



**the evergreen  
state college**  
olympia, washington

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

**November 9, 2016**

**Trustees Attending:**

Fred Goldberg  
Irene Gonzales  
Rhianna Hruska  
Keith Kessler  
David Nicandri  
Gretchen Sorensen

**Absent:**

Anne Proffitt  
James Wigfall

**Staff Present:**

Jon Baumunk, Member of the Faculty  
George Bridges, President  
John Carmichael, President's Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board  
Laura Coghlan, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment  
Wendy Endress, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Susan Harris, Executive Assistant to the President  
Kate Himes, Member of the Faculty  
Steve Hunter, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management  
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Ken Tabbutt, Interim Provost  
Zoe Van Schyndel, Member of the Faculty  
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of  
The Evergreen State College Foundation

**Others Present:**

Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General  
Sandra Yannone, Faculty Representative to the Board

Ms. Sorensen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.. A quorum was present.

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Motion** Dr. Gonzales moved approval of the minutes of the September meeting. The motion  
**2016-26** was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**President's Overview**

President Bridges commented on the previous day's presidential election, reading a statement that he had distributed to staff, faculty, and students. The statement began:

Yesterday's elections profoundly affect all of us. As we consider the many outcomes, our reactions may vary depending on the campaign in question and on our individual views and positions. But the divisiveness of the

political rhetoric over the past months has alienated and discouraged many, leaving individuals and entire groups feeling left out—of the electoral process, of political discourse, or even of the society. Many are likely to fear the future.

Together, we must consider what the role of an institution of higher learning should be on such a day. A college is, of course, a place of learning where we have a responsibility to apply the tools of reasoned inquiry. An understanding of history, the role of broad social and economic forces and the critical importance of interdisciplinary analysis are all needed. In this way, each of us can reach a deeper understanding of the world in which we live, the causes and significance of seismic political events, and the actions required of us as individuals.

A college is also a community. This morning, it is more important than ever that Evergreen be an inclusive community. Regardless of their beliefs, background or orientation, everyone at Evergreen has a place here. More than ever, Evergreen must be a community in which we care for ourselves and each other.

### **Fall Enrollment**

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Hunter discussed fall quarter enrollment. He noted declines in enrollment in many areas, resulting in a loss of 98 students (headcount). He estimated that annual average enrollment for 2016-17 would be 3,880 full-time equivalents (FTE), which would be 64 FTE below the previous year and 48 FTE below budget assumptions.

Mr. Hunter noted that the college enjoyed a substantial increase in applications from Washington state high school students, but that those applications yielded a lower rate of enrollment than in previous years. The college's share of transfer students from Washington state community colleges appears to be stable, but the population is shrinking. Mr. Hunter reviewed the college's strategy for recruiting the next entering class.

### **Fall-to-Fall Retention**

Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Laura Coghlan discussed fall-to-fall retention. She noted that retention of first-time, first-year students increased for the first time in several years, driven by improved retention among non-resident students. The college also saw improved retention among veterans, students with disabilities, and some other categories, but in most categories, retention declined.

### **Strategic Plan**

President Bridges presented the proposed Strategic Plan for 2016-2020. He noted changes since the Board's previous discussion of the plan. He said that he wants the plan to be a living document. The next revision of the plan will reflect the continuing work of the Diversity and Equity Council. He credited Interim Provost Ken Tabbutt for beginning work on an academic master plan.

Trustees discussed the proposed Strategic Plan. Trustee Rhuska asked about the status of Tactic 3.2.1, which focuses on the support for LGBTQ students. Trustee Nicandri suggested that the Board can have the greatest near-term impact by focusing its work on the co-curricular and residential campus experience. He urged that future revisions give attention to athletics as well as recreational opportunities.

### **Motion 2016-27**

Mr. Goldberg made a motion to approve the proposed 2016-2020 strategic plan. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Working Lunch: Entrepreneurship**

Faculty member Kate Himes described the work of a group examining entrepreneurship at Evergreen. She introduced other members of the group who were present including faculty members Jon Baumunk and Zoe Van Schyndel and staff member Susan Harris. Fifteen years after graduation, 27% of the alumni responding to a survey reported that they are self-employed or own their own business. The group is

examining ways that Evergreen prepares students for business and social entrepreneurship and exploring opportunities to do more in this area. She described several higher education programs around the country recognized for entrepreneurship. She noted several local and regional efforts with which Evergreen might partner.

### **Strategic Messaging and Promotion**

John Carmichael, the President's Chief of Staff, provided an update on the college's Strategic Messaging and Promotion Initiative. He said that the response to the college's Request for Proposals was very strong, and that four bidders would present to the project's core group over the next few weeks. Based on those presentations and reference checks, a contract will be awarded.

### **Public Comment**

A large group of students joined the meeting and Ms. Sorensen invited public comment. The Trustees heard comments from 48 students. Among the themes expressed were concerns over campus safety, policing, the need for more diversity among faculty and campus leadership, the need for more training for faculty on diversity, and responses to the national presidential election. President Bridges offered to continue the discussion later that afternoon.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Gretchen Sorensen, Chair

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Dave Nicandri, Secretary