



**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
May 5, 2021

---

**Trustees Attending:** Monica Alexander  
Melinda Bratsch-Horsager  
Karen Fraser  
Irene Gonzalez  
Fred Goldberg  
David Nicandri  
Miguel Pérez-Gibson  
Ed Zuckerman

**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:** Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General

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 12:01 p.m. and Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson confirmed a quorum.

**Chair's opening remarks**

Chair Fraser thanked everyone who has contributed to the presidential search efforts. She is pleased with how Evergreen is progressing in its programs and stated it is important to remember that Evergreen's focus is transformational education.

**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 no one signed up for or submitted written public comment for this meeting.

**Open Public Meetings Act executive session**

Chair Karen Fraser announced the Board will go into executive session to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment 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 they will return to open session at 2:45 p.m. unless notified that she has extended the time. No final action will be taken in Executive Session. Open session resumed at 3:28 p.m. after one extension and minor technical difficulties.

Chair Karen Fraser shared that the Board is exceptionally pleased with the work of the Karras firm, the presidential search committee, and the presidential search advisory committee. The college received 63 applications and it was narrowed to three diverse finalists who were thoroughly vetted. Chair Fraser was disappointed to announce that all three finalists have withdrawn from consideration after the campus interviews.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman shared that the Board of Trustees and the community has some reflecting to do regarding the presidential search process and the Board is ready to continue the work. Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson shared that the Board came away with a lot of information and are ready to move forward.

### Action Items

**Motion 2021-20** Trustee Dave Nicandri moved to authorize the Chair of the Board along with the appropriate staff and consultants to bring forward and identify an interim president or administrative structure to take effect July 1 while the Board continues the search for a permanent president. The motion was seconded by Trustee Monica Alexander and passed on voice voted.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman shared that in light of pushing the presidential search timeline out, it requires the Board to rethink how vacancies are filled at the senior level position until a new interim is in new place.

**Motion 2021-21** Trustee Ed Zuckerman moved the Board of Trustees require that further contracts for senior vice president positions be approved by the Board of Trustees, that a process for identifying what constitutes senior level be identified, and the Chair take the lead as a liaison between the president and the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Trustee David Nicandri and passed on a voice vote.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman clarified that the motion was made as we find ourselves in a place where the original process is not working because we do not have a president-elect designated to work with the current president. In lieu of that, Trustee Zuckerman suggested there be multiple eyes on these decisions. No malice intended.

Secretary Pérez-Gibson recognized that this may be a shock to the community and offered that he or Chair Fraser be available to discuss further in one-on-one conversations. Those interested in a conversation with Chair Fraser or Secretary Pérez-Gibson should make the request through Administrative Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris. He shared that the Board of Trustees wants to be more in touch with the Evergreen community.

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary