



## Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees

May 12, 2023

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**Trustees Attending:**

Shane Everbeck  
Karen Fraser  
Fred Goldberg  
Pam MacEwan  
Miguel Pérez-Gibson  
Ed Zuckerman

**Remote:**

Allyson Brooks  
Kris Peters

**Staff Presenting:**

Dane Apalategui, College Budget officer  
John Carmichael, President  
Andy Corn, Interim Associate Dean for Student Engagement  
Dexter Gordon, Executive Vice President  
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees  
Holly Joseph, Dean of Students  
Abby Kelso, Vice President for Advancement and Director of the College Foundation  
David Kohler, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
David McAvity, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Kayla Mahnke Hargett, Director of Student Activities and New Student Programs  
Scott Morgan, Director of Sustainability  
John Reed, Interim Chief Enrollment Officer  
Brynn Smith, Assistant Director of International Programs and Services  
Sandra Kaiser, Interim Director for Government Relations  
William Ward, Interim Chief Administrative Officer

**Others Presenting:**

Clarissa Dirks, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees  
Sharon English, Assistant Attorney General  
Nigel Fogelquist, Student  
Jay Huckins, Student  
Grace Selvig, S&A Board Coordinator  
Trygve Vandal, Student Representative to the Board of Trustees

Chair Karen Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at The Evergreen State College Board Room, 2700, Evergreen Parkway NW, Olympia, WA 98505. All Trustees participated remotely.

**Special order of business**

Chair Karen Fraser welcomed new Trustee Pam MacEwan to The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees. The meeting started with introductions around the Zoom room. Trustee MacEwan thanked the attendees and briefly discussed her background in public policy and health reform. She expressed her excitement and honor to be part of the Board and looks forward to helping the college move forward.

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

Chair Karen Fraser mentioned that things are going well at the college and expressed appreciation for the outstanding work being done by faculty and staff. She noted that the college's reach is expanding, and there is positive support from the legislature and donors.

### **Executive Leadership Report**

President John Carmichael highlighted that it was the sixth week of the spring quarter and there are four weeks of instruction remaining. He reviewed the upcoming agenda and noted there would be no action taken on budget and finance items until the June 15, 2023 meeting.

Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon shared that Commencement activities will take place beginning June 8, 2023. The main event will be held on Red Square on Friday, June 16, 2023, with alumnus and nationally known comedian Josh Blue serving as the keynote speaker. Executive Vice President Gordon went on to share that former Trustee Tom Dixon, who served at the college as Trustee from 1973-1977, recently passed away on April 26.

### **Finance and Budget Committee overview**

Trustee Fred Goldberg briefly shared the Finance and Budget Committee report scheduled later in the day. Trustee Goldberg shared that the Finance and Budget Committee met the day before the legislature passed the college's operating and capital budgets. The committee meeting included an early update on operating and capital budgets, as well as updates for the housing and meal plan rates, student and activities fees, and student and activities budget.

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris shared that she was informed of technical errors in the minutes and will make those non-substantive edits.

**Motion** Trustee Fred Goldberg moved to approve the meeting minutes for March 24, 2023, with technical error edits. The motion was seconded by Secretary Ed Zuckerman and passed on a voice vote.  
**2023-08**

### **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 public comment for the meeting.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Shane Everbeck reported that they participated in the Equity Symposium by hosting a workshop named *Making Your Voice Heard*. They prepared a report on the outcomes of that workshop which was distributed to the Board via email. An excerpt from the report is as follows "Participants felt that overall, Evergreen was heading in the right direction despite the above concerns and that it felt like the community was healing. Their vision for Evergreen was a community **where students are given the resources, they need to fully shape their own education**. Participants felt that Evergreen was still a resilient community and expressed a lot of hope for the future. While they understand that the BoT is not responsible for operations, they believe that they can depend on us to ensure that Evergreen does not lose what is important and continues to improve going forward."

### **Representative reports**

Representative Clarissa Dirks gave a brief report on the activities that faculty have undertaken this year. Representative Dirks noted she is on the Faculty Agenda Committee and that they have been steadfast in pursuing the goals they have laid out for the year. The goals include promote a culture of evaluation and assessment on campus; move toward greater use of data in decision making processes and using this data to inform teaching and learning; and to build community around faculty and staff among administration. Representative Dirks concluded her report by noting the recent slew of enlightening presentations from faculty in their faculty meetings on professional development in their work.

Student Representative Trygve Vandal emphasized that the work he is doing with the Board is critical for the education of students. Working alongside college officials that have tremendous experience, along with the opportunities to do hands on work, allows students to apply what they have learned. Representative Vandal strongly encouraged that all senior administrators consider offering opportunities to students such as membership on hiring committees, teams, and workgroups to help empower students.

Staff Representative Susan Keefe prepared a written report that was distributed to the Trustees.

### **Nominations Committee appointments**

Chair Karen Fraser appointed Trustee Fred Goldberg, Trustee Allyson Brooks, and Trustee Kris Peters to serve on the Nominations Committee. Trustee Goldberg is to serve as Committee Chair.

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

#### Student Achievement and Success Committee

Vice Chair Miguel Pérez-Gibson gave an overview of the last Student Achievement and Success Committee and thanked the Prison Education team for all their work.

#### *Prison Education update*

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David McAvity commenced with a discussion on the progress of the prison education project. He highlighted the impact and application of the project and reiterated the commitment to prioritize education for incarcerated students, emphasizing the need to place students' interests first and make the program available and accessible. Provost McAvity acknowledged that the desired timeline might not be achievable, but that the team remains committed to developing the program and ensuring it is ready for implementation. The disappointment regarding the delay was expressed, but he conveyed his gratitude for the Board's involvement and support. President John Carmichael stated he was confident that this would eventually come together. There is strong support from all the agencies to get this done and will be successful once moved through the large, new regulatory structures and bureaucracies.

#### Strategic Planning process update

President John Carmichael noted the importance of extending the current strategic plan due to its impending end and the need to address immediate concerns. The Board delegates authority to the president and staff and the Board plays a crucial role in the strategic planning process.

Executive Vice President Gordon reported that the team responsible for the strategic planning process has started identifying roles and objectives. Significant work is planned for the summer, with full campus engagement beginning in the fall and continuing through winter. The goal is to provide a new strategic

plan by spring 2024. The process aims to incorporate perspectives, resources, best practices, and fresh ideas to address challenges and build an integrated college culture while engaging the entire community.

Chair Karen Fraser highlighted that the comprehensive outreach conducted during the previous presidential search is relevant for the new strategic plan and should be revisited and utilized.

#### Environmental sustainability

Chief Administrative Officer William Ward emphasized the importance of sustainability during the pandemic and highlighted the challenges faced by the college. He discussed the significant progress made and mentioned that sustainability was integrated into the mission of the institution. CAO Ward highlighted the reduction in spending and water usage, as well as the allocation of funds for the sustainability project. He closed by noting various accomplishments in sustainability.

Director of Sustainability Scott Morgan provided an update on the college's electrical consumption, mentioning a 15% reduction and ongoing efforts to transition away from natural gas. He provided details about the college's greenhouse gas emissions for the calendar year 2022, including the percentage breakdown by source. Director Morgan provided information about the college's energy efficiency projects and their impact on campus heating and vehicles and concluded by highlighting the college's comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability, including energy efficiency, decarbonization, and resource stewardship.

Chair Karen Fraser emphasized the significance of efficiency, especially during the pandemic, as it not only fulfilled requirements but also helped in reducing overhead costs and supporting the college's mission. Chair Fraser expressed gratitude for the progress made in transitioning the fleet to electric vehicles and shared that half of the police services' vehicles were now hybrid.

Student Trustee Shane Everbeck expressed interest in learning more about the supply issues with fleet vehicles and suggested this come back to an upcoming Board meeting.

#### Campaign update

Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation Abby Kelso addressed the Board while sharing photos depicting what campaign funding can do to support the college, such as events, programs, and student scholarships. Vice President Kelso then shared an update on the campaign, noting that there is just over one year left, which is focused on expanding the reach and inviting others at all levels to join the campaign. The Foundation has 5.9 million dollars left to raise by the end of the campaign on June 30, 2024.

#### Showcase student work

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs David McAvity introduced Brynn Smith, Assistant Director Office of International Programs and Services, who spoke about her background, the work she does at the college, and the various opportunities for students. Assistant Director Smith introduced two Evergreen students participating in study abroad, Jay Huckins and Nigel Fogelquist.

Student Jay Huckins shared with the Board details about her Independent Learning Contract with an ecological field research station in Chile and Student Nigel Fogelquist shared his experiences at Roskilde University in Denmark.

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

#### Finance and Budget Committee

##### *Legislative update*

Interim Director for Government Relations Sandy Kaiser reported on the extensive work done over the 2023 legislation session which ended on April 23, 2023. She indicated that the funding received by the legislature is evidence of respect and appreciation for the work the college is doing to increase enrollment and the focus on improvements to improve support systems to students.

Chief Administrative Officer William Ward reported that the college received a total of \$44,690,000 from the 2023-2025 capital budget request of \$49,970,000. College Budget Officer Dane Apalategui shared that the college received \$1,772,000 for 2023-2024 operating budget request of \$3,223,000 and \$1,642,000 for the 2024-2025 operating budget request of \$3,118,000. CAO Ward and Officer Apalategui both expressed appreciation for the funding received from the legislature.

##### Fee setting

##### *Service and activities (S&A) budget and fee preview*

##### Housing and dining rates preview

Interim Director of Residential and Dining Services Susan Hopp, shared a preview of the proposed Housing and Dining rates that will come to the Board of Trustees at the June 15, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting.


##### Cost of attendance preview


Chief Financial Officer Dave Kohler shared a preview of the estimated cost of attendance, including the tuition and fees proposal that will come before the Board of Trustees at the June 15, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting. He reported that a 3% tuition increase is allowed by the State of Washington, which will be the tuition increase ask at all the other 4-year public institutions in Washington. Cost of attendance includes tuition, fees, books, supplies, housing, and dining. The largest component of the increase in cost of attendance is housing and dining increases.

##### Enrollment update

Chief Enrollment Officer John Reed noted that enrollment at Evergreen is increasing at this time as many other colleges are experiencing downturn in enrollment. He noted that he has not seen this type of cooperation and teamwork with enrollment efforts in his career and noted it is extremely rewarding. CEO Reed reported that spring quarter enrollment is up by 130 more students, compared to this time last year. Continuing students are up by 104. With spring numbers up, the college has seen three consecutive terms this year that show increases – Fall 17%, Winter 18%, and Spring 21%. He also shared that deposits for Fall 2023 are up 45% from last year this time and he will have more solid numbers for the June meeting. Based on a request from a Trustee, CEO Reed agreed to share the percentage of out of state students once available.

The meeting adjourned at 1:21 p.m.

  
Karen Fraser, Chair

  
Ed Zuckerman, Secretary