

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

March 8 and 9, 2010

Trustees Attending:

Carver Gayton
Irene Gonzales
Kristin Hayden
Denny Heck (March 9)
Dixon McReynolds
Keith Kessler (March 8)
Anne Proffitt
Paul Winters

Staff Present:

Theresa Aragon, Academic Dean
John Carmichael, Executive Assistant to the President
Sally Cloninger, Member of the Faculty
Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs
Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Walter Niemiec, Associate Vice President for Academic Budget
Collin Orr, Director of Business Services
Thomas L. Purce, President
Peter Randlette, Head of Electronic Media
Paul Smith, Director of Facilities
Julie Suchanek, Director of Government Relations
Ken Tabbutt, Interim Academic Vice President and Provost
Steve Trotter, Executive Director of Operational Planning and Budget
Artee Young, Executive Director of the Tacoma Program

Others present:

Andrew Buchman, Faculty Representative to the Board
Joyce Irvine, Foundation Board of Governors
Josephine Jarvis, Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board
Laura Littlefield, Foundation Board of Governors
John McLain, Staff Representative to the Board
Colleen Warren, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Monday, March 8, 2010

Trustee Carver Gayton called the meeting to order at noon in Room 105 of The Evergreen State College Tacoma Campus at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present with Trustees Gayton, Gonzales, Hayden, Kessler, McReynolds and Proffitt attending. Mr. Winters joined the meeting in progress.

**Motion
2010-6**

Mr. Kessler made a motion to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Dr. Artee Young, Executive Director of the Tacoma Program, introduced student Alex Tapia, who presented his Senior speech: "What is an Education?"

Dr. Young reported on the state of the Tacoma Program. She said that the program worked this year to reduce the level of over-enrollment. She reviewed the demographic profile of Tacoma students, noting that they come from ten counties. She described the program theme for the year: "Cycle Makers; Cycle Breakers." She discussed the challenges involved in providing support services for students in the Tacoma program and expressed concern about the reduction in the availability of support from the writing center. She described local community organizations that the Tacoma Program partners with. She noted that the Tacoma Campus has started its own Annual Fund Campaign with a goal of \$20,000 for this year.

Foundation Board of Governors

Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann introduced Foundation Board members Joyce Irvine and Laura Littlefield. Ms. Littlefield said that several members of the Foundation Board attended a meeting of the Association of Governing Boards for Foundation Leadership. The conference stimulated much discussion among the Foundation Board of Governors. They described some of the challenges discussed at the conference. The conference included predictions that state support for higher education will erode substantially over the next decade. In the current legislative session, Washington State faces the largest reduction in state support in its history. Already, some states have public institutions that receive almost no public funding. They said that they hoped very much that Washington State can avoid that future. They also discussed opportunities. The accreditation process involves a focused discussion on the college's mission and planning. As the 40th anniversary of the college approaches, it provides an opportunity to talk about what the next 40 years should look like. The Foundation Board is eager to help the college fulfill its vision for the next 40 years. Ms. Littlefield suggested that the Board of Trustees and the Board of Governors plan a joint retreat to further the discussion.

Accreditation

President Purce introduced Interim Provost Ken Tabbutt. Dr. Tabbutt reported that the accreditation process is changing. The old process was a ten-year cycle. The college completed that process in the fall of 2008 and received an excellent report that included three recommendations: continuing to improve assessment, continuing to improve general education, and continuing to work on governance. The college will provide a progress report on the first two recommendations this fall.

The new accreditation process is a seven-year cycle, which requires a report every two years. The first report, which focuses on the college's mission, core themes and objectives, is due in fall 2011. In 2013, a second report will be due that would lead to a site visit by peer evaluators. Over the next year, the college will engage in much discussion about core themes, how we measure them, and what we define as a reasonable threshold for achieving them.

Executive Session

Mr. Carver announced that the Board would be moving into executive session to discuss the possible acquisition of real estate. He said the Board would return from executive session at 3:10 p.m.

Adjournment

The Board returned to open public meeting at 3:10 p.m., reviewed the agenda for the following day, and adjourned the meeting.

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

Legislative Update and Budget Planning

Director of Government Relations Julie Suchanek reported on the legislative session. She noted that an extended Special Session of the legislature is a possibility. She highlighted several key policy bills. She reported on Senate Bill 6562, which would have authorized several higher education institutions to raise tuition at a higher rate for the next six years with certain conditions. Evergreen declined to participate in

the bill, which now appears unlikely to pass. She also reported on legislative discussions about performance agreements. She discussed Senate Bill 6503, which would require agencies and institutions to reduce spending on employee compensation and would require employee furloughs if savings are not obtained by other means. She also discussed legislation intended to help the state compete for federal money for the K-12 system, legislation that would have allowed community colleges to offer more bachelor degrees, and legislation that would consolidate information technology services in the state.

Dr. Suchanek discussed the operating and capital budget bills. The operating budget bill is in conference committee. Both versions of the bill solve part of the deficit in the operating budget by moving functions onto the capital budget. Thanks to the work of a strong coalition of students, faculty and administrators, both versions of the bill would preserve the State Need Grant and at least a portion of State Work Study. Neither chamber has passed a capital budget bill. The Senate version of the capital budget would require the college to rely more heavily on local capital dollars, but includes funding for a feasibility study for a gasification energy plant at Evergreen. The revenue bill is in conference committee, with significant differences between the two chambers remaining to be resolved.

The operating budget bills in conference committee include budget provisos that require minimum levels of funding for the college's Longhouse program and the Northwest Indian Applied Research Institute. Another proviso would move the college's Labor Center to South Seattle Community College. The budget bill also includes a number of studies, some with overlapping goals. The college has urged the legislature to consolidate these studies.

Executive Director of Operational Budget and Planning Steve Trotter described actions that Evergreen could take in response to budget reductions. He noted that the biennial budget approved by the Board last year anticipated a one percent budget reduction at this time. If revenue bills pass at the level proposed, the college may need to cut an additional two percent from the budget. Among the options are:

- using temporary "bridging" strategies to buy time, letting the budget reduction take place through retirements and attrition;
- moving some expenditures from the operating budget to other revenue sources, such as grants, indirect costs, and summer session revenues;
- reducing college payroll through furloughs or other strategies that may be required by legislation;
- continuing down the list of possible budget cuts identified a year ago; and
- postponing permanent decisions, using one-time resources, to allow more time for an engaged strategic planning process that could guide budget decisions in 2011-13.

Mr. Trotter also named several budget reduction strategies that are not currently under active consideration for the supplemental budget. These include:

- increasing tuition in the regular academic year, beyond those already approved;
- reducing local financial aid;
- implementing major reorganizations of college functions;
- implementing less expensive ways to deliver education, for instance by increasing class sizes; and
- increasing the proportion of non-resident students.

Proposal for Summer Session Tuition

Academic Vice President Ken Tabbutt presented a proposal for increasing summer session tuition by 14 percent for all undergraduates and five percent for resident graduate students. He said that the proposal follows a long-term policy of tying summer tuition increases to the increase in the previous academic year. He noted that the summer school fee structure, which is based on a per-credit charge, is different than the fee structure in the regular academic year. For students attending part-time, summer is less expensive than the regular academic year. As students approach full-time enrollment in summer, the cost exceeds the cost in the regular academic year. Academic Dean Theresa Aragon noted that summer tuition

increases lag behind the increases in the regular academic year, so that the summer tuition rates will be lower than the rates in the upcoming fall quarter.

Board Chair Carver Gayton invited comment from Josie Jarvis, representative of the Geoduck Student Union. Ms. Jarvis said that students are unhappy with the proposal. She said that she planned to attend during summer, but instead decided to take summer courses at a community college to save money. She said that the proposed tuition increase is huge and not justified in terms of quality. She asked how the college could justify increasing rates so dramatically for a program that is supposed to have been self-supporting and has been reported as being profitable. She also asked why non-residents should be asked to pay more for a program that is not state-supported.

Dr. Tabbutt said that summer session is self-supporting in the sense that it pays for all direct instructional costs. The summer session budget does not account for many of the college services that support the program, for instance registration and records, student accounts, and facilities. The "profit" from summer session is used to support college programs by buying equipment, funding projects like the Center for Creative and Applied Media, and replacing computers in the computer labs.

President Purce noted that the college's operating budget no longer includes money for equipment replacement. Summer school revenue is used for this purpose. He also noted that when other institutions sought authorization to raise tuition 14% in the regular academic year, Evergreen declined to support the effort and sought to stay within the current legal limit of seven percent.

Trustee Dixon McReynolds asked what would happen if summer tuition is not increased. Dr. Tabbutt said that budgets had already been reduced significantly. The \$300,000 budget for equipment was among the cuts. Revenue from summer will be needed to make up that loss. He said that funding for international programs has also been cut, and the college does not currently have a permanent funding source for many student employment positions. They are currently funded on a one-time basis. New revenue from summer could be used to cover student worker wages and the costs of international programs.

Naming the Experimental Effects Lab

Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann noted that she discussed with the Board in November a proposal to name the Experimental Effects Lab in the Center for Creative and Applied Media (CCAM). The Foundation now has a binding pledge from Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin for \$250,000 to establish an endowment supporting equipment in the CCAM. Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin are the owners of Lynda.com, a successful on-line training and publishing business. They have offered to make the company's on-line training services available free of charge to the college, and they intend to build the endowment to \$500,000. After discussion with the donors, Ms. Hoemann proposed designating the Experimental Effects Lab as the "Lynda Lab." Ms. Hoemann acknowledged the work of staff member Peter Randlette in developing the gift.

Evergreen Visual History Archive

Faculty member Sally Cloninger and Head of Electronic Media Peter Randlette displayed the Evergreen Visual History Archive. The project was funded by the Evergreen Fund for Innovation. Over a two-year period a group of faculty, faculty emeriti, and staff worked to digitize the college's collection of visual media. The collection documents much of the early history and work of Evergreen. Over 30 hours of work have been digitized and made available on the Web so far. Dr. Cloninger acknowledged the work of project intern Aaron Meola, Jesse Callahan and members of the Web team. She distributed an executive summary of the project and urged the college to provide continued support for the project.

Sustainable Agriculture Lab Design

Julie Blazek from HKP Architects and her colleague Russ Weiser presented the proposed design for the Sustainable Agriculture Lab. She noted the design was developed with faculty and staff over two quarters as part of an academic program. The goals for the project included a lecture classroom for 75 students and an ecology lab for 35. When the initial designs were presented to the cost estimators, it was apparent that the designs far exceeded the available budget. Subsequent revisions have relocated the project to minimize the amount of site work necessary and to take advantage of existing roads. In addition, the structure and systems were simplified and the design focused on the ecology lab, with the lecture facility as a bid alternate. The revised design now appears to be within budget.

Arts Annex Design

Architect Matt Lane from McGranahan architects presented the proposed design for the renovation of the Arts Annex. He noted that the original structure was built in 1974 and has been expanded twice. The facility supports 3D art, including a foundry, kiln and pottery studio. Goals of the renovation are to improve weather resistance, make infrastructure and safety upgrades, improve energy efficiency and improve the utilization of the space. Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley noted that the budget for the project is under discussion in the legislature. The House version of the capital budget assumes that the favorable bidding environment will result in a 15% savings. Revisions to the budget or the scope of the project may be necessary depending on the legislative outcome and the bids received.

Tour and Lunch

Mr. Gayton announced that the Board would tour the CAB renovation project and the Arts Annex before breaking for lunch. He said that the meeting would resume at 1:00 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the Communications Building.

Public Comment

Mr. Gayton reconvened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. for public comment. Thirty people made comments on the proposed increase in summer tuition. All those speaking questioned or opposed the proposed increase. Geoduck Student Union (GSU) Representative Patrick Walsh read a statement from the GSU opposing the proposed tuition increase and asking for a response to four specific questions. Among the other comments made were the following:

- A tuition increase would negatively affect Evergreen's diversity.
- Many students are struggling to get by and are unhoused or barely housed. A tuition increase would prevent them from doing what they want to do with their lives.
- A policy of increasing tuition exacerbates student debt, represents a class war on certain individuals, and funnels people away from work in clinics and social services toward work in industry, the military and low wage economies.
- Budget cuts have harmed the writing center, reducing support for the Tacoma program, and the future of the college's Gateways program is in doubt, with funding only certain for the next two years. The Gateways program is a vital link for incarcerated youth.
- The process for setting the budget is not democratic. The state's tax system is regressive. The level of debt required to get through college is intolerable.
- The Board of Trustees should resign.
- Working part time to pay off debt and living on an incredibly tight budget, where is an additional \$323 dollars for summer tuition going to come from?
- It is very disappointing that the Board would consider such a large tuition increase given the increases already imposed. The proposed increase raises concerns about diversity and low-income students.

- Evergreen is a great place. Something needs to be done about the current situation. A moment of silence is needed.
- As a member of the Gateways program and a first generation college student, tuition is unaffordable and will be out of reach for younger siblings.
- Evergreen is cheaper than schools in Chicago, but working 30 hours per week, making \$13,000 per year, which is the highest income in a household of seven, non-resident tuition is unaffordable even with full-time work.
- State budget reductions place the college in a difficult position, but how can the Board justify the state's antidemocratic model of power?
- Although I will be able to get through school, I don't know that my family will be able to afford tuition for my younger brother.
- After taking a year to establish residency and transfer to Evergreen, tuition increases will make it difficult to come back next year and finish a pre-med track.
- Coming from South-Central Washington, where fewer students consider college, I have tried to convince more students to come to Evergreen. I am concerned that the school will become inaccessible due to tuition increases and about the increasing privatization of schools.
- As an international student from Japan, I am ineligible for the FAFSA, residency or work. I am excited about Evergreen, but concerned about my mother's retirement savings. I understand that the Board represents the State, but what if the state's decisions are unjust? How can the state privatize education while subsidizing prisons?
- I am concerned that education is becoming like the housing bubble. Some things are worthwhile even if they don't make a profit.
- My family immigrated to this country so that I could go to college. I live with my family and help pay the bills. The educational opportunity that we came for is being taken away.
- High tuition/high aid is bad public policy. Please work with us to find an alternative to high tuition.
- Funneling anger at people who have been working for the institution for a long time and are partly responsible for what's good, won't help build collaboration. I would value a forum that includes responses and dialogue.

Laurie Meeker, President of the United Faculty of Evergreen thanked the Board for having an open forum and listening to comments and stories. She thanked those who spoke for letting the Board know what a serious problem tuition increases are. She said that we are all in this together, and that Trustees, staff, faculty and students have all been at the legislature advocating for higher education. She invited people to attend a candlelight vigil that evening.

President Purce said that the college faces extraordinary times. He said that the good things the college has achieved and the reasons that students choose to attend Evergreen have been achieved with the support and work of the Trustees. He noted that Evergreen and its Board of Trustees stood alone in opposition to an effort to clear the way for 14% tuition increases for the next six years. Because of the advocacy of a coalition of trustees, staff, faculty and students, the legislature is now working to figure out how to raise money to restore the State Need Grant. In the next budget, the college will have to balance providing access, financial aid, and quality programs and facilities to students with the reality of declining state support. Tuition and summer session will be one part of that. The college will have to figure out how to keep its doors open with fewer dollars. There is a major shift underway in public opinion about the state's role in funding education. We continue to argue that the state does have a role.

Trustee Carver Gayton said that the public comment period was very moving. He said that the Board had heard the comments and understood the situation. He said we have been dealt circumstances that are very difficult for us, but that we have to deal with the situation as it has been presented. He said that the Board would do everything in its power to ensure that Evergreen remains a public college. He said that every

one of the comments heard today seared us to our soul. He has heard from legislators that Evergreen students have made an impact on the legislature's decisions.

Trustee Kristin Hayden said the situation has been difficult for everyone. Although personal attacks against board members might make them defensive, she said that she was focused on what worked today. She said that she appreciated the comments seeking dialogue and that it was helpful to hear stories of how students are personally impacted by tuition increases and budget cuts. She encouraged more of that. She said that she works with many low income students in the One World Now program and feels the economic struggles of students deeply.

Trustee Irene Gonzales thanked everyone for coming. She acknowledged the true and heartfelt stories shared during public comment. She said that, based on her own struggles going to school, she encouraged students to keep up the struggle.

Trustee Dixon McReynolds recalled that he held town halls and sent out flyers and surveys earlier in the year. He said that the kind of stories heard at the Board meeting would have been effective when hearings were going on down at the legislature. He said that preserving Evergreen will require everyone to work together. We can't do it divided.

Proposal to set Summer Tuition

Mr. Gayton summarized the administrative recommendation to increase summer tuition by 14% for resident undergraduate and non-resident students and by 5% for resident graduate students. He asked whether there was a motion to consider the proposal. Mr. Winters said that he felt that he could neither support nor reject the proposal at this time. He said he would like more time to consider the question and to see the responses to the questions posed by the Geoduck Student Union.

Motion Mr. Winters made a motion to postpone consideration of proposed increases to summer
2010-7 tuition to a future meeting. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Naming of the Experimental Effects Lab

Motion Mr. Winters made a motion to authorize the naming of the Experimental Effects Lab in
2010-8 the Center for Creative and Applied Media the "Lynda Lab" in recognition of a \$250,000 binding pledge gift from Lynda Weinman and Bruce Heavin. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Sustainable Agricultural Lab Building Project

Motion Mr. Heck made a motion to authorize the design and project budget of the Sustainable
2010-9 Agricultural Lab Building Project. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Arts Annex

Motion Mr. Heck made a motion to authorize the design and project budget of the Laboratory
2010-10 and Art Annex Building renovation project. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Minutes

Motion Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. The motion
2010-11 was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Audit Exit Conference

Mr. Gayton said that he participated in the exit conference with the State Auditors. He invited Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley to report on the audit. Dr. Hurley said that the annual audit was favorable. A management letter noted the need for better controls in study abroad programs. The college is already working on that. The auditors also noted problems with utility meters and coding changes that were made to avoid overspending capital budgets. Dr. Hurley credited the work of staff members Collin Orr and Clifford Frederickson in achieving a favorable audit.

Student Trustee Report

Mr. Gayton invited Dixon McReynolds to report as student Trustee. Mr. McReynolds said that he spent the last two months trying to let legislators know how important the Work Study and State Need Grant programs are. He said that Evergreen students did a great job getting student voices heard, especially the previous Thursday in the Ways and Means committee, when the committee was very moved by student stories.

President's Report

President Purce invited Josie Jarvis to report as Geoduck Student Union representative to the Board. Ms. Jarvis reflected on the anger and fear in evidence during public comment. She said the seeds of anger lie in concern about the college becoming privatized.

President Purce invited John McLain to report as staff representative to the Board. Mr. McLain said that it is difficult to generalize about all staff members working at the college. They are soldiering on, worried about layoffs, making ends meet, and health care costs. They are also genuinely worried about students and concerned that Evergreen remain accessible and affordable. He remarked on the departure of Provost Don Bantz and praised the interim appointments of Ken Tabbutt as Provost, Sarah Pedersen as Academic Dean, and Bill Bruner as Dean of the Library. He noted that applications for enrollment, financial aid and scholarships are all at record highs. People still want to come to Evergreen. He also noted behind-the-scenes work on the catalog system and on the transcript ordering process. These projects improve service to students and help staff to cope with workload issues.

President Purce said that Preview Day, when prospective students and parents visit campus, had record attendance. He reported that faculty members Heather Heying and Lisa Sweet would chair the search to recruit a Provost to take Don Bantz's place. He said that interviews are underway for a Director of Development. He noted that he and Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann attended a memorial service for Buster Alvord, a major supporter of the college. He also described visits to the editorial boards of the *Seattle Times* and *Tacoma News Tribune*.

Motion Ms. Proffitt made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice
2010-12 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Carver Gayton, Chair

Anne Proffitt, Secretary