

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

**March 16 and 17, 2015**

**Trustees Attending:**

Fred Goldberg  
Irene Gonzales  
Keith Kessler  
David Nicandri  
Anne Proffitt  
Gretchen Sorensen  
James Wigfall  
Nicholas Wooten

**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  
Dave Kohler, Director of Business Services  
Matt Newman, Director of Athletics and Recreation  
Sarah Pedersen, Member of the Faculty  
Thomas L. Purce, President  
Amanda Walker, Associate Vice President for Advancement and Executive  
Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation  
Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**Others Present:**

Andrew Beattie, Staff Representative to the Board  
Jeff Beaulac, GSU Representative to the Board  
Abir Biswas, Faculty Representative to the Board  
Jonathan Lindsay, Alumni Representative to the Board  
Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General

**March 16, 2015**

Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.. A quorum was present. He announced that the Board would move into executive session to evaluate the qualifications of candidates for public employment and would return to an open meeting at 1:30 p.m.. The Board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

### **Appointment of the Next President**

Mr. Kessler said that the Board had received the Presidential Search Disappearing Task Force's report. In addition, the Board spent several hours with each finalist and checked the references, backgrounds, and credentials of the finalists. Mr. Kessler said that, as chair, he had worked over the past two weeks to assess a final qualification, i.e., the willingness of candidates to accept the

position on terms that the college was able to offer. Mr. Kessler said that he was prepared to recommend that the Board appoint George Bridges as Evergreen's next president. Dr. Gonzales made a motion to offer George Bridges the position of President of The Evergreen State College.

**Motion** Dr. Gonzales made a motion to offer George Bridges the position of President of The  
**2015-05** Evergreen State College. The motion was seconded. Mr. Kessler invited discussion.  
The motion passed on a voice vote.

Mr. Kessler presented a proposed contract with Dr. Bridges. He described for the record the main points of the contract, saying that Dr. Bridges's appointment would begin on October 1, although he would do some work for the college over the summer and would participate in the fall Convocation. Mr. Kessler proposed a base salary of \$300,000 per year with an additional \$50,000 in deferred compensation. In addition, the college would provide moving expenses, supplemental life insurance, and require Dr. Bridges to live in the official residence.

**Motion** Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve the draft contract as presented by Mr. Kessler.  
**2015-06** The motion was seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

After a short break to notify Dr. Bridges of the Board's decision, Mr. Kessler thanked Sarah Pedersen for her leadership of the Presidential Search Disappearing Task Force. Ms. Pedersen said that she appreciated the board's appointment of a broadly representative committee, the work done by the search consultants, and the engagement of the campus community throughout the process. Mr. Kessler expressed his thanks to a number of people involved in the search: Dr. Bridges' professionalism in discussing the contract, Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller for her counsel, the Board officers and the Board as a whole, the members of the Disappearing Task Force, Trustee Anne Proffitt for her early and consistent leadership through the process, and John Carmichael for serving as liaison between the Board and the search DTF.

### **Strategic Planning**

Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, presented a draft, five-year strategic plan for the Board's consideration. He reviewed the process that led to the draft plan, noting that although the Strategic Planning Disappearing Task Force (DTF) was not huge, hundreds of people had provide ideas, input and comment on the draft plan. He gave credit to Executive Director of Marketing, Communications and College Relations Todd Sprague for developing the text. The Board discussed the plan. Comments and questions from Trustees included the following:

- Appreciation for the inclusion of public-private partnerships
- Appreciation for the flexibility provided to the next president. Among the issues that the next president will need to address is: is this plan bold enough?
- Is there sufficient emphasis on recruitment and retention? Does the campus community understand the centrality of these issues?
- What is a reasonable goal for retention?

- Evergreen's model has high fixed costs. How can the college generate revenue to cover these costs?
- Does the plan respond to concerns about student debt?
- We often take "innovation" for granted. It will require a two-fold approach. The college needs to be open to innovation, but it also should seek out innovation.
- The college should have a vision statement. Can we find a process that engages the DTF, the Board, and the next president in creating one?

### **Presentation**

Mr. Nicandri presented a copy of a book he co-edited, *Artic Ambitions: Captain Cook and the Northwest Passage*, to Dr. Zimmerman for inclusion the campus library's collection.

### **March 17, 2015**

Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present with all trustees attending. He announced that the Board would move into executive session until 9:30 a.m. to discuss collective bargaining. The board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

### **Accounts Receivable**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley and Director of Business Services Dave Kohler presented an analysis of the college's Accounts Receivables balance. Mr. Kohler noted that largest parts of the Accounts Receivable balance are related to tuition, other student fees, and financial aid revisions. Mr. Kohler discussed the college's efforts to reduce these balances and collect money owed.

### **Student Referendum Process**

Wendy Endress, Vice President for Student Affairs, noted that student Trustee Nicholas Wooten raised issues regarding the student referendum process at the Board's November meeting. The process for responding to and following-through on student referendums is not always clear. Dr. Endress said that she had met with the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) to discuss the issue. With the GSU, Dr. Endress is forming a workgroup to study the issue and propose a solution.

