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COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

237 W. Kellogg Road, Bellingham

Phyllis & Charles Learning Commons 160

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

2:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER Chair Jeff Fairchild officially called the Board of Trustees meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Present in addition to the chair were trustees Wendy Bohlke, John Pedlow, Rebecca Johnson, and Teresa Taylor constituting a quorum. Others present included President Justin Guillory; Nate Langstraat, Vice President for Administrative Services, Kerri Holferty, Interim Vice President for Student Services; Steven Thomas, Vice President for Instruction, Kerena Higgins, Assistant Attorney General; and Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for the Office of the President.

Chair Fairchild began with a land acknowledgment to recognize and pay respect to the Coast Salish Peoples as traditional stewards of this land and the enduring relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional territories.

ACTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

- Trustee Pedlow moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Bohlke and the motion was approved.
- Chair Fairchild announced that there is a designated time for public comment on the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of May 14 Board of Trustees Meeting.

Chair Fairchild stated: “If there are no objections, the item in the consent agenda will be adopted.” As there was no objection, this item was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- ➔ Chair Fairchild called for public comment. The following individuals provided public comments:
- Anita Harker, faculty, shared comments regarding the impacts of furlough.
 - Leah Thompson, faculty, shared comments regarding impacts of furlough and reduction in force.
 - Russ Nelson, Media Manager/AFT Staff Representative, shared a statement from AFT staff regarding contract negotiations and submitted a signed petition.
 - Tommaso Vanelli, faculty and incoming department chair, shared comments regarding accountability.
 - Anna Wolff, faculty, shared comments regarding the impacts of furlough.

ACTION ITEMS

➔ **Proposed 2025-2026 S&A Budget (second reading) – Moises Jacobo, ASWCC President**

Jacobo shared a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the proposed S&A budget.

Highlights included:

- Response to feedback and questions from Cabinet and the Board
- Additional funding for Horizon Publication

Trustee Johnson moved to approve the proposed 2025-2026 S&A Budget. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the motion was approved.

➔ **Proposed 2025-2026 WCC Operating Budget Update (second reading) – Nate Langstraat, VP for Administrative Services**

President Justin emphasized three key focus areas: communication, transparency, and participation. The administration has been providing weekly budget updates to keep the campus community informed. Two budget forums were held—one in person and one in a hybrid format.

Langstraat expressed appreciation for the students' hard work on the S&A budget. He shared a PowerPoint Presentation with an overview of the proposed 2025-26 Operating Budget.

Trustee Bohlke moved to approve the proposed 2025-2026 WCC Operating Budget. It was seconded by Trustee Johnson and the motion was approved.

➔ **Faculty Emeritus Recommendations**

Jeff Klausman, English Faculty and Tara Hughes, English Faculty were scheduled to retire at the end of the academic year. Based on their exceptional service to our college and our students, it was recommended that both Klausman and Hughes be awarded the Faculty Emeritus status.

Trustee Pedlow moved to approve granting faculty emeritus to Jeff Klausman and Tara Hughes. It was seconded by Trustee Taylor and the motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- President Justin attended the ACT 2025 Spring Conference in Spokane. He shared that it was a valuable opportunity to connect with other trustees and college presidents.
- Governor Bob Ferguson attended the May WACTC (Washington Association of Community and Technical Colleges) meeting and met with college presidents. During the meeting, the presidents advocated for the governor's continued support of the two-year college system.
- Several campus events highlighted our students' excellence and achievements, including the Honors and Awards Ceremony and the Student Showcase.

REPORTS

➤ **WCCFT** – Barry Maxwell, President

Maxwell shared faculty's concerns about recent layoffs, expressing the importance of acknowledging those affected and anticipating further reductions. He noted that schedule-related cost savings have led to the loss of adjunct positions. Many faculty felt they were not adequately involved in decision-making processes and sought more transparency, particularly regarding the decision not to use financial reserves. Additional concerns included the negative impact of furloughs on students and the significant workload associated with meeting accessibility requirements ahead of the accreditation visit.

➤ **WSFE** – Dan Andreason, President

Andreason shared a statement urging the board to reconsider furloughs and layoffs, and to explore additional opportunities for cost savings.

➤ **Student Services** – Kerri Holferty, Interim Vice President

Holferty thanked the students for their work on the S&A Budget and expressed appreciations to those who attended the board meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS OF THE BOARD

➔ **WCC Commencement Ceremony – June 20, 2025**

Rafeeka Kloke provided an overview of the logistics for the upcoming commencement ceremony.

➔ **Community Transition Building Groundbreaking event**

Chair Fairchild reminded board members of the groundbreaking event at 4 pm, after the board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned for an executive session of the Board for approximately twenty minutes, as provided in RCW 42.30.110 and 42.30.140 (4) (a), to discuss collective bargaining, to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to litigation or potential litigation...

Chair Fairchild announced that action was not anticipated. Guests included President Justin Guillory, Vice President for Administrative Services Nate Langstraat, Executive Director for Human Resources, Rafeeka Kloke, Executive Director for Office of the President, and Assistant Attorney General Kerena Higgins.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. and the Board reconvened into open session at 3:50 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Chair of the Board

8/19/2025
Date

President and Secretary of the Board

8/19/2025
Date