

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
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: Dennis Karras, Karras Consulting Consultant
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 11:02 a.m. and Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson confirmed a quorum.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser shared how Evergreen is carrying forward with its excellent education program and is looking forward to commencement. She announced that today's meeting is to talk about next steps in the employment process and shared that she was charged with making recommendations for an interim appointment to the full Board of Trustees. Chair Fraser noted that she drafted an appointment process for discussion at today's meeting. She shared that she has received questions as to why the Evergreen community learned of the withdrawal of finalists from the Olympian newspaper rather than being notified by the Board. Chair Fraser reported that due to the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) there is information that cannot be shared ahead of time; in fact, not all of the Trustees were fully informed about these issues prior to the meeting last week and decisions, as well as Trustee communication, is limited to public meetings. She said that this is a time to for everyone to come together and move forward.

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.

Presidential search and interim planning

Chair Karen Fraser shared that the Trustees would meet to evaluate candidates for the role of Interim President. Keeping in mind all of the feedback that has been received from the community, the Board will deliberate, then vote on who to negotiate a contract with during a public meeting.

Chair Fraser made the following recommendation for a process for the interim presidential search moving forward.

1. Appoint an Interim President as soon as possible.
2. Trustees to meet to evaluate candidates and decide which candidates to invite to interview.
3. Trustees to interview those willing to be considered as soon as possible.
4. Trustees to keep in mind all extensive input received from the beginning of the search process to date.
5. Trustees to vote, in an open public meeting, to decide who to negotiate a contract with as soon as possible.

Considerations:

- Length of interim term
 - Conditions for negotiating shortening/lengthening the term
 - Salary range
 - Benefits package
 - Whether the interim president can or cannot apply for the permanent position
 - Role of interim president – caretaker v. actively pursues major agenda items
6. Decide when to resume the search for a permanent president.
 7. Prepare a communications plan for internal college communications and public communications.

Motion Trustee Fred Goldberg moved to adopt the recommended plan proposed by Chair Karen
2021-22 Fraser with the suggested amendment of revising the term “president” to “president or co-presidents”. The motion was seconded by Trustee David Nicandri and passed on a voice vote.

Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson shared that he enjoyed meeting with and gaining input from many community members during this process and suggested that the Trustees be more available to the community.

Open Public Meetings Act executive session

Chair Karen Fraser announced the Board will go into an Open Public Meetings Act 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 3:30 p.m. unless notified that the time has been extended Open session resumed at 3:35 p.m. after one extension.

Motion Trustee Irene Gonzales moved to hold interviews for Interim President or Co-Presidents
2021-23 on Monday, May 12; Wednesday, May 14; and Friday, May 16. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ed Zuckerman and passed on a voice vote.

Motion Trustee David Nicandri moved to delegate authority to the Chair of the Board or her
2021-24 designee to contact potential candidates for interviews. The motion was seconded by
Trustee Irene Gonzales and passed on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary