

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

Trustees Absent: Irene Gonzales

Staff Present: Andrew Beattie, Special Assistant to the Presidential Search
George Bridges, President
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations
Connie Gardner, Title IX Coordinator
Holly Joseph, Chief Budget Officer
David McAvity, Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Sandra Kaiser, Vice President of College Relations
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation
William Ward, Associate Vice President for Facilities Services

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. and Secretary Pérez-Gibson confirmed a quorum.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser shared that this is Cathy Flora's last meeting as the staff representative to the Board. The Board of Trustees thanked her for her service and expressed their appreciation for her diligent service.

President's report

President George Bridges shared an update on accreditation which is an ongoing process that has a seven-year cycle. He noted that last year the College received four recommendations, two of which have been fulfilled. The College continues to work on the recommendations and have incorporated them into the strategic plan.

Interim Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life, David McAvity gave a leadership update regarding Student and Academic Life. Dr. Jeannette Smith will be serving as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Engagement, joining Andy Corn and Elizabeth McHugh to co-lead Student Engagement. Trevor Speller will step into the Vice Provost role while retaining some of his Curriculum Dean responsibilities. In addition, Elizabeth Williamson will step into the Curriculum Dean role for the 2020-2021 academic year.

He reported that there are faculty members working on proposals for New Academic Directions such as interdisciplinary art and design, workforce development, market analysis feasibility, climate justice and sustainability, and psychology as an academic pathway. In addition, capstones, certificates, and transcripts are being developed for implementation in Fall 2021. There are several proposals for incorporating individual schools within Evergreen that will come for a faculty vote in fall quarter of 2020. The College is gearing up to do more in-person work in the fall with some lab programs.

Vice President for Marketing and Communications Sandra Kaiser introduced the video for new students, showing how classes will be adapted this fall. The purpose is to encourage those who are enrolled but not registered to make that final step to register for a program, ILC, or course. Vice President Kaiser will distribute the link to the video to the Board.

Public comment

Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris announced that student Melissa Davis signed up for public comment. Melissa reported the frustrating nature of the Bachelor of Science requirements and cutting of upper-division science credits. She is concerned that credit reductions, due to budget cuts, will keep students from graduating on time and may affect graduate school admissions. Melissa suggested cutting classes instead, that are not filling or that are not one of the upper-division science classes needed to complete the Bachelor of Science degree. Chair Karen Fraser noted that the matter will be deferred to President Bridges and she hopes a solution may be identified as the decision is not yet finalized.

Strategic Plan

Vice President for Advancement Amanda Walker reported that the strategic plan has been revised based on comments from the Trustees and the Finance and Budget Committee members. These revisions include reordering of objectives, strengthening the introductory letter, and formatting for ease of review.

Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson mentioned that the letter could be even bolder, especially noting that a bolder letter would be more impactful for legislators.

Motion 2020-33

Vice-Chair Fred Goldberg moved to approve The Evergreen State College Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Trustee David Nicandri seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

President George Bridges introduced the dashboard which will provide information to external parties who are assessing the College's performance and will be submitted along with the strategic plan. The dashboard institutionalizes the use of data. Ways must be determined to assess the areas where we have limited quantitative data. Data is collected annually or biannually and many of the metrics will be reported on that timeline with a few exceptions. The dashboard currently consists of a comprehensive set of metrics across all objectives with two levels; including 17 key indicators and an anticipated second level of additional data.

Vice President Walker reviewed the draft dashboard including metrics, progress, limitations, and evaluation of each area.

The Board shared feedback on the dashboard including a recommendation to use red, yellow, and green status indicators as opposed to pluses and minuses for ease of viewing, including comparison metrics in order to compare with other institutions, adding more discussion about the reserves and viability ratio, consideration of different dashboards for varying audiences, adding metrics for tribal programs, and inclusion of target goals.

It was shared that further comments and suggestions regarding the strategic plan and the dashboard can be sent to Vice President Walker or President Bridges.

Capital and operating budgets

Vice-Chair Fred Goldberg introduced the budget proposals, developed by the Board's Finance and Budget committee. Vice President John Carmichael presented the capital and operating funding requests needing approval before submission to the Office of Financial Management.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Services William Ward reviewed the capital request with the Board. The plan includes a request for 21 million dollars, with 18 million for facilities to maintain safety measures on campus. The College has increased the request by about 30% for facilities maintenance, compared to what we have asked for in the past to address deferred maintenance. Capital projects are underway in Lab 1 including increasing energy efficiency and safety measures. The other project being presented for approval is the Seminar 1 renovation design.

Chief Budget Officer Holly Joseph reported on the operating budget request with two different decision packages including the 15% reduction, equating to approximately \$5.081 million. Compensation makes up for about 87% of the operating budget with the remainder in goods and services, equipment, and travel. The College would like to maintain some flexibility in being able to respond to a reduction in appropriation and is keeping the request high-level. The request includes a description of what might be cut and lost if we were to take a 15% reduction. The second decision package is focused on the Native American and Indigenous programs and is scalable up to \$1.2 million. This includes adding 2 staff positions, a Tribal Liaison and an Assistant Director in the Native Pathways program. The package also includes up to 4 new faculty positions in Indigenous visual arts, and climate justice or indigenous environmental policy.

Vice President John Carmichael added that in addition to the required 15% reduction, other institutions are also including packages to advance equity and inclusion. This is in response to legislative interest and to highlight the strengths of the College.

Vice President Carmichael stated that the 10-year plan is based on the board-approved campus master plan, which lays out a vision for physical campus.

Motion 2020-34 Trustee Ed Zuckerman moved to approve the 2021-2023 Capital Budget Request and 2021-2031 Ten-Year Capital Plan. Trustee David Nicandri seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Motion 2020-35 Vice-Chair Fred Goldberg moved to approve the 2021-2023 Biennial Operating Budget Request. Trustee Ed Zuckerman seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Student Conduct Code

Title IX Coordinator Connie Gardner reported the third step toward compliance with the new Title IX regulations involves aligning the guidelines with the student conduct code. She shared that the definition of consent is the most major change. The College must make the code consistent with the definition in the Title IX regulations. Title IX has been narrowed as far as definition, jurisdiction, and severity under the new regulations, but the student conduct code is one way to further support students who do not fall under those new definitions. She shared that she is committed to hosting forums and making sure there is an understanding of the processes since much of the content is grounded in legal language that may not be accessible to all.

Secretary Pérez-Gibson also asked for an update on the litigation and the contesting of the new Title IX regulations by Attorney General Ferguson. Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller responded that the motion for preliminary injunction was denied. It is moving forward on the merit in that case, which will take some time. In the meantime, all institutions are implementing the regulations.

Motion 2020-36 Chair Karen Fraser moved to approve the proposed rule as written. Vice-Chair Fred Goldberg seconded, and the motion passed on a voice vote.

Presidential search

Trustee Ed Zuckerman reported on updates from the Advisory Committee. The group has been broken up into five listening groups that have all begun meeting this week. Trustee Zuckerman suggested that the one area where there could be more focus of conversation is the external, more global view, including involving thought leaders and considering where Evergreen fits within post-COVID higher education landscape.

Special Assistant to the Presidential Search, Andrew Beattie, reported that 4 sessions have taken place so far, which have included rich, deep dialogue and common themes. Some members may partner with each other to integrate these conversations and invite outside community members to be a part of the discussions.

Each group plans to develop their own reports by the end of October. The individual group reports will be compiled into a unified report to be presented to the Search Committee in early November.

Special Assistant Beattie shared that the folder for the Search Advisory Committee should be available to all Trustees in OnBoard.

The meeting adjourned at 5:03pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Fraser", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Fraser, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Miguel Pérez-Gibson", written over a horizontal line.

Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary