



Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 8, 2019

Trustees Attending:

Monica Alexander
Karen Fraser
Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
Kathleena Ly
Ed Zuckerman

Trustees Absent:

Keith Kessler
David Nicandri

Staff Present:

George Bridges, President
John Carmichael, Vice President for Finance and Operations
Laura Coghlan, Executive Associate for the Vice President for Finance and Operations
Andy Corn, Executive Associate to the Vice Provost for Student Engagement
Jennifer Drake, Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life
Sharon Goodman, Director of Residence and Dining Services
Susan Harris, Executive Associate to the President and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
Chassity Holliman-Douglas, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success
Holly Joseph, College Budget Officer
Sandra Kaiser, Vice President for College Relations
Elizabeth McHugh, Director of Student Wellness, Recreation, and Athletics
Jeremy Mohn, Director of Government Relations
Eric Pedersen, Chief Enrollment Officer
Emily Pieper, Assistant Director First Peoples Multicultural, Trans, and Queer Support Service
Jeannette Smith, Director of Student Activities and College Activities Building
Laurel Uznanski, Associate Vice President for Human Resource Services
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation

Others Present:

Alexander Farley, GSU Representative to the Board of Trustees
Michael Lusk, Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees
Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General
Paul Przybylowicz, Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees

Chair Fred Goldberg called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Lord Mansion located at 211 21st Ave SW, Olympia, WA. A quorum was present. Chair Goldberg welcomed new Trustee Ed Zuckerman and new Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board of Trustees Alexander Farley.

President's overview

President George Bridges gave a brief overview of the meeting agenda and discussed the renewal initiatives being undertaken by the College. He thanked faculty and staff for being involved in the work.

Adoption of minutes

Motion Trustee Irene Gonzales moved for approval of the minutes of the March 8, 2019 and
2019-02 the April 25, 2019 meetings. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ed Zuckerman and passed on a voice vote.

Public comment

Chair Fred Goldberg called for public comment.

Evergreen third-year student Bill addressed the Board of Trustees. Bill noted that the location for this Board of Trustees meeting is difficult for campus community members to participate. Bill said that he traveled 30 minutes to attend this meeting to provide comment and was missing class to do so. He requested that the meetings be held in a location more convenient to the Evergreen community.

Chair Goldberg called for student Alex Medina to provide public comment. Alex submitted a comment through the Board of Trustees web form noting concerns about meeting times and the change in meeting location. Alex was not present at the meeting.

Executive session

Chair Fred Goldberg announced that the Board would move into executive session, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act 42.30.140 and 42.30.110, to discuss collective bargaining, and to receive and evaluate complaints brought against a public officer or employee and/or to review the performance of a public employee. He said that the Board would return to an open meeting at 11:35 a.m. unless notified that the time has been extended and that no final action will be taken in executive session. The Board returned to an open meeting as scheduled at 11:35 a.m.

Action items

Motion Trustee Karen Fraser moved for approval of the 4SU contract. The motion was
2019-03 seconded by Trustee Irene Gonzales and passed on a voice vote.

Fiscal Year 2020 budget

Vice President for Finance and Operations John Carmichael briefed the Board on the upcoming budget discussion, focusing on tuition and fees, enrollment, and the legislative budget. Vice President Carmichael noted that the College is preparing for a budget reduction. The expectation is that we will graduate over 1,000 students in spring, with an expected entering class of less than 1,000, resulting in a smaller total student population in 2019-2020. The budget will be brought to the Board of Trustees meeting in June for approval.

To discuss the budget, Executive Associate for the Vice President for Finance and Operations Laura Coghlan; Executive Associate to the Vice Provost for Student Engagement Andy Corn; Director of Residential and Dining Services Sharon Goodman; College Budget Officer Holly Joseph; Director of Student Wellness, Recreation, and Athletics Elizabeth McHugh; Chief Enrollment Officer Eric Pedersen; Assistant Director of First Peoples Multicultural, Trans, and Queer Support Services Emily Pieper; and Director of Student Activities and College Activities Building Jeannette Smith joined Vice President Carmichael at the table.

Vice President Carmichael noted that to evaluate the best course of action for tuition recommendations, fee changes need to be considered at the same time. College Budget Officer Joseph and Executive Associate Coghlan reviewed the tuition recommendation to the Board of Trustees. The recommendation includes a 2.4% increase in resident undergraduate tuition and graduate non-resident tuition and a 4.0% increase for non-resident undergraduate tuition and graduate resident tuition. They noted that the recommendation comes from an in-depth look at statutory authority, expected costs, budget cuts, and comparisons with peer groups. The 2.4% increase in resident undergraduate tuition is in line with the other four-year Washington State higher education institutions.

Executive Associate Corn, Director Goodman, Director McHugh, Assistant Director Pieper, and Director Smith, presented on the proposed fees for the biennium for services and activities, wellness services, and residential and dining.

The recommendation includes an increase of 4% in the services and activities fees for 2019-2020 with an additional increase of 4% for 2020-2021, and a request for approval of the 2019-2021 services and activities fee biennial budget as developed by the College and the Services and Activities Fee Allocation Board as outlined in the material distributed to the Board. It was noted that the rates and fee levels are similar to other institutions in the state and the proposed fees represent relatively modest increases. They noted that during an enrollment decline, fee revenue budgets are not buffered by state appropriations. Factors to take into consideration include the new expenses due to the new paid family medical leave program and increased minimum wage. The Services and Activities Fee recommendation was reviewed with the Board and the difference between tier 1 and tier 2 budgets were explained. Assistant Director Pieper stressed that this was a collaborative effort with the Services and Activities Fee Allocation Board and what is presented is a collective budget developed through this process.

Director McHugh reviewed the recommendation for 2019-2021 student wellness fees. Recommendations include an increase to \$474/year for 2019-2020 and an increase to \$501/year for 2020-2021. This fee would ensure the continuation of current services and programs as well as referral services for students whose care is beyond the scope of the Wellness Center services. Director McHugh responded to Board questions regarding services offered, expanded access, number of students served, and service to the Tacoma program.

Director Goodman reviewed the recommendation for increases in the Residential and Dining Services rates. Recommendations include an increase of 5% for housing rates and 4% for dining rates for both the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years. She indicated that Residential and Dining Services is embarking on a renewal strategy to look at staffing and facilities over the next few years.

Chief Enrollment Officer Eric Pedersen gave an enrollment update. He indicated that we have 205 new students registered for Fall 2019 compared to 263 around this time last year. He stressed that recruitment efforts will continue throughout the summer. Transfer student registration is scheduled to open on Monday, May 15, 2019 so the comparison to last year is not exact. We expect to see most transfer student registrations between now and the end of August. Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen noted that we expect to graduate approximately 1,000 in June.

The meeting was briefly interrupted by representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World South Sound General Education Union (IWW). The group distributed a statement to the Board of Trustees and

a statement was read aloud by one of the IWW members. After approximately 5 minutes, the IWW members dispersed and the meeting reconvened.

Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen returned to the presentation and reviewed the renewal initiatives being undertaken to bolster new student recruitment. He indicated that as these are new initiatives, the lack of historical data creates difficulty in developing accurate projections of future enrollment. Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen stated that he will continue to update projections as the data comes available. The Trustees expressed an interest in supporting the work on student recruitment. Chief Enrollment Officer Pedersen and President George Bridges agreed to work on a plan for the Trustees to engage in this work.

Director of Government Relations Jeremy Mohn presented a legislative update. He indicated that the College received funding for almost all operating budget requests. He noted that while not all requests were fully funded, those that were funded are permanent investments made by the legislature. He highlighted that the legislature included full funding of a 3% increase in compensation for staff and faculty, funding for student success programs, high demand psychology, an updated Student Wellness Services Center, and LAB I seismic and HVAC renovations.

Director Mohn then gave an overview of HB 2158, The Workforce Education Investment Act. This act replaces the State Need Grant program with the Washington College Grant program with guaranteed funding for all eligible students beginning FY21. Director Mohn thanked President Bridges for all the work he has done with the legislature. In turn, the Trustees expressed their thanks to Director Mohn and gave appreciation for his work.

Working lunch

During the Board's working lunch, Vice President for Inclusive Excellence and Student Success Chassity Holliman-Douglass led a workshop on inclusive excellence with the Board of Trustees.

The Board separated into smaller groups to review stories and discuss amongst themselves, then return to the larger group for discussion. She then asked the group to do a reflective exercise considering the following questions: 1) In what environments do you feel the greatest sense of belonging? 2) Have there been times in your life when you did feel belonging? 3) If so, when were those times? 4) What are some of the characteristics that describe your experience?

Vice President Holliman-Douglas shared that there is no way to reach inclusive excellence without acknowledging marginalized groups on campus. The following questions to ask: 1) Who is missing? 2) Who is here? 3) Why are they missing? 4) What opportunities are we creating for increased access?

She also posed the following questions to the Board: As a member of the Board of Trustees, what learning do you need to be an effective partner in our College's inclusive excellence work? The Trustees expressed an interest in the Board engaging with students on campus, in particular to hear student stories and learn what type of support the Board can provide.

Chair Fred Goldberg then addressed earlier comments regarding the decision to use the Lord Mansion for this meeting. He expressed that utilizing this space is one way in which to bring Evergreen into the Olympia community and develop positive relationships with our neighbors.

Board committee

Provost and Vice President for Student and Academic Life Jennifer Drake presented on behalf of the Student Success and Recruitment Committee. She noted that she presented on behalf of David Nicandri, Chair of the Committee, in his absence. Vice President Drake reported that the Student Recruitment and Success committee met on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 and outlined the key topics discussed: inclusive excellence, Paths of Study, and accreditation.

Delegation of authority

Vice President for Finance and Operations John Carmichael gave an overview of the delegation of authority. He will propose revisions to the 2007 delegation of authority and request approval at a future meeting. Three areas where revisions are being contemplated include rule making, contracts, and legal actions.

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller gave an overview of executive session rules with regard to legal discussion, action, and delegation. She indicated that a revision to the delegation of authority would allow for a degree of clarity with policy and administrative work.

Chair's report

Chair Fred Goldberg gave a brief history of the Lord Mansion. Chair Goldberg appointed a nominating committee to propose a new slate of Officers for The Evergreen State College Board of Trustees to serve in FY20. The nominating committee includes the following Trustees: Irene Gonzales, Keith Kessler, and David Nicandri. He requested that the nominating committee come back to the next meeting with a nominative report.

Chair Goldberg asked Trustee Karen Fraser to report on the Association of Governing Board (AGB) National Conference on Trusteeship that she attended in April 2019. Trustee Fraser reported that the focus of the conference was on governance in colleges and universities. She expanded by noting that the primary role of a Trustee is to protect and enhance the long term goals of the institution and added that the biggest failure of Trustees is engaging in the daily administration of the College rather than the higher level strategic work. Trustee Fraser acknowledged that the conference was exceptionally well done and encouraged ongoing participation.

Chair Goldberg invited Trustee Kathleena Ly to give a Student Trustee report. Trustee Ly reported that she is wrapping up last few weeks as a senior in the Tacoma program. She invited the Trustees to attend the upcoming spring fair and the Tacoma graduation celebration. Trustee Ly noted that on May 20 and 29 she will be representing Evergreen at a transfer fair and in doing so promoting Evergreen to prospective transfer students.

President's report

President George Bridges announced that Evergreen commencement is scheduled for June 14, 2019 and noted that the biography for commencement speaker Tracy Rector could be found in the folder previously shared. Work on renewal and summer institutes is underway. A search for a Dean and an Admissions position for the Tacoma program has been launched. The College is commissioning a market analysis in Pierce and Thurston counties to inform how best to engage prospective students.

President Bridges invited Vice President for Advancement Amanda Walker to give a fundraising report. Vice President Walker provided a fundraising report and noted that it is the second biggest year in the

history of the foundation for revenue received from gifts and pledges, second only to 2017. This signals that we have strong support for our students and renewal initiatives. Vice President Walker highlighted that we have 100% participation from the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors. She thanked the Trustees for their participation in Art of Giving and indicated it was a huge success, exceeding the event goal. Vice President Walker also noted that she will be bringing forward a proposal on campaign counting guidelines to the June meeting for the Board's approval.

President Bridges invited Alexander Farley to report as the Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board of Trustees. Representative Farley reported that the new speaker to the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) will be voted on in the fall. Representative Farley reported that the GSU is working to become more cohesive. One example of this includes the GSU assembly, which allows interactions with the student body as a whole. Representative Farley noted that numbers have been increasing in attendance, from 10 at the first assembly to approximately 50. The GSU will be working on better advertising in an attempt to increase participation. The next GSU assembly is scheduled for May 22, 2019 where the budget committee will be presenting. Representative Farley noted the GSU is hosting a consent prom, a fun and interactive event for students on June 7, 2019. GSU representatives Annie Landis and Charles Adkins helped support legislation during the legislative session that completed, and polling is currently in progress for next years' legislative team.

President Bridges invited Michael Lusk to report as Staff Representative to the Board of Trustees. Representative Lusk reported that he has not been connecting with other staff as he normally would as he has been working nights. He did note that the staff that he has encountered are feeling unsure about what is happening on campus and often perceive the messages going out are more spin than information.

Finally, President Bridges invited Paul Przybylowicz to report as Faculty Representative to the Board of Trustees. The faculty will be reviewing hiring priorities and will vote on a new process for establishing priorities today. In addition, bargaining is occurring with the United Faculty of Evergreen (UFE) today. He noted that the First Year Experience (FYE) and Paths of Study have been approved and are moving forward. Faculty are discussing and raising concerns about leadership and want more information on how the evaluation process works. There are also ongoing conversations about faculty governance, and Agenda Committee recruitment is difficult as not much power and benefits come with the additional responsibility and workload. Representative Przybylowicz stated that there is middle level talent flight with the perceived uncertainties on campus and some are seeking more stable options elsewhere.

Concluding remarks

Chair Fred Goldberg noted that graduation is the "pay" that volunteer Trustees receive as it is deeply rewarding to hand students their diplomas.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Fred Goldberg, Chair

Irene Gonzales, Secretary