

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees

October 14, 2021

Trustees Attending: Monica Alexander

Karen Fraser Fred Goldberg Sakiko Krishna Miguel Pérez-Gibson

Ed Zuckerman

Staff Presenting: Correan Barker, Director of Strategic Engagement

Abir Biswas, Dean Lori Blewett, Dean

John Carmichael, Interim President Dexter Gordon, Executive Vice President

Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board

of Trustees

Farra Layne Hayes, Associate Vice President for Marketing and

Communications

Abby Kelso, Vice President for Advancement and Director of the College

Foundation

David Kohler, Chief Financial Officer
David McAvity, Interim Provost
Trevor Speller, Interim Vice Provost
William Ward, Chief Administrative Officer

Others Presenting: John Caraher, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Sina Hill, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees

Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General

Trygve Vandal, Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative to the Board of

Trustees

Rod Younker, Partner and CEO Summit Law Group

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 1:00 p.m. and Secretary Ed Zuckerman confirmed a quorum.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser welcomed the new Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees Sina Hill, new Faculty Representative John Caraher, and new student Trustee Sakiko Krishna. She was excited to share that the school is open and the campus is seeing more activity. Chair Fraser reported that she meets once a week with the President and the Executive Associate to the President and

Secretary to the Board of Trustees as well as the Executive Committee twice a month. The Executive Committee is working on draft updates to the bylaws that will come to the full Board for consideration. She commended the college on the COVID response and congratulated everyone who has been involved in implementing this planning. Chair Fraser also noted that it is the 60th anniversary of Washington State Hyogo Prefecture, Japan. Evergreen has been part of this work through exchange programs and in some other ways.

Executive Leadership Report

Interim President John Carmichael introduced a new member of the staff, Vanessa Marenco who has joined the office and will be helping Executive Vice President and the President with managing calendars. He shared that the weight of the agenda is on the School of Professional Studies, with request for final action at the November 17, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Interim President Carmichael gave an overview of other items in the agenda, a short COVID update, and an update on the conversations and meetings held with legislators and alumni and donors.

Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon reported how he has been learning his way around campus and the details of Evergreen, its history, structures, challenges, and opportunities. He shared that his partnership with Interim President Carmichael has been quite productive. Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon highlighted that both he and President Carmichael presented at the opening Lyceum at the Tacoma campus, where they were able to engage in a conversation with people across the county. He gave a preliminary enrollment update, sharing that 2116 students enrolled this Fall, a drop of 7% from Fall 2020. The number of new undergraduate students joining Evergreen is 711 and graduate student enrollment increased by 33. He shared that this enrollment exceeds the college's budget targets.

Approval of meeting minutes

Motion Secretary Ed Zuckerman moved to approve the meeting minutes for January 26, April 16, May 5, May 10, May 14, and June 25, 2021. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair

Miguel Pérez-Gibson 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 written or oral comment for the meeting.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Radhika Sakiko Krishna addressed the Board, stating that she goes by the name Sakiko. Trustee Krishna shared that she is honored to attend this meeting as a student Trustee and grateful to the Governor for this appointment, and Chair Karen Fraser and Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris for their support as they continue to orient themself in this position. They noted that they are optimistic for this next year going forward and the work that they will be able to do at the college.

Representative reports

Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees John Caraher addressed the board sharing that faculty are energized by the excitement of students and there is a feeling like we are coming back home. He shared that COVID has been challenging, yet student compliance with protocols has been generally

good. He expressed faculty and staff concerns regarding COVID and limited resources and shared how hard everyone is working to meet the needs of the students

Staff Representative Sina Hill addressed the Board, noting that as a new Representative, she is just getting her bearings and noted that staff are very dispersed across the campus, which makes getting input from staff a challenge. She indicated that she hopes to develop a process or form for staff to utilize to share their thoughts. She also expressed an excitement on campus from being back and starting the Fall quarter. While she expressed challenges such as loss of colleagues to other jobs, she reported that staff are dedicated to the students and excited to be able to interact with them.

Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative Trygve Vandal reported that the GSU Board positions have largely been filled and the group is moving into training the members. In addition, the S&A Board is struggling with fill positions and the GSU is working with staff to fill the roles. Representative Vandal stated that Interim Associate Dean for Student Engagement Andrew Corn is serving as the temporary advisor.

Update on Strategic Plan: Strengthen our financial position (Goal 3)

Finance and budget

Chief Financial Officer David Kohler shared with the Board that quarterly updates will be provided to the Finance and Budget committee, roughly one month after the end of each quarter. In addition, Chief Kohler gave an overview of the upcoming Budget and Finance Committee meeting which will include a review of how the college's different revenue sources and expenditure categories have been trending over the past few years, first quarter budget update, and an update on the capital budget and infastructure projects.

Chief Administrative Officer William Ward shared that he will be bringing two topics to the upcoming Finance and Budget Committee meeting; an update on a 2022 supplemental budget and an update on the Leavelle house.

Campaign Update

In addition to the two videos provided in the meeting materials, Vice President for Advancement and Execuctive Director for The Evergreen State College Foundation Abby Kelso reported on the campaign. She was pleased to share that \$25.7 million has been secured toward the \$40 million goal. She, along with Interim President Carmichael, have been meeting with donors and friends, deepening relationships with alumni and donors, as well as developing new relationships.

50th Anniversary

Director of Strategic Engagement Correan Barker and Associate Vice President Farra Layne Hayes provided an update on the college's 50th anniversary which is slated for September 27, 2021 through June 10, 2022. This is a strategic effort that honors the past and envisions the college's future. There are multiple opportunities for storytelling and highlighting Evergreen significant contributions to key areas, from environmental stewardship to racial and social justice. Associate Vice President Hayes shared a preview of some of the materials for the 50th anniversary campaign.

Update on Strategic Plan: Student academic success and support (Goal 1)

<u>Proposed School of Professional Studies</u>

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academics David McAvity and Dean Lori Blewett presented on the proposed School of Professional Studies. The presentation dove into the process that developed into the Proposed School of Professional Studies, the different types of students that the school would serve, types of certificates the school would offer, and the support structures needed. It was stressed that the School of Professional Studies would complement Evergreen's undergraduate curriculum. The proposal for the School of Professional Studies will be brought forward for Board action at the November 17, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. Secretary Ed Zuckerman requested a cost benefit analysis to review prior to action taken by the Board.

Accreditation update

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academics David McAvity shared that the college is in the middle of the accreditation cycle. Next week, the accrediting body will send two representatives to meet with a variety of individuals virtually and then provide feedback on the mid-cycle report. Interim Provost McAvity introduced Dean Abir Biswas. Dean Biswas walked through the mid-cycle report with the Board and shared that the accreditation process is an opportunity to become our best self.

Open Public Meetings Act executive session

Chair Karen Fraser announced the Board will go into a combined 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 they will return to open session at 4:20 p.m. unless notified that she has extended the time. No final action will be taken in Executive Session. Open session resumed after one extension at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Karen Fraser, Chair

Ed Zuckerman, Secretary