

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

**November 17, 2010**

<b>Trustees Attending:</b>	Nathan Brockett Carver Gayton Irene Gonzales Denny Heck Keith Kessler Anne Proffitt (by phone) Paul Winters	<b>Absent:</b> Kristin Hayden
<b>Staff Present:</b>	John Carmichael, Executive Assistant to the President Laura Coghlan, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs Wendy Freeman, Director of Gear Up Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement Steve Hunter, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration Phyllis Lane, Dean of Student and Academic Support Services Thomas L. Purce, President Bill Ransom, Academic Dean Paul Smith, Director of Facilities Bruce Sutherland, Emergency Response Planning Coordinator Ken Tabbutt, Interim Academic Vice President and Provost Amanda Walker, Director of Development	
<b>Others present:</b>	Andrew Buchman, Faculty Representative to the Board Jonathan Lindsay, Staff Representative to the Board Nathan Schuur, Geoduck Student Union Representative to the Board Dorian Waller, Alumni Association Representative to the Board Colleen Warren, Senior Assistant Attorney General	

**Wednesday, November 17, 2010**

Trustee Irene Gonzales called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. in the Board Room of The Evergreen State College. A quorum was present at 9:10 with Trustees Gayton, Gonzales, Kessler, Proffitt and Winters attending. Mr. Brockett joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Heck joined the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Dr. Gonzales congratulated President Purce on his recent birthday.

**Gear Up**

Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino introduced Phyllis Lane, Dean of Student and Academic Support Services and Wendy Freeman, Director of Gear Up. Dr. Lane described the college's history with the Gear Up program in Tacoma. Ms. Freeman described the schools and students served. Dr. Costantino recommended that the Board delegate authority for the college to contract with the Clover Park School District to continue the Gear Up program.

### **Enrollment Update**

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Hunter presented a report on fall quarter enrollment and discussed recent enrollment trends. He noted that a temporary increase in the number of seniors, perhaps related to the poor economy, contributed to high enrollment.

Interim Provost and Academic Vice President Ken Tabbutt discussed summer quarter enrollment. The number of student FTE (full-time equivalent) enrolled during summer held steady again this year. The summer enrollment trend over several years appears to show a modest decline in headcount and an increase in FTE. Most students enrolled in summer quarter are continuing from Spring.

Mr. Hunter described an enrollment study underway by consultants from Noel Levitz. The consultants will review the college's institutional financial aid program and make recommendations that might lead to changes intended to improve yield.

### **Retention Update**

Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Laura Coghlan reviewed reports on student retention previously sent to the Board. Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs, described a group that he and Provost Ken Tabbutt charged to work on student retention issues. He introduced Academic Dean Bill Ransom and Dean of Student and Academic Support Services Phyllis Lane, who co-chair the committee. Dr. Lane described work to provide orientation and outreach to new students intended to improve retention outcomes. Dean Ransom described ways in which the Academic Deans have adjusted curriculum planning in an effort to apply lessons learned and improve student retention.

### **Emergency Planning**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley introduced Bruce Sutherland, Emergency Response Planning Coordinator, who reviewed the college's efforts to consolidate, review and practice emergency response procedures. He described work on the campus emergency communications systems and noted areas where more work is needed, including evacuation plans, an integrated emergency communications system, and more training on campus with local off-campus emergency responders.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Dr. Hurley discussed work in preparation for the next biennium's capital projects. He said that state funding for capital projects is likely to be severely limited. Director of Facilities Paul Smith reviewed the status of current capital projects, including the design of the Communications Building renovation, the renovation of the Arts Annex, the new Sustainable Agriculture Lab, and the renovation of the College Activities Building. He displayed a mock-up of the finish materials proposed for the seismic reinforcement of the clock tower and said that staff had worked with the materials to determine that the application would not produce any noxious odors.

Dr. Hurley described the status of the proposed biomass gasification plant. The Department of Commerce has awarded the college a \$3.7 million grant that could be used to offset the construction costs if the project is determined to be feasible and desirable for the college's carbon neutrality goals. Other funding would be needed before the project could be built. If the project does move forward, both design and construction would require board approval.

### **Lunch with the Foundation Board of Governors**

The Trustees joined members of The Evergreen State College Foundation for lunch. President Purce welcomed both Boards and talked briefly about the state budget situation. Vice President for College Advancement Lee Hoemann introduced Amanda Walker, Director of Development. Ms. Walker talked

about the short- and long-term planning in the division. Provost Ken Tabbutt gave a brief overview of accreditation.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Gonzales reviewed ground rules, asked comments be limited to three minutes. Twenty-one people spoke during the public comment period. The majority of comments addressed the Geoduck Student Union (GSU) resolutions calling on the college to divest from Israel and boycott Caterpillar. Three people addressed the proposed biomass gasification project. One person addressed higher education funding and tuition. The people who spoke during the public comment period signed in as Tom Connor, Nancy Koppelman, Sherri Shulman, Anna Clark, Emily Weisberg, Nicholas Nerburn, Olga Rocheeva, Lucas Claussen, Lisa Connor, Larry Mosqueda, Lisa Hurwitz, Josh Levine, Lee Durfey, Theresa Saliba, Phan Ngyuen, Annette Moffitt, Sabastian Kaine, Matty Fy Fy, Edward Abbey, and Alexandre Chateaubriand.

President Purce summarized his written response to the GSU resolutions, saying that the Board had delegated the responsibility to him. He said that his position had been consistent over a long period of time, and that the college would not take a political position on the Israeli-Palestine conflict, but would focus on its responsibility as an educational institution to provide education and dialogue. Taking a position would close the door on that. He said that he has asked the Provost, students and faculty to find ways to engage in the issue within that framework. He said that he has asked the Vice President for Finance and Administration to revisit the college's old investment policy, not to find a divestment strategy, but to understand what vehicles for socially responsible investment are available, recognizing the college's need for a return on investments.

### **Gear Up Contract**

**Motion** Mr. Kessler made a motion to delegate to the President the authority to approve a  
**2010-30** contract between the College and the Clover Park School District concurrent with the third year of the college's GEAR UP grant, from September 3, 2010 to September 2, 2011. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Minutes**

**Motion** Mr. Kessler made a motion to approve the minutes of the September and October  
**2010-31** meetings. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Meeting Schedule**

**Motion** Dr. Gayton made a motion to adopt the proposed meeting schedule for 2011. The  
**2010-32** motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Students from the Mt. Rainier program showed a short film describing their academic work.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Dr. Gonzales invited Mr. Brockett to report as student Trustee. Mr. Brockett said that he attended a student forum on the biomass proposal. The event provided a good, respectful forum for developing an understanding of the issues. He said that many students would like to see the Board discuss divestment. He said that he respects the fact that the President has the authority to decide the issue, but would like to see the Board create a space for discussion.

### **President's Report**

President Purce invited Dorian Waller to report as alumni representative to the Board. Mr. Waller said that the alumni association officially adopted a new Board handbook.

President Purce invited Jonathan Lindsay to report as staff representative to the Board. Mr. Lindsay said that he had heard two issues from staff. Some staff were interested in having another exempt staff forum, including discussion of compensation. Some staff were asking why Evergreen does its banking through Bank of America, suggesting that a local credit union would be more community-minded. Mr. Lindsay also shared his observation that the move-in to the renovated CAB was stressful for many people.

President Purce invited Nate Schuur to report as Geoduck Student Union representative to the Board. Mr. Schuur said that the GSU had asked him to convey two concerns to the Board. The GSU recognizes that the next few years will be very difficult budget years, but is concerned that many students are at the breaking point with tuition. The GSU urges the Board to be careful balancing cuts, staff furloughs, and tuition. A high-tuition/high-aid policy hurts middle class students. Second, the GSU notes that the vote on the divestment resolutions was legitimate and enjoyed record-breaking participation. The GSU held a meeting on the issue at which 20 people, including President Purce, spoke. The GSU wants the college to take a stand.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

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Anne Proffitt, Co-Chair

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Irene Gonzales, Co-Chair

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Carver Gayton, Secretary