

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

**May 13 and 14, 2014**

**Trustees Attending:** Fred Goldberg  
Talía Goldberg  
Irene Gonzales  
Keith Kessler  
David Nicandri  
Anne Proffitt  
Gretchen Sorensen  
James Wigfall

**Staff Present:** John Carmichael, Deputy to the President and Secretary to the Board  
Wendy Endress, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement  
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Jeanne Rynne, Director of Facilities  
Thomas L. Purce, President  
Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**Others Present:** Andrew Beattie, Staff Representative  
Dante Garcia, GSU Representative  
Jonathan Lindsay, Alumni Representative  
Colleen Warren, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Tim Williams, ZGF Architects

**Tuesday, May 13, 2014**

Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in the Board Room of The Evergreen State College (Library 3201). A quorum was present. Mr. Kessler announced that the board would meet in executive session until 2:00 p.m. to discuss review the performance of a public employee. The board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

**Open Public Meeting Act and Public Records Act**

Senior Assistant Attorney General Colleen Warren reviewed the requirements of the state's Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act and their applicability to the Board of Trustees

**Master Plan Update**

Director of Facilities Jeanne Rynne introduced Tim Williams of ZGF Architects who reviewed proposed changes to the Campus Master Plan. He said the review of the existing master plan was undertaken for the purpose of addressing campus trends and reflecting project priorities that had changed since the plan was adopted. The group leading the review was the Campus Land Use Committee, which was expanded for this purpose to include members knowledgeable about

the emerging Indigenous Arts Campus and the Tacoma Program. The proposed revision also reflects the Board's discussion at the March meeting, where concerns were raised over the possible closing of Overhulse Place and the emphasis was placed on public-private partnerships that might improve the quality of student life on campus. The board will be asked to approve the updated master plan at the June meeting.

### **Capital Budget Request**

Ms. Rynne presented a draft capital budget request for 2015-17 that reflects the priorities in the proposed update to the master plan. The request would seek legislative funding for construction of the lecture hall renovation, construction of the Lab I basement renovation, predesign for renovation of Seminar I, and a Certificate of Participation for the acquisition of the Tacoma program site. In addition, the request would seek funding for facilities preservation, minor works, and preventive maintenance. The board will be asked to approve the request at the June meeting.

### **Quarterly Financial Reports**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley and Director of Business Services Dave Kohler reviewed financial reports from the second and third quarters of the fiscal year, highlighting changes of condition from the previous year. Dr. Hurley said that the reports collectively reflect the fact that the college's revenues are reduced and that the college is working to reduce expenses to match those revenues.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Mr. Goldberg reported on behalf of the board's Audit Committee. He said that the committee had met with Internal Auditor John Craighill to review recently completed internal audits on federal grants and student transcripts. They also discussed the state auditor's report on performance funding.

Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, May 14, 2014**

Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present with all Trustees attending.

### **Preparations for a Presidential Search**

Mr. Kessler said that President Purce had informed the board of his intention to retire from the presidency in the summer of 2015. Trustees Gonzales and Proffitt recently attended the annual conference of the Association of Governing Boards, where they attended a session on presidential search and transition. He invited them to share what they learned at the conference.

Dr. Gonzales described information presented at the conference including the characteristics of successful searches, the typical search timeline, and the roles of boards and search committees. John Carmichael presented information about previous presidential searches at Evergreen, including the composition and role of search committees and advice offered by committee chairs,

former trustees and others closely involved in those searches. Dr. Gonzales presented a possible timeline for the upcoming search in which the board would appoint a search committee in June, finalize a list of desired skills and attributes in July, and negotiate an offer early in 2015.

Mr. Kessler invited discussion by the board. Topics discussed included the composition and role of the search committee and the question of whether to hire a professional search consultant.

Mr. Kessler invited comment from members of the audience. Among those speaking were staff member Kirk Talmadge and student Debra Peri.

