

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

May 7 and 8, 2013

Trustees Attending: Fred Goldberg
Irene Gonzales
Erin Harms
Keith Kessler
David Nicandri
Anne Proffitt
Gretchen Sorensen
James Wigfall (May 7 only)

Staff Present: John Carmichael, Deputy to the President and Secretary to the Board
Art Costantino, Vice President for Student Affairs
Julie Garver, Director of Government Relations
Sharon Goodman, Director of Residential and Dining Services
Lee Hoemann, Vice President for College Advancement
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration
Elizabeth McHugh, Director of Health and Counseling Services
Tom Mercado, Director of Student Activities
Collin Orr, Director of Business Services
Thomas L. Purce, President
Jeanne Rynne, Director of Facilities
Paul Smith, Director of Facilities
Steve Trotter, Executive Director for Operational Budget and Planning
Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Others present: Nayomi Cawthorne, Services and Activities Board Coordinator
Kitty Jones, Staff Representative
Jessica Schilke, Developing Ecologically Aware Practices
Sebastiano Trinh, Geoduck Student Union Representative
Colleen Warren, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Richard Weiss, Faculty Representative
Nicholas Wooten, Developing Ecologically Aware Practices

Tuesday, May 7, 2013

Mr. Kessler called the meeting to order at noon in the Board Room of The Evergreen State College. A quorum was present. Mr. Kessler introduced new trustee Fred Goldberg. Mr. Kessler announced that the board would meet in executive session to discuss real estate and collective bargaining and would return to open meeting at 1:30 p.m. The board returned to open meeting as scheduled.

Legislative Update

Director of Government Relations Julie Garver reported on the recently concluded legislative session and the upcoming special session. She provided a comparison of the House and Senate budget proposals. Executive Director for Operational Planning and Budget Steve Trotter noted that the normal board process requires staff to present a draft biennial budget proposal to the Board in May. Final action on the

biennial budget would normally occur in June. In the absence of a final legislative budget, the timeline may be delayed.

Capital Budget

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley introduced incoming Director of Facilities Jeanne Rynne. President Purce and board members expressed appreciation for the work of outgoing director Paul Smith. Mr. Smith discussed the capital budget proposals pending in the House and Senate. He reported that the college will probably need to eliminate a project manager position given the lower level of major capital construction contemplated in the next biennium. In addition, the reduction in the preservation budget in some proposals would likely require a reduction in the number of trades positions supported by the capital budget.

Operating Budget

Executive Director for Operational Planning and Budget Steve Trotter reviewed the timeline and milestones in the college and state budget processes. He presented a framework of revenue and spending decisions that will be required to balance the college's budget after the state-level decisions are made. The vice presidents described the spending decisions and likely recommendations that affect their areas of responsibility.

Mr. Trotter displayed a worksheet calculating changes to total cost of attendance based on recommended tuition and fee levels. The worksheet assumed recommended annual tuition increases of three percent for resident undergraduate students, two percent for non-resident graduate students, and five percent for all other categories of students. When all other fees and estimated costs are included, the biennial increase in the cost of attendance would be 6.1% for resident undergraduate students, 8.4% for non-resident undergraduates, 7.5% for resident graduate students, and 4.9% for non-resident graduate students.

Services and Activities Fees

Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino described the programs and organizations supported by Services and Activities (S&A) fees. Director of Student Activities Tom Mercado described the state law and college policies that govern S&A fees. S&A Board Coordinator Nayomi Cawthorne described the S&A Board's lengthy deliberation to arrive at recommendations for allocating S&A fees. Mr. Mercado said that proposed budgets will include some budget reductions and a recommendation to increase S&A fees by 4% in fiscal year 2014 and 2% in fiscal year 2015.

Health and Counseling Fee

Director of Health and Counseling Services Elizabeth McHugh described the services provided by the Health and Counseling Center. She reviewed the center's budget history and described the rationale for recommending a 12% increase in the mandatory health and counseling fee in fiscal year 2014 and a 6% increase in fiscal year 2015.

Transit Fees

Tom Mercado, Director of Student Activities, described the student bus pass program. He noted that the services provided and the cost of the program have increased over time. Increased costs have previously been covered from accumulated reserves and, more recently, with supplemental funding from the Clean Energy Fee. Mr. Mercado said that staff recommend increasing the transit fees from \$49 per year to \$105 per year in order to return the program to fiscal balance. He said that more than half of students are believed to utilize the program and that all students benefit from reduced parking demand.

WashPIRG fee

Mr. Mercado said that students will be voting on reinstating an opt-out fee of \$8 per quarter to support WashPIRG, a public research and advocacy group. The group has operated at Evergreen almost

continuously since 1984. To move the proposal forward, the student ballot measure must receive a majority vote with at least 25% of eligible students participating in the election.

Residential and Dining Services Fees

Vice President for Student Affairs Art Costantino introduced Sharon Goodman, Director of Residential and Dining Services. Dr. Costantino thanked Ms. Goodman for her work to improve the quality and sustainability of food services on campus. Ms. Goodman described the new contract with Aramark for food services on campus. She described the financial goals of Residential and Dining Services and said that staff will recommend fee increases to average 2% per year for housing and 3.5% per year for dining plans.

Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Mr. Kessler reconvened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. He announced that the board would meet in a brief executive session to review the performance of a public employee and return to open meeting at 9:10. The board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

Academic Initiatives

Vice President for Academic Affairs Michael Zimmerman described several academic initiatives including a new summer undergraduate research program, an expansion of quantitative reasoning across the curriculum, a renewed focus for the Unsoeld Seminar, a summer institute for incoming students focused on civil discourse and leadership, and a program to renew classroom technology.

Dr. Zimmerman highlighted three potential initiatives that are in exploratory phases: an expansion of the Reservation-Based Community-Determined program to serve tribal nations outside Washington state, an MFA program in indigenous arts, and an MFA program in creative writing.

Responding to a question, Dr. Zimmerman said that the fall-to-winter retention of new students suggests that reduced class sizes and changes to new student orientation may have been effective in improving new student retention. Further evaluation will be made when fall-to-fall retention data are available.

Strategic Planning

Deputy to the President John Carmichael reviewed staff and board discussions about strategic planning. He described the multiple audiences and purposes that the college's strategic plan serves. The staff will propose board action at the June meeting to formally initiate a new strategic planning process.

Student Organization Presentation

Jessica Schilke and Nicholas Wooten, coordinators for the student organization Developing Ecologically Aware Practices, described the group's growth and activity over the past year, including guest speakers, workshops, and projects in Demeter's Garden. They described the group's relationship to the college's academic programs, to the Organic Farm, and to administrative offices on campus.

Audit Committee

Dr. Gonzales reported on behalf of the board's Audit Committee. Vice President for Finance and Administration presented audited financial statements for fiscal year 2012. Dr. Gonzales said that she participated in the audit exit conference.

Motion Dr. Gonazles moved that the audited financial statements for fiscal year 2012 be
2013-06 accepted. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion Ms. Proffitt moved that the minutes of the March meeting be approved as presented.
2013-07 The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

Nominating Committee

Mr. Kessler announced that Ms. Proffitt and Dr. Gonzales would form the board's nominating committee as called for in the board's bylaws.

Student Trustee

Ms. Harms described the college's Day of Absence/Day of Presence activities, her recent activity with the state legislature and her work on the Graduation committee. She said that more student-to-student communication about college budget issues would help to demystify budget issues and suggested that a few students be trained to speak knowledgeably about the college budget. She said that the value of the Academic Statement Initiative becomes clearer as she approaches graduation.

Geoduck Student Union and the Services and Activities Fee Allocation Board

The board had lunch with members of the Geoduck Student Union and the Services and Activities Fee Allocation Board.

President's Report

President Purce invited Kitty Jones to report as Staff Representative to the Board. Ms. Jones said that members of the exempt staff union and their supporters would address the board during the public comment session. She said that she appreciated the college's intention to budget 3% salary increases for exempt staff and expressed continuing concern for staff retention. She also praised the Web Team's efforts to improve the usability of the college's Web site.

President Purce invited Sebastiano Trinh to report as the Geoduck Student Union's Representative to the Board. Mr. Trinh described the GSU's recent activities, including submitting nominations to the Governor for the next student trustee, conducting a survey about the campus smoking policy, amending the GSU bylaws regarding student-initiated fees, starting a lecture series, supporting the college's fundraising efforts, and working with the Clean Energy Committee.

President Purce reviewed highlights from his schedule.

Public Comment/Other Business

Mr. Kessler announced that nine people were signed in for public comment. He invited each person to address the board. Each of the speakers expressed support for the Student Support Staff Union's effort to negotiate a collective bargaining agreement with the college.

Mr. Kessler adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Keith Kessler, Chair

Anne Proffitt, Secretary