

Senior Staff Meeting
February 9, 2009
Meeting Notes

Attending: Theresa Aragon, Don Bantz, John Carmichael, Art Costantino, Lee Hoemann, Steve Hunter, John Hurley, Les Purce, Todd Sprague, Julie Suchanek, Allen Toothaker, Steve Trotter

Minutes

The notes from the previous meeting were approved.

Announcements

- Allen Toothaker will circulate a draft layoff procedure for Senior Staff review this week.
- Steve Hunter reported on Preview Day. Attendance was good.
- Steve Hunter also said that he others from Enrollment Services had met with Trustee Kristin Hayden about using her connections in Seattle schools to help in Evergreen's student recruitment.
- Art Costantino reported on two concerts scheduled for February 13 and March 11. The Risk Assessment Review Team has been involved in planning both concerts.
- Lee Hoemann reported on the Alumni Board meeting. The Alumni Association is committed to raising additional funds for scholarships.
- John Hurley said that the test of outdoor emergency notification systems is complete and a preferred option has been identified.
- Les Purce said that he attended a Ford Foundation event at the Skokomish that included 60 Indigenous artists from all over the world.
- Day of Absence events were well-attended.

Legislative Update

Julie Suchanek reported on recent and upcoming legislative work. She described work on a bill expanding eligibility for health care benefits. The original bill did not address concerns specific to higher education institutions. She also described the status of bills that would establish a four-year college in Bellevue and re-establish institutional tuition-setting authority. Julie described events in the week ahead, including Higher Education Day, testimony on the effect of proposed budget reductions, hearings on teacher preparation, financial aid, and capital construction. She said bills on the 2009 supplemental budget appeared to be stalled.

Enrollment Update

Steve Hunter provided an update on fall enrollment. Applications are down from last year's historic highs. Institutions throughout the system are noting a decline in resident applications. Evergreen's non-resident applications are also down.

Morningside Proposal

John Hurley said that he is examining a proposal by Morningside to establish a job training program at Evergreen for developmentally disabled adults. The program would require some classroom and office space on campus. Participants in the program would spend a year rotating through several positions on campus. John will be discussing the proposal with the classified union and with Aramark.

Accreditation

Don Bantz discussed the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities' proposed new system for institutional accreditation. The new system would involve a seven-year cycle with several focused interim reports. Under the new system, Evergreen's next report would be due in 2011.

Community Connections

Art Costantino noted the Community Connections event scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. The agenda will ask participants to develop a list of topics and then break into small groups to discuss them.

CAB Project Update

John Hurley provided an update on planning for the CAB renovation. The project faces some major challenges and significant unknowns. The cost of the surge and the estimated cost of the renovation both exceed the initial budget. Work is underway to reduce costs. The bids received and the interest rates available when the bond is offered may help to improve the budget. Art Costantino said that he has encouraged the student members of the design committee to share this information with the Geoduck Student Union.