

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

**May 13, 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  
Julie Garver, Director of Government Relations  
Tracy Hall, Director of Financial Aid  
Sam Havens, Research Associate  
Steve Hunter, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management  
Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement  
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Thomas L. Purce, President  
Jeanne Rynne, Director of Facilities  
Steve Trotter, Executive Director of Operational Planning and Budget  
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  
Susan Musselman, PFM Group

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Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.. A quorum was present. He announced that the Board would move into executive session to discuss collective bargaining and would return to an open meeting at 9:30 a.m. By announcement of the chair, the executive session was extended to 9:40 a.m., at which time the Board returned to an open meeting.

## **Proposed Refinancing of Housing Bonds**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley introduced Susan Musselman of Public Financial Management, Inc. Ms. Musselman discussed an opportunity to re-finance Housing bonds issued in 2006. The 2006 bond issue has approximately \$4 million in debt outstanding at an average interest rate of 4.07%. Current market rates are significantly lower. If the bonds are refinanced at an estimated 2.3% interest rate, the net present value savings would

be approximately \$352,000. Ms. Musselman described options for refinancing, including a public bond issue or direct placement with a bank. The college is working to retain bond counsel and hopes to bring a bond resolution for the board's consideration in June.

### **Lecture Hall Renovation**

Director of Facilities Jeanne Rynne discussed the Lecture Hall Renovation project, highlighting differences between the traditional Design-Build process and the General Contractor Construction Manager process to be used in the Lecture Hall project. Bids for some aspects of the Lecture Hall project will soon be invited, to take advantage of a favorable bidding environment. Proceeding with the project is contingent on legislative funding and Board approval. The current schedule anticipates that the Board will be asked to approve the project at the June 11 meeting.

### **Legislative Report**

Director of Government Relations Julie Garver described the status the special legislative session. She compared the House and Senate operating and capital budget proposals and noted that both include investments in higher education, although no current budget proposals would return the sector to pre-recession levels. The House budget would freeze tuition for resident undergraduate students. The Senate budget would reduce tuition for those students.

### **College Budget Update**

Executive Director for Operational Planning and Budget Steve Trotter discussed ways in which the legislative priorities expressed in the House and Senate budget proposals align with the college's priorities, emphasizing the college's interest in addressing compensation for all categories of staff.

Each of the Vice Presidents discussed "must do" spending priorities in their areas. In Student Affairs, these priorities included outreach and recruitment for Joint Base Lewis McChord, recruitment of International Students, multicultural recruitment, a relationship management software system for Admissions, and a position in Police Services. In Finance and Administration, priorities include costs associated with ownership of the Tacoma campus and costs associated relocating programs during renovation projects. In Academics, priorities include costs associated with the class-size reductions included in the retention initiative and staffing for graduate program admissions. In College Advancement, priorities include a relationship management system for donors and an initiative to raise the college's profile.

Mr. Trotter noted that when all the college's "must do" priorities are accounted for, the House budget would leave the college short by \$1.9 million. The Senate budget would be short by \$3.4 million. Consequently, the college is contemplating a tuition increase for non-resident and graduate students. Non-resident undergraduate students and resident graduate students would see a 5% increase. Non-resident graduate students would see a 3% increase. Those changes would yield an estimated \$2.2 million in additional revenue.

When the proposed tuition increases are combined with other fee proposals, the total cost of attendance for resident undergraduate students would rise by 0.8% over the two-year biennium. For non-resident undergraduates, total cost of attendance would rise by 6.4% over the next two

years. For graduate students, the two-year increases would be 4.3% and 4.0% for resident and non-residents respectively. Research Associate Sam Havens presented data comparing cost of attendance at Evergreen to costs at competitor schools. Mr. Trotter described student forums held in Olympia and Tacoma to discuss proposed changes in tuition and fees. Some students noted that while the percentage changes are comparatively low, the dollar amounts are significant. Students in the Tacoma program expressed concern about money being cut from other areas of the state budget to fund higher education. When those cuts reduce services that students depend on, their access to higher education may be curtailed.

### **Strategic Planning**

Trustee Anne Proffitt led a discussion of the draft strategic plan presented at the March meeting. The Trustees discussed whether the plan was sufficiently ambitious and whether the goals stated were sufficiently specific and measurable. Discussion of the college's vision was deferred until the fall.

### **Financial Aid Report**

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Hunter introduced Director of Financial Aid Tracy Hall. Ms. Hall reviewed a previously distributed report. Approximately half of Evergreen students borrow through college-administered financial aid programs. Most grant aid comes from the federal Pell grant program. Sixty-two percent of students on financial aid receive a Pell grant, which is considered a high percentage. Increases in Pell grant awards have not kept pace with increases in the cost of attendance. The federal Perkins Loan program, which currently supports approximately 700 Evergreen students, is expected to end this year. Student debt at Evergreen remains below national averages, but is increasing, as is the default rate. The college launched a financial literacy program last year intended to help students make informed decisions about loans and increase awareness of repayment options.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Kessler invited public comment. Eight people had signed in for public comment. The Board heard comments related to the college's criminal trespass policy, the need for a Queer Resource Center on campus, the need to improve the college's policies regarding and response to sexual misconduct and sexual violence, and the concerns of transgender students.

### **Minutes**

<b>Motion</b>	Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the March meeting as presented.
<b>2015-11</b>	The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Extension of the President's Contract**

<b>Motion</b>	Ms. Proffitt made a motion to extend President Purce's contract through September 30,
<b>2015-12</b>	2015. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Nominating Committee**

Ms. Proffitt reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee, recommending that for the 2015-16 year, Fred Goldberg be named Chair, Gretchen Sorensen be named Vice Chair, and David Nicandri be named Secretary. She said that Mr. Nicandri would continue as the Board's liaison with the Foundation's Board

of Governors and that Mr. Goldberg would remain on the Audit Committee and would be joined there by James Wigfall.

**Motion 2015-13** Ms. Proffitt, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, moved to appoint Fred Goldberg as Chair, Gretchen Sorensen as Vice Chair, and David Nicandri as Secretary for one-year terms beginning July 1, 2015. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Mr. Kessler invited Nicholas Wooten to report as student Trustee. Mr. Wooten reported on Day of Absence/Day of Presence events, the state Senate's resolution honoring President Purce, two visits to the Tacoma campus, and the Clean Energy Committee's application process.

### **President's Report**

President Purce invited Jeff Beaulac to report as the Geoduck Student Union representative to the board. Mr. Beaulac reported on recent student forums regarding proposed tuition increases. He noted that if tuition for resident undergraduate students is reduced and if Services and Activity fee levels remain tied to tuition, the programs supported by S&A fees will experience significant reductions. The GSU wrote a letter urging the legislature to de-couple the fees from tuition. Mr. Beaulac reported on a workgroup charged by Vice President Endress to streamline the student referendum process and clarify how the administration will respond to referenda.

President Purce invited Abir Biswas to report as the faculty representative to the board. Dr. Biswas said that faculty are excited to be hiring again after several searches were frozen last year. Several areas of the curriculum are significantly impacted by recent and planned retirements.

President Purce asked Amanda Walker, Associate Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of The Evergreen State College Foundation, to provide an update. Ms. Walker thanked the trustees for participating in the annual recognition dinner and for leading the successful fundraising effort for the Les Purce scholarship endowment. She reported that gifts to the Foundation have already exceeded the annual goal by 7%. She distributed a recent mailing on planned giving and a note of thanks from the first recipient of the Trustee scholarship.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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Keith Kessler, Chair

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Anne Proffitt, Secretary