

Trustees Attending:

Lucera Cox
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
David Nicandri
Miguel Pérez-Gibson
Ed Zuckerman

Trustees Absent:

Monica Alexander

Staff Present:

George Bridges, President
John Caraher, Member of the Faculty and Faculty Chair
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Sandra Kaiser, Vice President for College Relations
JuliA Metzker, Director for the Washington Center for Undergraduate Education and Learning and Teaching Commons
Julie Russo, Member of the Faculty
Therese Saliba, Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation
Elizabeth Williamson, Dean of Faculty Hiring and Development

Others Present:

Melinda Bratsch-Horsager, Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative to the Board of Trustees
Cathy Flora, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees
Mariah Guilfoil-Dovel, Student
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 Fraser called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chair's opening remarks

Board Chair Karen Fraser confirmed the quorum and introduced President George Bridges.

President's report and agenda overview

President Bridges reported that the unity demonstrated by campus partners is appreciated during the pandemic, emphasizing that we must remain undeterred. President Bridges indicated that the College is focused on health and well-being, mitigating risk, supporting students, and prioritizing future financial sustainability. He added that we will be deciding on the structure of commencement with input from the

senior class and by considering how other institutions intend to celebrate their graduating classes.

Director of Government Relations Jeremy Mohn reported that the Governor's veto authority was used to cut the state operating budget, with some impacts on higher education, including funding for mental health counselors to specifically work with veterans on college campuses, a Washington State Common Application, and the transfer of \$41 million from the General Fund to the Workforce Education Investment Account. That account was created in 2019's HB 2158, the bill that created the Washington College Grant and many other higher education priorities. The legislature will likely need to cut some of the programs funded in that bill to balance the account. Federal stimulus allow funds to be allocated to student emergency needs and financial aid during the pandemic crisis. Director Mohn agreed to send a detailed memo to the Trustees about this support.

President George Bridges presented an overview of the meeting agenda.

Public Comment

Chair Fraser called for public comment in which students Eric Duvall-Winscher and Cody Cook communicated concerns regarding access to online instruction and described unresolved conflict involving faculty. President Bridges shared that he has been in contact with the students and noted that they have been informed about Emergency Fund grants available to students.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman noted that while it is not appropriate for the Board to engage management issues such as concerns with the faculty, he questioned what the recourse is for students. President Bridges shared that there is a process that can be followed for student concerns with faculty. Trustee Zuckerman suggested we encourage students to follow this process to have their concerns addressed in the appropriate manner.

WashPIRG organizer Joshua Chaney addressed the Board advocating for the reopening of the campus food bank to assist in meeting student needs.

College response to COVID19

Remote teaching and faculty experiences during COVID-19

Dean of Faculty Hiring and Development Elizabeth Williamson, Director for the Washington Center for Undergraduate Education and the Learning and Teaching Commons JuliA Metzker, Member of the Faculty Julie Russo, and Member of the Faculty and Faculty Chair John Caraher shared their experiences with remote teaching. Faculty are creating alternative experiences students who have difficulty accessing real-time remote learning activities. The Learning and Teaching Commons continues to support faculty through one-on-one support and group training.

Outreach to students and student experiences during COVID-19

Interim Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success Therese Saliba, Vice President for College Relations Sandra Kaiser, and Student Mariah Guilfoil-Dovel provided updates on outreach to students and student experiences of remote learning. Inclusive Excellence team members are contacting students individually, with a focus on equity and accessibility, to support those who need additional resources. Most students are transitioning with enthusiasm. It was noted that approximately 160 students are living on campus currently and they continue to be supported by residence staff.

Representative Melinda Bratsch-Horsager shared student open forums being conducted by the Geoduck Student Union during which concerns are raised, especially regarding students who are unable to voice their opinions and to whom information or resources may not be properly communicated or received. Representative Bratsch-Horsager added that some students do not feel their concerns are heard and students are suffering now.

President Bridges reported that surveys are also underway to receive feedback regarding student experiences. In addition, staff will launch a new process for gathering and addressing questions and concerns through a centralized point of contact to ease student access to resources

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Irene Gonzales, Secretary