

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

**February 15, 2012**

<b>Trustees Attending:</b>	Irene Gonzales Keith Kessler David Nicandri Wilbert Piña Anne Proffitt Gretchen Sorensen Paul Winters	<b>Absent:</b> Kristin Hayden
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Peter Bacho, Member of the Faculty John Carmichael, Executive Assistant to the President Laura Coghlan, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs Julie Garver, Director of Government Relations Tracy Hall, Director of Financial Aid D. Lee Hoemann, Executive Director of the Foundation and Vice President for College Advancement Azeem Hoosein, Assistant Director of Facilities Services for Planning & Construction John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration Phyllis Lane, Dean of Student and Academic Support Services Collin Orr, Director of Business Services Thomas L. Purce, President Bill Ransom, Academic Dean Paul Smith, Director of Facilities Steve Trotter, Executive Director of Operational Planning and Budget Michael Zimmerman, Academic Vice President and Provost Laurel Uznanski, Associate Vice President for Human Resources Artee Young, Executive Director of the Tacoma Program	
<b>Others present:</b>	Tasha Church, Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board Dorian Waller, Alumni Representative to the Board Rod Younker, Summit Law Group	

Mr. Winters called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. A quorum was present. He announced that the Board would move into executive session until 10:00 a.m. to discuss the acquisition of real estate and collective bargaining as allowed by RCW 42.30. At 10:00 a.m. the chair announced that the executive session would extend to 10:05 a.m. The Board returned to an open public meeting at 10:05 a.m.

**Legislative and Budget update**

Director of Government Relations Julie Garver reviewed the legislative session to date and upcoming legislative milestones. She discussed the positions that Evergreen is taking in concert with the other public baccalaureate institutions, which are advocating for no additional cuts to higher education. If the legislature makes cuts to the sector, the institutions are arguing that cuts should be made to institutions in proportion to the General Fund support they receive from the state. If cuts are very deep and financial aid programs are affected, the institutions are developing a list of priorities.

Executive Director for Operational Planning and Budget Steve Trotter recalled that the Board-approved biennial budget includes a \$1.5 million contingency fund for the next fiscal year, which could be used to absorb budget cuts up to that level.

Dr. Garver described policy bills of interest to Evergreen. The college is seeking legislative clarification of language in the previous budget bill which seems to say that Evergreen's classified employees must take a 3% wage reduction in the next fiscal year. The college is also seeking clarification of the exempt status of employees of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. She also described the ongoing discussion over the membership and duties of the new agency which will take the place of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

### **Tacoma Update**

Academic Vice President and Provost Michael Zimmerman introduced the Executive Director of the Tacoma Program, Artee Young and Member of the Faculty Peter Bacho. Professor Bacho spoke about the work involved in bringing entering students from marginalized backgrounds into collegiate-level work and preparing them for advanced study. Dr. Young discussed enrollment and demographics of the student population in Tacoma. Dr. Young introduced Ernie Ransom and Tara Williams who spoke about their experiences in the Tacoma program.

### **Financial Aid Report**

Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino introduced Director of Financial Aid Tracy Hall, who reported on the college's financial aid programs. She reviewed trends in financial aid, reporting that a greater proportion of students are applying for aid. She noted that an increasing number of students who are eligible for the State Need Grant program are left unserved by the money available. She also noted cuts to the state's work-study program and Evergreen's unusual commitment to an institutional, need-based work-study program. She also noted that the average debt of Evergreen students has increased slightly but remains below the national average.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Winters announced that the Board would meet in executive session over lunch to discuss real estate as allowed by RCW 42.30, returning to open meeting at 12:30 p.m. The board returned to open meeting as scheduled.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley introduced Director of Facilities Paul Smith and Assistant Director of Facilities Services for Planning & Construction Azeem Hoosein. Mr. Smith provided an update on the status of major capital projects. He said that the Board would be asked to approve the Lecture Hall Renovation Pre-design at the May meeting. A tour of the Com Building may also be included in the May agenda.

### **Financial Reports**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley introduced Director of Business Services Collin Orr who reviewed financial statements for June 30 and Sept 30. He discussed the Statement of Net Assets, Statements of Revenues and Expenses, Expenditures by Division compared to Budget, Dedicated Local Revenue Funds, Capital Project Appropriations and Expenditures, and Revenues and Expenses of Selected Auxiliary Accounts.

### **Student Retention**

The Board heard a report on student retention from Academic Vice President and Provost Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino, Academic Dean Bill Ransom, Dean of

Student and Academic Support Services Phyllis Lane, and Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Laura Coghlan. Ms. Coghlan reviewed data for Fall-to-Fall retention, adjusted for graduation. The overall retention rate is holding steady at 81%. She discussed retention of specific groups, including students with junior standing, students of color, students with disabilities and veterans. She also discussed how the construction of the curriculum may affect student retention. An increasingly large proportion of seats for first-year students are found in all-level programs (72% this year), which appears to affect retention for these students.

Academic Dean Bill Ransom reviewed reasons that students leave the college including student choice, unrealistic expectations at admission, lack of preparation for college-level work, failure to get their first choice program, financial issues, social issues, and health issues. Dean of Student and Academic Support Services Phyllis Lane described college readiness programs, pre-orientation programs, mid-year interventions, and academic advising programs intended to address retention issues.

### **Preliminary Planning Work**

President Purce described preliminary planning work underway. Academic Vice President and Provost Michael Zimmerman discussed work to follow-up on the recommendations of the Re-modeling Teaching and Learning at Evergreen Disappearing Task Force. Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley described discussions about how to plan for a future that may have less state support for capital projects. Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino described work on student enrollment focused on maintaining market share and exploring additional student markets. Dr. Zimmerman described initial thoughts about expanding summer session and developing additional self-supporting academic programs.

### **Chair's report**

Mr. Winters noted that several Trustees had participated in legislative meetings over the past several weeks. He described meetings that he had attended where Regents and Trustees had advocated on behalf of public baccalaureate institutions.

Mr. Piña reported as Student Trustee. He described his work as a representative of the Washington Student Association lobbying for a no-cuts budget.

Ms. Proffitt suggested that the Board consider adding an additional meeting in March. She noted that the meeting schedule this year was revised from previous practice and suggested that the Board re-visit the schedule.

**Motion** Ms. Proffitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the November meeting. The  
**2012-01** motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **President's report**

President Purce invited Dorian Waller to report as Alumni Representative to the Board. Mr. Waller said that the Alumni Association's January meeting was cancelled due to weather. The next meeting will focus on the Alumni Association's role in the 40th anniversary events.

President Purce invited Tasha Church to report as Geoduck Student Union (GSU) representative to the Board. Ms. Church thanked Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley for his work related to automated teller machines. She said that the GSU is focused on appointing students to every committee on campus. She also said that the GSU is concerned about the college's sexual harassment policy. Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino noted that the college's Student Conduct Code and Non-Discrimination policy address sexual harassment and that the college's sexual misconduct policy is currently under revision.

President Purce asked Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann to report on fundraising. Ms. Hoemann said that Foundation has received \$1.1 million in cash and academic grants so far this fiscal year, a substantial increase compared to last year. In addition, the Foundation has \$600,000 in outstanding pledges. The Foundation has received 87 gifts honoring faculty members, matched by money from the Gates Foundation grant. She encouraged the Board to think about creating a Trustees Scholarship that could be matched by Gates Foundation money. She said that the first "save the date" notice will be mailed in mid-February for the 40th anniversary events planned for May 17-20.

President Purce reviewed his recent and upcoming schedule.

Mr. Winters adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

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Paul Winters, Chair

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Anne Proffitt, Secretary