

**Minutes Regular Meeting
Cascadia College Board of Trustees
May 15, 2024**

**Cascadia College
19345 Campus Way NE
Bothell, WA 98011**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Angie Hinojos, Chair; Dr. Colleen Ponto, Vice Chair; Meghan Quint; Alex Lee; Norman Seabrooks (excused)

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, Dr. Kerry Levett, Erin Blakeney, Meagan Walker, Shawna Pitts, Dr. Eric Murray, Ellen Evans, AAG.

Susan Thomas (recorder)

Thais Lima (presentation assistant)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

CCCFT Representative – David Shapiro, Senior 2 Tenured Founding Faculty

Student Representative – Miyuki Sandoval, EAB Advocacy Chair

WPEA Representatives – Ryan Higgins

AUDIENCE

Audience members in-person and via Zoom included: See Addendum A

1. CALL TO ORDER – PUBLIC SESSION (4:00 PM)

Chair Angie Hinojos called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

2. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Hinojos asked for approval of the consent agenda.

MOTION: Trustee Lee made a motion to approve. Trustee Quint seconded the motion.

APPROVED. Unanimously. No Abstentions.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Becky Riopel provided a public comment – See Addendum B

4. INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW EMPLOYEES/PROMOTIONS

New Employees

- Ysidoro Ramos, Basic Needs Navigator
- Mika Gerard, Student Learning Administrative Assistant 3
- Maya Colden, Customer Service Specialist 3
- David Tinto, Instructional Support and Classroom Tech 1 (not present)

5. INFORMATION ITEMS

- N/A

6. DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS

- **Strategic Success Story – Srividhya Venkatraman**
Erik Tinglestad introduced Srividhya Venkatraman, Math Faculty, who recruited a team of students to participate in the Western Washington Community College Student Math Conference (WWCCSMC) held Saturday 2/24/24. She introduced each student presenter who shared their topics with the Trustees.
 - Luca Benoit and Taylor Kang presented on *Chaos Theory*.
Taylor presented – *connected knowledge*
 - Sophia Sasouvanh presented on the *Golden Ratio and Leonardo Vinci*
 - Shiori Nakayama presented *Gravitational time dilation*
 - London Paris gave a presentation on *Stochastic Optimization in High-Frequency Trading: Computational*.
- **Financial Aid Update**
Erin Blakeney introduced Deann Holliday who presented an update on the FAFSA Simplification process. Deann referred to the presentation in the packet and opened it up for discussion and to answer questions on what the status is of financial aid today.
 - Federal Update
 - State Update
 - College Update

Question: How can we best help the students in this difficult situation?

We're all in it together and can work as a team. We feel optimistic that on June 8th they will update the system and can award students for summer. We're setting aside 3.5% of incoming tuition per state guidelines; this should cover deficits we may encounter. What they made "easier" for students, has changed our jobs completely. We are relearning how to do our job.

Question: Are we seeing less financial aid to families of dreamer students?

Yes, as students without SSNs were unable to complete the FAFSA

Comment: Thank you for taking care of students who may fall through the cracks

Erin: we are a unicorn in the system; many of our team have been here for 8 or more years. Deann has created a great team.

- **Parking Fee Discussion**
Dr. Murray reintroduced Martin Arroyo, UWB Director of Transportation Services, and introduced Gowri Shankar, UWB Vice Chancellor for Planning & Administration. The Trustees' decision on the proposal to increase parking fees comes next month. This was a chance for them to get answers to questions and further discussion.

Questions:

- Have you looked at any other alternative ways or avenues to build resources? Have all solutions been explored?
- Have we connected with Meta, Amazon, etc. to see if they are options?
- Have you looked at cutting routine maintenance or other places to lower costs?
- How do prices and utilization compare to UW Seattle?
- Students may not come on non-class days because of the additional cost. Has there been an analysis of bringing costs down and getting more people parking?

Martin and Gowri shared some answers: UW has looked at Chateau Ste Michelle overflow parking, but found it would create more costs with additional security, etc. Staff has taken decrease in pay and they have deferred maintenance to increase reserves. Peak occupancy is about 70%, but should be 85%. UW Seattle prices are much higher, and they have maintenance backlogs. UW pays for employee parking as part of their benefits. UWB started free weekend parking to bring more student engagement on the weekends.

Miyuki shared a student survey for parking which received many responses. Cascadia students have already been parking off campus because of the cost of parking. We appreciate you looking at weekends, but that doesn't really affect Cascadia. Student life doesn't have anything on campus on weekends. A good portion of students pay for quarterly more than daily. This affects enrollment; resulting in students taking more online classes, and changing their enrollment patterns based on parking price.

- **ASCC Budget (1st Read)**

Becky Riopel and Miyuki Sandoval presented the slide deck "Services & Activities Fee Proposal". The budget is included in packet.

- What is the S&A Fee? – all decisions are made by students
- How can S&A Fees be Used?
- Process Begins Requests
- 5% of projected revenue is automatically held
- A committee of at-large students and an EAB rep hear presentations, then EAB votes on them and presents to the Board of Trustees
- After final BOT approval Student Life manages the funds
- Current fund balance is 1.4 million

Motion to approve budget

MOTION: Vice Chair Ponto made a motion to approve. Trustee Lee seconded the motion.

APPROVED. Unanimously. No Abstentions.

- **Monthly Finance Focus: College Budget (1st Read)**

Dr. Murray presented the updated Finance Update slide deck.

- Assumptions
- Projected 24-25 Budget dated 5/7/24

Could these numbers change in the next 4 weeks? Shawna, yes. There could be an increase in allocations. Will get this spreadsheet in the June packet and update again for June's meeting.

7. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

- N/A

8. OTHER REPORTS

- **Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)**

Advocacy Board Chair Miyuki Sandoval shared information about recent student events and advocacy.

Events:

- Wonka Movie Night also featured mystery candy bags that were a hit
- Spirit Week is always big on creating community

Advocacy:

- Parking
- Voice Academy

- **Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)**

David Shapiro presented the CCCFT's legislative priorities now and in the future:

- Full funding for 85% Contingent Faculty parity pay.
- Professional Staff salary increases above the increasing L&I overtime thresholds.
- Continuity of benefits for when Contingent Faculty do non-instructional work.
- Cost-Free College for all students

- **Cascadia Classified Union Washington Public Employees Association (WPEA)**

Ryan Higgins shared that the UWASU strike happened and has been resolved.

Our union WPEA bargaining meeting happens on May 3rd and is expected to take several months.

- **Board Chair and Individual Board Members**

Vice Chair Ponto attended the last NSD board meeting; she always enjoys going. The meetings are always packed, and they are having to make tough decisions on budget cuts. She shared the touching story that was in Eric's Friday letter.

Trustee Lee attended LWSD board meeting and got updates.

Chair Hinojos shared that Dr. Horn and Dr. Levett met regarding accreditation; it was a good conversation including data and story-telling.

President

- School district notes will be out on Monday
- Dr. Murray is leading a search committee for the Chamber of Commerce

- Executive Director, conducting the final interviews with three finalists
- Cascadia is in the midst of hiring a VP for Admin services. Shawna is one of the three finalists.
- Today Cascadia's Executive Eteam is meeting with Ellen to review contract signing
- On Wednesday of next week Cascadia has our All Employee Celebration
- Commencement is on Friday, June 7th; please arrive by 3:15. We have the Regalia ready.
- At June's BOT meeting, there will be an executive session. Discussion of meal preferences by the Trustees.
- There may need to be a July special session meeting with Ellen regarding the new Title 9 regulations. We need to update WACS and be in place by August 1st. We will send a poll to determine a date.
- The Board Summer Retreat will be in August
- Cascadia is hosting the WACTC meeting in October; this will bring 34 Presidents and state board staff to our campus.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other announcements.

10. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

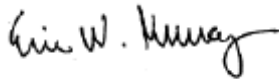
Chair Hinojos adjourned the meeting at 6:08pm.

11. Minutes Approved and Adopted on, June 12, 2024.



Angie Hinojos, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Eric Murray, President

Bdminutes05/15/2024

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance	Present
Eric Murray, President	X
Shawna Pitts, Acting VP	X
Chari Davenport, VP	X
Kerry Levett, VP	X
Erin Blakeney, VP	X
Meagan Walker, VP	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Angie Hinojos, Chair	X
Colleen Ponto, Vice Chair	X
Meghan Quint, Trustee	X
Alex Lee, Trustee	X
David Shapiro	X
Ryan Higgins	X
Miyuki Sandoval	X
Susan Thomas	X
Thais Lima	X
Maya Colden	X
Jason Rue	X
Ana Nina	X
Erik Tinglestad	X
Ysi Ramos	X
Teya Viola	X
Mika Gerard	X
Kristina Young	X
Becky Riopel	X
Deann Holliday	X
Shannon Bath	X

Martin Arroyo	X
Gowri Shankar	X
Srividhya Venkatraman	X
Taylor Kang	X
London Paris	X
Luca Benoit	X
Sophia Sasouvanh	X
Shiori Nakayama	X

Addendum B

Public Comment provided by Becky Riopel

Good evening,

I know you have a lot of important decisions ahead of you in the next couple months that could have significant impact on the students, staff and faculty here at Cascadia. Financial decisions are never easy and I appreciate the thoughtfulness I have seen in your decision making when I attend these meetings each month. In April you heard about proposed increases to campus parking rates. Miyuki has done a great job collecting student feedback and concerns, the faculty and classified unions have some great protection mechanisms in place when it comes to parking costs, so I wanted to take this opportunity to briefly speak to you as an exempt staff member.

I have been thinking about this quite a bit, not just because I'm supporting EAB and the advocacy work they do, but also because of what this impact is going to look like for staff. Just this year we have seen significant global increases in groceries, health insurance and interest rates, not to mention rent, gas and other general costs we pay to be an average person. I am grateful for the COLA increases we have seen at Cascadia, as I know that is not always an option for everyone. Unfortunately salaries and COLAs are not keeping up with inflation so as hard as we try we are always behind. While many of these global increases are out of our control, parking doesn't have to be.

After hearing the UWB proposed rate increase presentation several times, I have some key takeaway thoughts I hope you will consider as you make this decision.

- An operational budget built solely on fees and fines is not sustainable long term if people are pushed off campus to avoid paying higher rates. I recognize the commuter services department plays an important role on campus, however alternatives need to be considered.
- If parking lots are not full/barely half full; why would we raise rates? Shouldn't we be incentivizing people to park on campus? Wouldn't that increase the fees collected, thereby increasing the budget? It seems we would want to keep our community parking on campus to maintain that revenue rather than pushing them into downtown Bothell, further stressing their own parking challenges and straining our relationship with the city.
- Yes, we share many resources with UWB but we are also a community college. So often it seems we are powerless to stop increases and changes

implemented by them for many reasons and I recognize it is just part of this partnership sometimes. However, this time I feel the need to speak up when I see real, viable alternatives dismissed and not being explored.

- It's easier to just raise rates rather than take the time to research other possibilities. I get it. But I don't see the sense of urgency and crisis to raise them when there is a significant reserve, almost equal to the current operating budget available. Rather than increasing rates 4%, why not use 4% of the reserves for one year and take the time to research alternative solutions?
- The decision to consider increases was shared broadly during the last week of winter quarter, in a rush, with little ability to assess true impact or collect campus feedback outside of 2 community forums that had little advertising. I have to imagine the plan to raise rates was being considered for several months so why wasn't time for due diligence factored in? Why wasn't Cascadia part of the conversation long before it seemed UWB had already made the choice for us?
- For my own context and curiosity, I did a review of employee annual parking pass rates for the 5 star consortium schools and Bellevue College. Of the 5 star schools, Everett is the only other community college that charges for an employee parking pass. Their annual permit is \$202.77. This year I paid \$900 for my annual pass. Bellevue College charges \$22.50 annually.
- Returning from Covid was hard for everyone, especially coming back to campus to work when much of it could be done remotely and without paying for parking, but we knew returning to campus was in the best interest of the students. We saw a mass exodus of Cascadia employees leaving for higher paying jobs and new opportunities, and many do not have the ability to take an alternative form of transportation to campus.
- We have been working really hard to rebuild our community so we can go back to making a safe, welcoming and affordable place for students, staff and faculty. Please consider the idea of exploring alternative options before implementing rate increases as a way to support the employees who continue to show up every day to create a better experience for students. Thank you.