

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

**Staff Present:** George Bridges, President  
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations  
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:** Dexter Gordon, University of Puget Sound  
Dennis Karras, Karras Consulting  
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 2:01 p.m. and Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris confirmed a quorum.

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

Chair Karen Fraser shared that she is looking forward to graduation this year. She shared that the college will be holding a virtual commencement this year due to COVID and is hopeful we will be back to normal next year.

#### **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 or to review the performance of a public employee 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 2:30 p.m. unless notified that she has extended the time. No final action will be taken in Executive Session. Open session resumed at 2:37 p.m. after one extension.

### **Presidential and interim search and planning**

Chair Karen Fraser shared the Executive Committee's recommendation for an interim organizational structure. She shared that the Board is very grateful for time and effort of all during the presidential search. She shared that we continue to benefit from the extensive engagement. Chair Fraser reported that the Executive Committee concludes that the college needs leadership that will advance Evergreen's Strategic Plan at a rapid pace and assure Evergreen will thrive in the second 50 years. She then shared the following recommendation:

1. An Interim President be appointed for approximately two years;
2. The presidential search be paused until a later date (yet to be identified); and
3. An Executive Vice President be hired.

Chair Fraser clarified the Executive Vice President position will not be an addition to the administration, rather this position will fill the gap that will be left behind by the upcoming departure of Vice President for College Relations Sandra Kaiser and the return to the faculty of Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success Therese Saliba.

### **Action Items**

**Motion 2021-28** Trustee David Nicandri moved to adopt the Executive Committee's recommendations for an interim administrative structure. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fred Goldberg and passed on a voice vote.

**Motion 2021-29** Trustee Irene Gonzales moved to offer the position of Interim President to John Carmichael and authorize the Board Chair to negotiate a contract to be presented for Board approval at the Board's next regular meeting on June 10, 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee David Nicandri and passed on a voice vote.

**Motion 2021-30** Trustee Monica Alexander moved to offer the position of Executive Vice President to Dexter Gordon and authorize the Board Chair to negotiate a contract to be presented for Board approval at the Board's next regular meeting on June 10, 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ed Zuckerman and passed on a voice vote.


Trustee Pérez-Gibson shared words in support of the appointments of John Carmichael and Dexter Gordon

President elect John Carmichael shared that 36 years ago, he came the Evergreen as a student. He shared that throughout the history of Evergreen, the college has had several challenging times. He shared his hope for the future and stated that Evergreen provides an education that is like no other. Evergreen has adapted and evolved since the founding of the college. He acknowledged the extraordinarily dedicated employees of the college and shared that he sees generative and creative work occurring across the college. He then thanked the Board for all their work and looks forward to working with them in this new capacity, and with Dexter Gordon in a close partnership.

Executive Vice President elect Dexter Gordon thanked the Board and President elect John Carmichael. He gave thanks to everyone on this call and those who contributed to building this unique college. He shared details on his background and his desire to connect a community to the institution and the institution to the community. Executive Vice President elect Gordon shared that he considers this a wonderful opportunity and believes the college is ready to launch into its' aspirations. He ended his comments sharing that he is ready to roll up his sleeves, partner with John and the community, and lean into the greener spirit.

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

  
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Karen Fraser, Chair

  
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Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary