sandy Kaiser, Director for Government Relations, and welcomed her back to the college.

Director Kaiser began by expressing her gratitude and excitement at returning to Evergreen in her new capacity. She explained that this current legislative session is known as a long session and that the democratic hold has strengthened in our state. She went on to share that this is a moment where the state is looking at long simmering challenges, education workforce, and housing. Director Kaiser reported that she has already testified twice this week and that Evergreen was asked to come in with University of Washington to talk about campus climates. The senate committee is now chaired by Emily Randall, a first-generation college student, who knows Evergreen well.

Campaign Update

Abby Kelso, Vice President for Advancement and Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation thanked Chair Fraser and provided an update on the campaign after many thanks to those benefitting from and contributing to campaign work. She highlighted the upcoming March 14 Campaign Launch event in Seattle. Abby also shared her experience meeting with a student last week who was grateful for the scholarship money she received. She informed the Board that with the legislative session in full force this is the second or third year that the foundation has had a committee that has recruited legislative ambassadors and volunteers, twenty-nine to be exact, who are all alumni from Evergreen and willing to lend their support in the senate house.

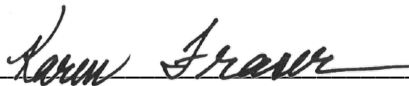
Student Trustee Report

Trustee Shane Everbeck stated they have enjoyed meeting with all leadership personnel the last few weeks. The main thing they have gleaned is that Evergreen is going to need more support from the legislature. Trustee Everbeck noted that there are many people doing amazing things with limited resources and as a Board need to focus on figuring out how we can support the revitalization of the college.

Open Public Meetings Act exempt and executive session

Chair Karen Fraser announced the Board would go into a combined Open Public Meetings Act exempt and executive session to discuss bargaining and to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party. She stated that the Board will return to open session at 10:30 a.m., unless notified that she has extended the time. No final action will be taken in the Executive Session. Open session resumed at 2:50 p.m. as announced.

The meeting adjourned at 2:51pm.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Ed Zuckerman, Secretary