### **Re-dedication of the Evergreen 9-11 Bench**

The board joined President Purce on Red Square for the re-dedication of the 9-11 Peace Bench, after which trustees joined members of the Strategic Planning Disappearing Task Force for lunch. The Trustees returned to the Board Room at 1:30 p.m.

### **Preparations for a Presidential Search**

The board resumed discussion of the upcoming presidential search. Members discussed at what point in the search the names of finalists would become public. The board also discussed the alignment between the search process and the ongoing strategic planning process.

Mr. Kessler thanked the board for their ideas. He stated his expectation that the final decision on hiring the next president would be made by the board after full input from stakeholders. He said that the board's executive committee, which is composed of the board officers, would consider the discussion and develop proposals related to the topics discussed for the board's consideration at future meetings. No final decisions regarding the presidential search were made at this meeting.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Kessler announced that the board would meet in executive session to discuss collective bargaining and would return to an open meeting at 2:15 p.m. The board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

### **Audited Financial Statements**

The board considered the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2013 prepared by the state auditor. The board's audit committee had participated in the auditor's exit conference.

**Motion** Ms. Proffitt moved to adopt the audited financial statements for Fiscal Year 2013  
**2014-06** as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **President Purce's Retirement**

Mr. Kessler noted that President Purce had formally notified the board of his intention to retire from the presidency on August 31, 2015. Mr. Kessler asked for a formal response from the board.

**Motion** Dr. Gonzales moved to accept the president's notice of his intention to retire.  
**2014-07** The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Chair's Report**

Mr. Kessler asked the board to consider the minutes of the March and April meetings.

**Motion** Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2014 meeting.  
**2014-08** The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**Motion** Mr. Nicandri made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 2014 meeting.  
**2014-09** The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

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

Ms. Goldberg reported that she would need to leave Olympia before graduation to begin her Teach for America assignment in Miami. Mr. Kessler thanked her for her service to the college. She reported that deadlines for final projects are approaching and students are increasingly focused on finishing the quarter and graduation. She urged the board to remain focused on the question of how to maintain academic rigor while providing opportunities for students who require additional academic support.

### **Nominating Committee**

Mr. Kessler reported that Trustees Gonzales and Proffitt would form the board's Nominating Committee. He asked them to bring a slate of proposed board officers for the trustees' consideration to the June meeting.

### **President's Report**

President Purce invited Andrew Beattie to report as the staff representative to the Board. Mr. Beattie reported on recent meetings with staff groups around campus. Themes discussed during those staff meetings included work on technology and infrastructure, campus life (including safety), and strategic planning.

President Purce invited Jonathan Lindsay to report as the alumni representative to the Board. Mr. Lindsay noted that the work of the alumni office continues to involve. The office is increasingly focused on current students as future alumni and building connections between students and alumni. The next Return to Evergreen event is scheduled for October 18 and will include opportunities for student-alumni interaction.

President Purce invited Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann to report on fundraising. Ms. Hoemann reviewed progress toward annual fundraising goals. At some point in the future, there may be a recommendation to move the alumni association, which is currently part of the college, to become part of the Foundation. She noted that the agreement between the college and the Foundation will need to be renewed in June.

President Purce also spoke about the agenda for the board's June meeting. The shortfall in enrollment creates the need to adjust budgets for the 2014-15 year downward by approximately 10%. After faculty lines are reduced to reflect the small number of students being served, a three percent reduction will remain to be made. At the same time, the college will need to invest in initiatives designed to improve its enrollment. He noted that competition for students continues

to become more intense as the number of students graduating from high school levels off and falls while some higher education institutions continue to expand. He noted that the majority of the state's community colleges have dropped the word "community" from their name, creating some confusion about Evergreen's place in the market. He said that a proposed budget reduction plan will be shared with the board in June for action in July. Some layoffs will be necessary.

President Purce reviewed recent highlights from his schedule.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Kessler invited public comment. Jesse Descher proposed reflecting the Lushootseed origin of the word "Geoduck," using instead the word "g<sup>w</sup>idaq."

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

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Keith Kessler, Chair

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Anne Proffitt, Secretary