



**Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
May 10, 2021

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**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 12:03 p.m. and Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson confirmed a quorum.

**Chair's opening remarks**

Chair Karen Fraser shared that in light of the recent withdrawal of finalists for the position of president, the Board is engaged in a search for an interim president. She shared that we are keeping calm and carrying on. Next steps to the interim search are taking place this week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. She said the Board should take the time needed to find the right person. She shared that the president and interim president roles are major leadership roles at the college, however the president is not the only leader. Chair Fraser reminded all that the social contract calls for everyone to engage in mutual respect.

Chair Fraser shared that classes are continuing and registration is open. Faculty are finishing up the spring quarter and preparing for summer and fall. The college has recently announced that COVID shots are required to attend this fall. Staff are busy preparing for graduation, working on enrollment, and work with the legislature and private fundraising is continuing. She stressed that there are many things taking place that will move forward to serve our students.

Trustee David Nicandri commended Chair Fraser for asking for input on the interim search at last week's meeting. The Board received several comments that were reviewed and considered. Trustee Nicandri suggested that a subset of the accrediting body meet with the Board of Trustees via on-site consult for a reevaluation of the college's social contract, faculty handbook, and student conduct. He stressed that

the college needs to take a serious look the institution's governance and conduct an investigation and consideration of strategic partnerships. He suggested the Board demand accountability and provide a more student centered academic environment.

Trustee Miguel Perez Gibson thanked the college community for all of the hard work that is being done.

#### **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 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 3:40 p.m. unless notified that she has extended the time. No final action will be taken in Executive Session. Open session resumed at 3:55 p.m. after one extension.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 p.m.



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Karen Fraser, Chair



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Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary