Approved: November 17, 2010

# REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

## September 15, 2010

**Trustees Attending:** 

Nathan Brockett

Absent: Denny Heck Paul Winters

Carver Gayton

Irene Gonzales Kristin Hayden

Keith Kessler Anne Proffitt

**Staff Present:** 

John Carmichael, Executive Assistant to the President

Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement

Azeem Hoosein, Assistant Director of Facilities

John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration

Tom Mercado, Director of Student Activities

Thomas L. Purce. President Paul Smith, Director of Facilities

Todd Sprague, Director of Marketing, Communications and College

Relations

Ken Tabbutt, Interim Academic Vice President and Provost

Steve Trotter, Executive Director of Operational Planning and Budget

Others present:

Andrew Buchman, Faculty Representative to the Board

Craig Chance, Chair of the Foundation Board of Governors

Jonathan Lindsay, Staff Representative to the Board

Dorian Waller, Alumni Association Representative to the Board

Trustee Anne Proffitt called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Board Room of The Evergreen State College. A quorum was present with Trustees Brockett, Gayton, Gonzales, Hayden, Kessler, and Proffitt attending. President Purce introduced Student Trustee Nathan Brockett.

#### **Executive Session**

Ms. Proffitt announced that the Board would move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining. returning to an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. The Board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

## Capital Projects Update

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley was joined by Director of Facilities Paul Smith and Assistant Director of Facilities Azeem Hoosein who discussed current capital projects. including the Lab Annex renovation and the CAB renovation.

Matt Lane from McGranahan Architects presented the proposed design for the renovation of the Communications Building. The proposed design seeks to enhance program space, upgrade utility and technology infrastructure, and increase energy efficiency.

Reid Middleton presented a proposal for seismic stabilization of the clock tower, reviewing the options that were considered before settling on a recommendation to apply a fiber-reinforced polymer wrap to the tower's structural members. The solution will change the shape and appearance of the tower's columns. The design team is working to identify the most aesthetically pleasing finish option.

## WashPIRG

Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino presented a recommendation to approve a voluntary study fee to support the WashPIRG organization. The fee was endorsed by a vote of the students last Spring. Director of Student Activities Tom Mercado said that Evergreen has had a WashPIRG chapter since 1983. The proposed Board action would return the voluntary fee to eight dollars per quarter, beginning Winter 2011.

## **Foundation Update**

Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann and Foundation Board of Governors Chair Craig Chance provided an update from The Evergreen State College Foundation. Mr. Chance noted that the economic situation made fundraising not only more difficult but also more necessary. He described staffing changes in the development office and praised the planning and work done by Advancement staff in developing relationships with large and small donors.

### Marketing, Communications and College Relations

Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann introduced Director of Marketing, Communications and College Relations Todd Sprague, who described the goals of the college's outreach programs. He discussed the earned and paid media attention received by the college and shared survey data on Evergreen's reputation in Washington State.

### Convocation

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. so that Board members could attend the Faculty-Staff Convocation event. The meeting resumed as scheduled at 1:30 p.m.

#### **Public Comment**

Ms. Proffitt invited public comment. Two people spoke:

- Anna Simonton spoke for TESC Divest, a student organization focused on Palestinian solidarity. She re-stated the group's previous position that the college should divest from Israel and ban Caterpillar from campus, noting that students voted in large numbers in support of these initiatives. She said that these initiatives are part of a global movement and reported on similar work at the Olympia Food Co-op, in Great Britain, Ireland, Norway and elsewhere in the US.
- Member of the Faculty Therese Saliba also spoke in favor of divestment from Israel and praised the student leadership in the movement. She noted that the issue had come up previously following the death of Rachel Corrie. She drew parallels to the anti-apartheid movement and the US civil rights movement. She described conditions in Israel-Palestine that she witnessed as a Fulbright scholar and said that conditions have since deteriorated.

