



Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 16, 2021

Trustees Attending: Monica Alexander
Melinda Bratsch-Horsager
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
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, Search Consultant Karras Consulting
Marissa Karras, Search Consultant Karras Consulting
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 9:02 a.m. and Secretary Miguel Pérez-Gibson confirmed a quorum.

Chair's opening remarks

Chair Karen Fraser shared that the presidential search process is moving along in an orderly manner. She announced that Evergreen hosted their first ever COVID-19 vaccine clinic and over 400 students, staff and faculty received their first dose. She thanked the Chehalis tribe who donated the doses and their time for the vaccine clinic.

Public comment

Susan Harris, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, announced that one student, Amy Maytorena, signed up for public comment.

Amy reported that she has been in and out of the Evergreen system and has had many obstacles in receiving support. Previously, her financial aid was stolen, and she stated that she received no response when she went to the administration for help. Amy has been trying to coordinate an independent learning contract and has had trouble connecting with someone. She only received a response yesterday.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman thanked Amy for coming and asked if she could give some specific examples of barriers she has faced at Evergreen. Amy responded that when she first arrived at Evergreen she was a homeless student and had to complete the application multiple times as well as for financial aid, which arrived late every quarter. She shared that one year her financial aid check was stolen. She was not properly informed what some of the classes would entail and has been shamed in her class for having a support animal. Her application listed the wrong quarter of registration online and when the Registration Office did not answer she reached out to Student Trustee Melinda Bratsch-Horsager and President George Bridges. Amy indicated that Chief Enrollment Officer Eric Pedersen has been very helpful.

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 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 3:45p.m. unless notified that she has extended the time. Open session resumed as announced.

Action items

Chair Karen Fraser reported that this an extraordinary presidential search process that has included about nine distinct steps. She gave thanks to so many who participated and assisted in the process. Appointing the President is the Board of Trustees' number one responsibility. The steps include: 1) Board of Trustees name a search consultant; 2) Board of Trustees form the Presidential Search Committee; 3) Board of trustees appoint the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and create the prospectus; 4) open the national search, receiving 63 applications that were reviewed by the Presidential Search Committee, 5) implicit bias training for the Presidential Search Committee prior to interviews; 6) Board of Trustees interview with seven candidates with background checks conducted on each by the search consultant; 7) Board of Trustees deliberation of the candidates and determination of finalists; 8) community forums (next week); and 9) Board of Trustees receive feedback from the community forums and make a final decision.

Of the 63 applicants, 60% identified as Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), and 13% were in-state applicants.

Trustee Ed Zuckerman stated that the Advisory committee was integral to the search, and the Presidential Search Committee did an incredible job of transforming the work in the prospectus and holding to the criteria. The process allowed for the work to be carried forward.

Trustee David Nicandri thanked the non-trustee members of the Presidential Search Committee and appreciated the exchange the committees offered. He shared that these candidates can bring change as servant leaders and are prepared to act in response to a crisis.

Trustee Miguel Pérez-Gibson mentioned the value for liberal arts possessed by the candidates and their willingness and eagerness to reach out to the non-traditional students. He shared that he appreciated working with other constituencies and thanked all the candidates for being gracious with their time.

Motion Trustee Irene Gonzales made a motion to nominate Michael Dumont as a presidential
2021-17 finalist. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fred Goldberg and passed on a voice vote.

Michael Dumont is a recently retired Navy Admiral, lawyer, and national security leader. He holds a law degree and a Master in National Security Studies.

Motion Trustee David Nicandri made a motion to nominate Catherine Kodat as a presidential
2021-18 finalist. The motion was seconded by Trustee Monica Alexander and passed on a voice vote.

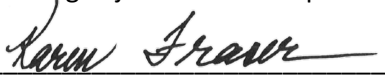
Catherine Kodat serves as the Provost of Faculty at Lawrence University. She is a former journalist and scholar and has served as faculty department chair in several colleges. She holds a PhD from Boston University.

Motion Trustee Fred Goldberg made a motion to nominate Lee Lambert as a presidential finalist.
2021-19 The Motion was seconded by Trustee Miguel Pérez-Gibson and passed on a voice vote.

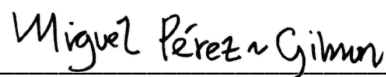
Lee Lambert serves as Chancellor in Tucson, Arizona and is the former President of Shoreline Community College. He is a veteran, Evergreen alumnus, and former Special Assistant to the Vice President for Civil Rights at Evergreen. He holds a law degree from Seattle University.

Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Susan Harris shared that each finalist will participate in virtual interview sessions next week for students, staff, and faculty. There will also a session for each finalist with the key audience of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, alumni, key stakeholders, and friends of the college. Details on the open interview opportunities will be shared via email as well as listed on the presidential search website. Everyone is encouraged to participate and submit feedback via the online feedback form. After candidate feedback is received, the Board of Trustees will review the feedback, deliberate, develop the president's contract, and bring forth a motion to make an offer to the finalist at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.



Karen Fraser, Chair



Miguel Pérez-Gibson, Secretary