### **Costantino Recreation Center Modernization Update**

Vice President for Student Affairs Wendy Endress, Director of Athletics and Recreation Matt Newman, and Executive Director of Operational Budget and Planning Steve Trotter discussed a proposed student fee to support the renovation of the Costantino Recreation Center. A student vote on the fee is taking place. Results will be known on March 23. If the vote is affirmative, the administration will seek Board approval and work to expedite the renovation project. If the vote is negative, the process will be reviewed and the administration will explore with the Geoduck Student Union and other students short- and long-term strategies for tending to the facility and providing programming that supports the health and well-being of students. President Purce shared concerns he had heard from students about the process, including mistrust stemming from the renovation of the College Activities Building. He described the CAB renovation project, student involvement in that project, and lessons learned through that process.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Kessler invited public comment. Dylan Macardican spoke in favor of proposal previously presented to the Board for adopting the Salish spelling of Geoduck. Mr. Nicandri expressed support for the proposal.

### **Legislative Update**

Director of Government Relations Julie Garver provided an update on the legislative session. Twenty-five policy bills related to higher education have passed the chamber of origin. Dr. Garver described the range of topics covered by these bills. She reported that budget bills will be available in a couple of weeks. It is expected that the higher education budget proposals will include a freeze or roll-back of resident undergraduate tuition and provide some money to offset the associated loss of revenue.

### **Local Government Investment Pool**

Dr. Hurley presented a proposed resolution authorizing investment of college funds in the State Treasurer's Local Government Investment Pool. Dr. Hurley said that the State Treasurer has updated authorization documents for the fund and asked all participants to reaffirm their authorization.

**Motion** Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-01 Authorizing Investment of  
**2015-07** The Evergreen State College Monies in the Local Government Investment Pool. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Foundation Articles of Incorporation**

Amanda Walker, Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation presented amended articles of incorporation for the Foundation. The revised articles update language about membership and indemnification. The Foundation's agreement with the college provides that any revision of its articles of incorporation be presented to the Board of Trustees for its consent.

**Motion** Mr. Nicandri made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-02, stating that "The Evergreen  
**2015-08** State College consents to the Articles of Incorporation of The Evergreen State College Foundation as amended and restated at the Foundation's meeting on February 28, 2015." The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Nominating Committee**

Mr. Kessler noted that the Board's bylaws call for the formation of a Nominating Committee in May. Given the leadership transition taking place over the summer, Mr. Kessler said that if there were no objections from the Board, he would appoint the Nominating Committee ahead of schedule. No objections were stated. Mr. Kessler appointed Trustees Irene Gonzales and Anne Proffitt to the Nominating Committee.

### **Minutes**

**Motion** Dr. Gonzales made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting as  
**2015-09** presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

**Motion 2015-10** Mr. Goldberg made a motion to approve the minutes of the February special meetings as presented. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Mr. Kessler invited Nicholas Wooten to report as a student Trustee. Mr. Wooten said he had attended a number of arts and civic events on campus. He also visited the Tacoma campus and heard about the problems students there experience because the campus is not open on weekends.

### **Reflections on the Presidential Search**

Trustee Anne Proffitt reviewed the presidential search process and offered reflections and considerations for the next time a search is conducted. Trustees noted the value added by hiring a search consultant, the role of the search consultant in shaping the pool of candidates, and the importance of having good communication between the Board and the consultant. Trustees also noted several factors that complicated the original timeline for the search, including the difficulty of bringing the consultant on board over the summer, problems related to weather and illness, the need for extensive campus engagement and deliberation, and the needs of finalists transitioning from other positions.

### **President's Report**

President Purce invited Andrew Beattie to report as the staff representative to the board. Mr. Beattie said that the staff has been engaged in the strategic planning process. He appreciated how the process played out as a ground-up, collaborative, and inclusive effort.

President Purce invited Jeff Beaulac to report as the Geoduck Student Union representative to the board. Mr. Beaulac said that the GSU visited the Tacoma campus. He described events the GSU sponsored including Civic Engagement Week and a restaurant crawl. He encouraged the next president to consider offering some kind of “state of the college” address.

President Purce invited Abir Biswas to report as the faculty representative to the board. Dr. Biswas said that the presidential search had dominated faculty time in Winter quarter. The faculty would have liked to spend more time discussing the strategic plan. The Agenda Committee was grateful that the Strategic Planning DTF agreed to delay sending the draft plan to the Board to allow time for discussion at a faculty meeting.

President Purce invited Jonathan Lindsay to report as the alumni representative to the board. Mr. Lindsay reported on work to launch the Associated Alumni and Friends of Evergreen. He discussed alumni events in Olympia, Boulder, Portland, Seattle, and San Francisco.

President Purce asked Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement, and Amanda Walker, Associate Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation, to provide an update. Ms. Hoemann thanked the Board for its work on the presidential search and for involving alumni and Foundation Board members in the search. She noted that alumna and former Trustee Chris Meserve and Senator Karen Fraser attended a session with every finalist in the search. Ms. Walker reported on the success of the

Art of Living event, which collected more than \$100,000 for the first time in the event's history. She said that Foundation fundraising is at 74% of the goal for the year and expressed confidence that the annual goal would be met. Ms. Walker reported that a \$750,000 commitment to the Longhouse would soon be announced. She also announced the largest individual gift in the history of the Foundation: a pledge from alumna Lynda Weinman for \$1,000,000 to support the Center for Creative Applied Media, scholarships, and business internships. A portion of the gift is intended as matching money to encourage others to contribute to the Foundation.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

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Keith Kessler, Chair

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Anne Proffitt, Secretary