Mr. Brockett thanked the speakers for sharing their views with the Board.

# **Budget Outlook and Planning**

Executive Director of Operational Planning and Budget Steve Trotter provided an overview of budget planning. He noted that funding per student from the state General Fund has been cut to the level that it was a decade ago. If tuition is added in, funding per student in constant dollars is where it was two decades ago.

One year ago, the state faced a nine billion dollar shortfall. The college's \$50 million budget needed to be cut \$7 million. The problem was solved with a mixture of budget reductions, shifts to other fund sources and tuition increases. The college cut \$4.2 million, raised undergraduate resident tuition 14 percent per year, and eliminated 33 full-time positions, mostly through attrition.

In addition, last spring, General Fund support to the college was cut another \$4.6 million. The college responded with \$1.4 million in permanent reductions and \$3.2 million in temporary cuts. If not for the revenue package that the legislature enacted, it is likely that student financial aid programs would also have been cut, making 285 students ineligible for state financial aid and reducing financial aid awards to another 1,100 students by about \$1000.

Current forecasts suggest that state caseload expenditures will exceed available revenues in the next two biennia. Rough projections suggest that the college may face another 10 percent cut in the next biennium. Additional supplemental budget reductions are expected, but not until another revenue forecast is available.

President Purce discussed the Governor's Higher Education Task Force. The group is studying funding models and accountability.

# **Communications Building Renovation**

Motion Dr. Gayton made a motion to approve the proposed design of the Communications 2010-27 Building Renovation project. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Clock Tower Retrofit**

Motion 2010-28

Dr. Gonzales made a motion to approve the proposed design of the Clock Tower Retrofit Project. The Board discussed the aesthetic decisions to be made and the safety of the materials to be used in the project. Dr. Hurley said that a mock-up would be prepared to show what the final finish would look like and that the college has systems in place to ensure the safety of materials used in all campus projects. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

## WashPIRG

Motion 2010-29

Dr. Gayton made a motion to collect an optional \$8.00 "WASHPIRG" student fee to be collected each quarter (including summer quarter) and to delegate to the President (or his designee) the authority to enter into an agreement with WashPIRG to implement collection of the WashPIRG fee from Winter quarter 2011 through Summer quarter 2012. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

# Minutes

Motion 2010-29

Dr. Gayton made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Student Trustee's Report**

Mr. Brockett said that he had spoken to a group of incoming students and is in the process of contacting other student trustees and regents. He said that he is exploring social media tools and has started a Facebook page for the student trustee. He has met with several students involved with the gasification plant proposal and with the Boycott-Divest-Sanction movement and hopes to help facilitate contacts.

## President's Report

President Purce invited Andrew Buchman to report as the Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Buchman said that faculty appreciate the work of trustees and staff. He commended students for stepping up to governance roles. He said that at the next meeting he expects to be able to report on the work of the Remodeling Teaching and Learning at Evergreen Disappearing Task Force, which plans to bring proposals before the faculty this fall.

President Purce invited Jonathan Linsday to report as the staff representative to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Lindsay said that he appreciated the opportunity to serve as staff representative. He said that staff are working to do more with fewer resources, which can be both stressful and inspirational.

President Purce invited Dorian Waller to report on behalf of the Alumni Association. Mr. Waller said that the Alumni Association will hold its first meeting of the year next week. They continue to work to raise money and engage alumni throughout the country.

President Purce invited Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs to describe new student orientation plans. Dr. Costantino distributed a program for the week-long orientation and described major events.

President Purce said that Fall quarter will include work to respond to the call for divestment and to determine the economic and environmental feasibility of a gasification plant to replace the college's use of natural gas. The college's long-standing tuition policy may also come under scrutiny if the Higher Education Task Force recommends giving local boards more authority to set tuition. President Purce concluded his report by reviewing major events on his schedule.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Proffitt, Co-Chair

Carver Gayton, Secretary

Irene Gonzales, Co-Chair