

**Minutes Regular Meeting
Cascadia College Board of Trustees
March 19, 2025**

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Dr. Colleen Ponto, Chair; Dr. Meghan Quint, Vice Chair; Alex Lee, Shahryar Qadri

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, Dr. Kerry Levett, Erin Blakeney, Sean Poellnitz, Dr. Eric Murray, Dr. Ellen Evans, AAG.

Susan Thomas (recorder)
Thais Lima (presentation assistant)

AUDIENCE

Audience members via Zoom included: See Addendum A

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION (4:00 PM)

Chair Colleen Ponto called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.
No final action was taken

2. Board moved to PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Ponto called the meeting to order at 5:00pm

3. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Ponto asked for approval of the consent agenda.

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

APPROVED. Unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kristina Young requested a public comment to share Celebration of Learning pictures of happenings and encouraged all to come by tomorrow to view the presentations in person.

5. INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW EMPLOYEES/PROMOTIONS

New Employees

- Vaishnavi Srinivasan, Payroll & Benefits Coordinator
- Brenda Thai, Program Specialist 3 – Credentials Evaluator

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

- **None**

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- **Parking Rate Increase Proposal**

Martin Arroyo, Director of Campus Parking Services, discussed the Commuter Services Task Force's (SCTF) proposal with updated data. Dr. Murray reviewed proposal that was previously discussed, and updated us on the recommendations by SCTF. Trustees will vote on the proposal as an action item at the next Board Meeting.

- **Strategic Success Story – College and Career Foundations**

Dr. Kerry Levett introduced Dr. Michael Horn who presented the Transition to College-Level Study Slide Deck. Dr. Horn introduced two of our tenured faculty: Erica Almeda and Dave Dorratcague. The discussion included student demographic makeup, which students are and are not progressing, and students who are and are not earning a degree. Erica Almeda and Dave Dorratcague continued the discussion and answered questions.

- **Student Success Fee Increase Request**

Erin Blakeney provided background and discussion regarding three proposed fee proposals:

- **Student Technology Fee**

To increase the number of credits to which the student technology fee is assessed from 10 credits to 15 credits, with a minimum of \$10, adjusting the maximum from \$40 to \$60

- **Transcript Fees**

To increase the fee to \$8.70 per transcript which would include full service for both transcript and diploma processing, but students would only pay for each transcript and for a replacement diploma, if needed.

- **Accuplacer Placement Fee**

To continue providing the option for students to take the Accuplacer Placement assessment remotely with an approved online proctoring service, we recommend that the Board of Trustees approve the fee of \$45, which includes the full cost of the assessment exam and online proctor charges.

- **Accuplacer & Transcript Fee Waiver**

To offer a waiver for students with limited resources to pay for these fees. The waiver would be determined by either Participation in the school district free/reduced lunch program, completed FAFSA/WASFA with a Student Aid Index (SAI) of \$0 or below. To

- **Natural Science Lab Course Fee Increases**

Dr. Levett proposed two requests for Natural Science:

- **Natural Science Online Lab Course Fee Proposal**

Fee increases for online lab course, general science course, intensive science lab course, and microbiology course.

- **Reclassify Courses as Fee Eligible**

Reclassify Chemistry 131 and 254 courses as fee eligible

- **Monthly Finance Report**

Sean Poellnitz presented The March Finance Report slides and discussed the following items:

- Estimated Projections for the current year reserve spending
- Estimates for next year's predicted reserve spending in IT and Facilities with a reserve draw down request.

8. RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

- **Student Fees**

As presented in the earlier discussion by Erin Blakeney and Dr. Kerry Levett, there are certain student fees recommended for adjustment. These include the Student Technology Fee, the Transcript Fee, the Accuplacer Fee and Natural Science Course Fees.

Motion to approve: Trustee Quint
Seconded: Trustee Lee
APPROVED: Unanimous, No abstentions

- **Use of Reserves Request for 2025-26**

As presented in the earlier discussion by Sean Poellnitz, the college requests authority to use the reserves for the 2025-26 repair and replacement schedules for IT and Facilities.

Motion to approve: Trustee Lee
Seconded: Trustee Qadri
APPROVED: Unanimous, No abstentions

- **Supplemental Title IX Rules**

As presented previously, AAG Ellen Evans explained that we were operating under the 2020 Title IX rules, which expired and were replaced with the 2024 rules. With the new federal administration in place, those rules were in flux and so the temporary usage of the 2020 rules was extended. New rules must now be formally adopted. AAG Evans explained the suggested adaptation and this will need to be approved by the Trustees. Motion to adopt emergency rules now as provided in the board materials.

Motion to approve: Trustee Qadri
Seconded: Trustee Quint
APPROVED: Unanimous, No abstentions

9. OTHER REPORTS

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

Student representative Olivia Kent-Horton shared information on events and

advocacy the EAP is sponsoring and planning:

Recent Events:

- Stay Afloat Root Beer Float Stand
- March Madness basketball themed games, food and activities
- Spring involvement fair

Advocacy:

- Common Hour: Your Break, Your Time
- Student Needs: Gathering Spaces, Student Jobs, Lower Parking Fees

- **Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers**

Dave Shapiro presented his report on AFT-WA “Day of Action” and Contract Bargaining and discussed the revenue forecast from the state and raising awareness of advocating for higher education.

- **Cascadia Classified Union Washington Public Employees Association**

Ryan Higgins discussed state budget crisis. Collective bargaining has had no meaningful progress since the rejection of the previous proposal.

- **Board Chair and Individual Board Members**

- Chair Ponto attended the NSD meeting on March 10th; she always enjoys it tapping into the community. She will be out of town April 16th
- Trustee Lee will be out of the country in April.
- Trustee Qadri will be out of country in April.
- Discussion of cancelling the April 16th Board Meeting and pushing the agenda to the May Board Meeting.

Motion to approve: Trustee Lee

Seconded: Trustee Qadri

APPROVED: Unanimous, No abstentions

- **President Murray**

- Update on the progress in finding new trustee; we invited the person we had previously vetted and are waiting to hear back from the Governor.
- The DOE will be dismantled starting tomorrow and we don't know what that means for us. The AG's office is providing briefs and notices that they are watching all of it and will let us know what is important to us. We will deal with this as it lands on our doorstep
- Tariffs are causing a cost escalation and our CC5 building is behind by about 4 million dollars in today's building costs. We are looking to downside the building plans.
- May 15th is our all-employee celebration; we would love for you all to attend. Will be celebrating our first-time 25-year employees.
- School district notes are in the file.
- Eric will be on vacation tomorrow through the 30th; Sean Poellnitz will be acting president.

10. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other announcements.

11. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ponto adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

12. Minutes Approved and Adopted on, May 21, 2025.

Colleen L Ponto

Colleen Ponto, Board Chair

Eric W. Murray

Dr. Eric Murray, President
Bdminutes 03/19/2025

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance	Present
Eric Murray, President	X
Colleen Ponto, Chair	X
Meghan Quint, Vice Chair	X
Alex Lee, Trustee	X
Shayryar Qadri	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Erin Blakeney	X
Kerry Levett	X
Chari Davenport	X
Sean Poellnitz	X
Olivia Kent-Horton	X
Thais Lima	X
Susan Thomas	X
Ryan Higgins	X
David	X
Tonio Shapiro	X
Gordon Dutrisac	X
Shannon Bath	X
Erik Tinglestad	X
Deann Holliday	X
Jasmin Means	X
Nick Eddington	X
Veronica Corral	X
Laura Heddal	X
Brenda Thai	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Melissa Stoner	X
Vaishnavi Srinivasan	X
Archana Segu	X
Kristina Young	X
Teya Viola	X

Michael Horn	X
Becky Riopel	X
Yukari Zednick	X
Martin Arroyo	X
Erica Almeda	X
Dave Dorratcague	X