

**Trustees Attending:**

Karen Fraser  
Fred Goldberg  
Pam MacEwan  
Miguel Pérez-Gibson  
Allyson Brooks  
Ed Zuckerman  
Onya Robertson

**Absent:**

Kris Peters

**Staff Present:**

Abby Kelso, Vice President for Advancement  
Jadon Berry, Executive Associate to the Executive Vice President  
John Carmichael, President  
Dexter Gordon, Executive Vice President  
Farra Hayes, Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications  
Holly Joseph, Dean of Students  
Sandra Kaiser, Director for Government Relations  
David Kohler, Chief Financial Officer  
David McAvity, Provost  
William Ward, Chief Administrative Officer  
John Reed, Chief Enrollment Officer  
Eirik Steinhoff, Faculty  
Kelli Bush, Co-Director, Sustainability in Prisons  
Amy Betz, Directory of Academic Initiative Support  
Lori Blewett, Faculty  
Anthony Levenda, Faculty  
Andrew Beattie, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**Others Present:**

Sharon English, Assistant Attorney General  
Helena Farrell Paulsen, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees  
Lalita Calabria, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees  
Juniper Campbell, Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board of Trustees  
Jamie Fiano, Student

This meeting took place via Zoom. All participated remotely.

Chair Fraser called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and Secretary Zuckerman confirmed a quorum.

**Chair's opening remarks**

Chair Fraser acknowledged the Evergreen community is grieving the loss of student, Jonathan Rodriguez, who died on December 11, 2023, as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning in on-campus housing known as the Mods. She offered deepest condolences on behalf of the Board of Trustees to Jonathan's family and friends while acknowledging many others who are suffering, especially fellow students and those

working in Residential and Dining Services. Chair Fraser acknowledged the Board is actively engaged with college leadership, providing direction as the governing body for Evergreen.

### **Executive Leadership report**

President Carmichael and Executive Vice President Gordon shared updates on the status of the investigation, communication, and action steps in response to the tragedy on December 11, 2023 which resulted in the death of student, Jonathan Rodriguez, and injury to other students and staff. Executive Vice President Dexter Gordon shared information about Jonathan as a student and impactful member of our Evergreen community. President Carmichael acknowledged a long list of maintenance and repair needs in Evergreen housing facilities and noted the need for dedicated financial resources to continue addressing those needs as expediently as possible.

*Action item: motion to adopt Resolution 2024-01 delegating to the President and or his designee the authority to spend up to \$1 million from the Board contingency reserve fund to pay expenses associated with the tragic event on December 11, 2023, providing the Chair of the Board an accounting of all expenditures made under this authority.*

**Motion 2024-01** Trustee Zuckerman moved to adopt Resolution 2024-01 delegating to the President and or his designee the authority to spend up to \$1 million from the Board contingency reserve fund to pay expenses associated with the tragic event on December 11, 2023, providing the Chair of the Board an accounting of all expenditures made under this authority. Motion was seconded by Trustee Brooks and passed on a voice vote.

Chair Fraser announced a 5-minute break at 9:35 a.m. The meeting resumed at 9:40 a.m.

Chair Fraser noted she had attended the KAOS 50-year celebration and hand delivered a letter of congratulations. She also acknowledged her participation along with Trustee Robertson at Regents and Trustees Day with the state legislature. Chair Fraser officially welcomed GSU representative Juniper Campbell to his first full board meeting, having first attended a portion of the retreat in November.

### **Public comment**

Chair Fraser called for public comment. Executive Associate the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Beattie announced that there was no-one registered for public comment for the meeting.

### **Student Trustee report**

Student Trustee Onya Robertson personally offered sincere condolences to family and friends of Jonathan Rodriguez and the Evergreen community and a message that may Jonathan rest in power. She offered to be available for discussion and consult with administrators in their efforts toward resolve and more positive outcomes for students and the Evergreen community.

Trustee Roberts acknowledged she has shared significant time and space over the past few years with many students and Evergreen staff with a desire to help heal and build connections. She named student organizations who are exemplifying our college mission, including the Geoduck Student Union, Cooper Point Journal, and Black Student Union and offered gratitude for their work.

Trustee Robertson acknowledged her pleasant experience at Regents and Trustees Day and appreciated the opportunity to connect with other Regents, Trustees, and legislators, including a representative from her home community of the Hilltop neighborhood in Tacoma.

### **Representative reports**

*Faculty Representative Calabria* offered gratitude to the board and encouragement on behalf of incoming faculty representative Carolyn Prouty, who will begin serving immediately following this meeting. She shared that 49 new students joined the MPA program last fall with 29 in Olympia and 20 in Tacoma. At a recent world sustainability conference in the Netherlands, faculty Larry Geri chaired a panel on the political and social implications of sustainability transitions. MPA faculty Lucky Anguelov and Mike Crow presented at this year's NASPAA Network of Schools of Public Policy Affairs and Administration Conference. MPA grad Nicholas Mitchell, class of 2021 began detail as the Budget Analyst and Presidential Management Fellow at the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington D.C. in April of 2023. MIT program is in the third quarter of the pilot multi-lingual pathway, graduating 32 students. MES will begin celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> year as an Evergreen program. Tacoma campus has been a leader in enrollment growth of students of color in Washington this year and has begun shaping 21<sup>st</sup> century adult learners through their new early childhood education program. Tacoma is also hosting events every Saturday in February in honor of Black History Month and will host Founders Day on March 2, honoring Dr. Maxine Mimms on her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. Hydroponic food growing and study abroad programs are also new initiatives that continue to provide rich learning opportunities for Tacoma students. Faculty worked with facilities to install signage at the Evergreen Beach, educating our community on the public shellfish health alert.

