

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes – January 21, 2026

Cascadia College, 18345 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011, Tjossem Boardroom CC2-260
4:00pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair; Alex Lee, Vice Chair; Dr. Colleen Ponto, Shahryar Quadri, Dr. Rania Hussein

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, Erin Blakeney, Sean Poellnitz, Brittany Caldwell, Dr. Eric Murray, Dr. Ellen Evans, AAG.

Susan Thomas (recorder)

Thais Lima (presentation assistant)

AUDIENCE

Audience members via Zoom included: See Addendum A

1. Public Meeting Call to Order

Chair Dr. Meghan Quint officially called the regular meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:03pm.

She welcomed attendees and noted that the board would enter an executive session to discuss confidential matters.

2. Executive Session

At 4:04 PM, the Board entered Executive Session as permitted under RCW 42.30.110 to discuss personnel issues and legal matters.

3. Return to Public Meeting

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 4:33 PM.

Chair Quint welcomed Brittany Caldwell in her new role as Associate Vice President of Advancement.

4. Consent Agenda

Chair Quint presented the Consent Agendas for approval. No modifications were proposed.

MOTION: Vice Chair Lee

SECOND: Trustee Qadri

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

6. New Employees / Promotions

VP Erin Blakeney introduced:

- **Özge Demirci-Richardson**, Assistant Registrar of Enrollment Services:

Özge Demirci-Richardson (she/her) joins our team with more than six years of experience in Washington community college admissions, enrollment operations, and program management. She holds an M.A. in Cultural Studies from the University of Washington Bothell and is deeply committed to developing and refining processes that are equitable and accessible for all students.

In her role as Assistant Registrar of Enrollment Services, Özge will oversee Enrollment Services' customer service operations and lead key enrollment processes at the Kodiak Corner front counter.

Outside of work, Özge enjoys spending time outdoors, doing pottery, and gardening. Dr. Sofia Marshak, Full-time Faculty, College and Career Foundations

The Board welcomed Ozge and expressed appreciation for her commitment to student success.

7. Information Item

A. Faculty Sabbaticals

In academic year 2024-25, seven sabbaticals were offered to faculty. **Erik Tinglestad** provided detailed background on how faculty are chosen for sabbaticals.

Three faculty have submitted written reports which were included in the packet:

- **Erica Almeda** (College and Career Foundations)
- **Azzizeh Farajallah** (Chemistry)
- **Tasha Walston** (English)

Three faculty utilized the TLA studio to create a verbal record (podcast) of their experience.

- **Jessica Ketcham** (English)
 - **Kathy Brown** (Art)
 - **Erin Richards** (Political Science)
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8. Discussion & Presentation Items

A. Staff Sabbaticals

In academic year 2024-25, one sabbatical was offered to staff. **Dr. Murray** provided details of the eligibility for staff to qualify for sabbatical, and introduced last year's recipient, **Yukari Zednick**, Director of International Programs.

Yukari expressed thankfulness to the ETeam and Trustees for allowing her to go on her 2-month sabbatical. She walked us through the Summer 2025 Sabbatical Project slide deck "Organizing Institutional Knowledge for International Recruitment":

- Where was the marketing knowledge stored?
- Action Plan for Centralization
- Next Steps & Long-Term Goals

B. Accreditation Standard 2

The college's 7-year accreditation cycle requires the submission of the Year 6 Standard 2 report in March 2026. This item offers the Board a chance for review.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) is the college's accrediting body. The 7-year accreditation cycle (2020-2027) includes a Year 6 report on Standard 2 (**Governance, Resources, and Community**). This report is due March 2026.

In March 2027, the Year 7 report on Standard 1 (**Student Success and Institutional Mission & Effectiveness**) is due.

The Board is asked to read the draft report attached as an addendum in preparation for its submission.

Shannon Bath discussed Standard 2, second draft presented to you for your feedback. With all the feedback we hope to have a 3rd and final draft for the February meeting. January 30th is the deadline to receive feedback.

9. Action Items

A. President's Contract

The Board conducted a review of the President's performance on December 3 and January 7. That review was delivered in executive session on January 21 and the Board finds the President to be in good standing. The contract addendum is in the packet.

Chair Quint on behalf of The Board recommends the following:

"Finding the President in good standing based on our review from December 3 through January 7, the Board moves to approve the 2026 Addendum to the President's Contract as presented in the Board Materials."

Action:

MOTION: Trustee Hussein

SECOND: Trustee Ponto

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

Dr. Murray thanked the Board and commented that we have one of the best Boards in the state.

10. Other Reports

A. Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)

Muskaan Grewal referred to her report in the board packet and shared information on advocacy the EAB is sponsoring and planning:

Advocacy:

- Recruiting students for S&A budget planning
- Collecting and handing out reusable water bottles to encourage students to use in lieu of plastic bottles
- Heading to Olympia next week with Dr. Murray to attend Legislative meetings

B. Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)

Dr. Dave Shapiro read allowed his report in the packet. He was gratified that Dr. Murray responded to this in the Friday letter, publicly and graciously. Thank you, Eric, for what you said. I see you as a colleague and a friend, as well.

C. Cascadia Classified Union (WPEA)

Ryan Higgins was not present; no report submitted.

D. Reports from Board Chair and Trustees

- There were no reports

E. President's Report – Dr. Eric Murray

- School board notes will be available tomorrow
- I will be in Olympia 3 days next week, and Muskaan will join me next Thursday.

- We'll start budget writing soon.

11. Other Business or Announcements

There was no other business

12. Next Meeting – Public Meeting

Date: February 18, 2026, 4:00pm

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quint adjourned the meeting at 4:58

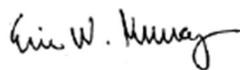
Approval of Minutes

Approved and Adopted on: February 18, 2026



Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Eric Murray, President

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance

Eric Murray, President	X
Meghan Quint	X
Alex Lee	X
Colleen Ponto	X
Shahryar Quadri	X
Rania Hussein	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Erin Blakeney	X
Sean Poellnitz	X
Brittany Caldwell	X
Muskaan Grewal	X
Dave Shapiro	X
Susan Thomas	X
Thais Lima	X
Özge Demirci-Richardson	X
Shannon Bath	X
Kristina Young	X
Erik Tingelstad	X
Jenny Piper	X
Teya Viola	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Michael Horn	X
Ana Nina	X
Yukari Zednick	X

Becky Riopel	X
Jacinth Nurse	X
Tonio Shimono	X
Laura Heddal	X