Chair Fraser thanked Representative Calabria for her always thoughtful and informative contributions to the Board and wished her well as she transitions away from her representative role.

*Staff Representative Paulsen* shared that a student constructed memorial for Jonathan Rodriguez outside of Evans Hall has continued to be cared for by staff. She also acknowledged the difficult work of staff and student staff the evening of December 11 and ongoing work to address critical issues in campus housing. She acknowledged staff for participating in workshops and open forums for academic hiring priorities of dean and faculty roles. New program specialist for scholarships, Dane Wilbur. This new hire in Enrollment Services, splits a previous position into two, allowing dedicated focus to both areas of scholarships and commencement. 2024-25 scholarship applications opened on January 10 and as of Friday, January 26 had received 78 applications and 249 others in progress. CCBLA has transitioned the satellite Thurston County Foodbank to a new indoor location at the Basic Needs Center. A new Basic Needs Navigator position was recently filled, offering increased level of service out of the BNC.

*Geoduck Student Union Representative Campbell* shared that he is a Sophomore from Arizona, studying Economics Cybernetics and is very grateful for the opportunity to serve as GSU Representative. He acknowledged the loss of his friend and fellow student, Jonathan Rodriguez and the impact and harm of hospitalization of two other students and friends. He shared his thanks to RAD and all students who were involved in collective response to the incident and for maintaining an altar near the Mod housing complex smoking shelter. Representative Campbell also noted that students are continuing to proceed with their student experience, while carrying the trauma of this event. Students have become increasingly interested in engagement with Evergreen administration. He indicated that this interest comes from a place of love of this school and desire to see the school succeed. Basic needs, wellness services, and police accountability and review, and infrastructure improvements are all topics of interest

to many students. He shared about his own role as GSU legislative liaison and work with the Washington Student Association. GSU will plan to host a lobby day on February 12 and a town hall on February 28. He noted that GSU is working hard this year to ensure a structure and system that is more open to and supportive of the students they serve. He finally noted that students are drawn to find more ways to engage with their school also because of Evergreen's recent triumphs over challenging times in previous years. Representative Campbell encouraged the Board to help facilitate structures that ensure consistency and continuity.

### **Approval of meeting minutes**

*Action item: motion to approve meeting minutes of November 28, 2023.*

**Motion 2024-02** Trustee Zuckerman moved to approve meeting minutes of November 28, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee MacEwan and passed on a voice vote.

### **Finance and Budget Committee**

Trustee Zuckerman highlighted post COVID financial health of college is improving and confidence in Chief Financial Officer Dave Kohler and his team.

Chief Financial Officer Dave Kohler shared that Professional and Continuing Education is generating revenue and on track, yet behind schedule on initial projections to add new revenue to the operating budget by FY26.

### **Campaign update**

Vice President for Advancement Abby Kelso joined the call from Los Angeles, CA where she was attending the AGB Foundation Leadership Conference with colleagues and will be presenting later in the day with Foundation Board members. She discussed new House of Welcome Endowment and a new Coordinated Studies Endowment and reminded the Board of the Art of Giving event on Thursday, May 2.

Vice President Kelso shared that \$53.6 million is the current campaign total after a strong month of January. She shared gratitude for the individual ways trustees have supported the campaign efforts.

### **Enrollment update**

Chief Enrollment Officer John Reed shared current enrollment counts for winter term, a recent financial aid workshop for Shelton students hosted by Evergreen, and efforts to prepare for FAFSA changes.

### **Professional and Continuing Education (PACE)**

President Carmichael, Provost David McAavity, Dean Lori Blewett shared about efforts underway to explore methods that work toward meeting workforce demands and strategic enrollment growth for Professional and Continuing Education.

### **Legislative update**

Chair Fraser shared more about her experience with Trustee Robertson at Regents and Trustees Day.

Director of Government Relations, Sandy Kaiser thanked Representative Campbell, Trustee Robertson and Chair Fraser for their advocacy and engagement with the legislature. She shared some updates on timelines for bills and trustee confirmations. She also informed board members the status and timelines associated with each of Evergreen’s requests.

Chair Fraser announced a 10-minute break at 10:55 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:05 a.m.

**Student Achievement and Success Committee**

Trustee Pérez-Gibson and Provost McAvity invited a group of academic deans and faculty to give background and an update on the Prison Education Project.

Provost McAvity reaffirmed the need for the Board to approve a new Prison Education Resolution so the program can receive accreditation and ensure eligibility of Pell Grant funding for those students.

*Action item: motion to adopt Prison Education Resolution.*

**Motion 2024-03** Trustee Pérez Gibson moved to adopt resolution 2024-02 authorizing the establishment of a new Prison Education Program at The Evergreen State College. Motion was seconded by Trustee MacEwan and passed on a voice vote.

**Student Presentation**

Faculty member Anthony Levenda introduced Jamie Fiano who shared about her experience in the Center for Climate Action and Sustainability. This work has resulted in launching a Climate Café program at the college which gives students experiencing hardship and difficult emotions because of climate change a structured space to connect, be informed, and process these experiences. Jamie also had a successful experience as a legislative intern.

Chair Fraser adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

---

Karen Fraser, Chair

---

Ed Zuckerman, Secretary