Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes – September 17, 2025

Location: 18345 Campus Way NE, Bothell, WA 98011

Time: 4:00pm – 4:56pm

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, 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

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1. Public Meeting Call to Order

Chair Dr. Colleen Ponto officially called the regular meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:00pm.

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2. Consent Agenda

Chair Ponto presented the Consent Agendas for approval. No modifications were proposed.
MOTION: Trustee Lee
SECOND: Vice-Chair Quint
OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

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3. Public Comments

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

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4. New Employees / Promotions

Becky Riopel introduced the following new EAB members:

- Muskaan Grewal, Advocacy Chair
- Leyli Merdanova
- Moli Ny

- Jina Park
- Darin Chung
- Alex Tang

Ana Nina introduced the following new employee:
• Kayla Williams, Cascadia Scholars Program Lead

Maia Wood introduced the following new employee:
• Stephanie Whatley, HR Generalist

Kristina Young introduced the following new employee:
• Liberty Krieger, Instruction & Classroom Support Tech 2

The Board welcomed the new employees and expressed appreciation for their commitment to student success.

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5. Information Items

A. Risk Register

VP Poellnitz discussed the list of risks identified for the College

In this year's assessment, there were no adjustments to the current list of risks. Two new risks were added due to the current administrative climate.

A. Federal Government Administrative Policy Changes
B. International Programs- Decline in international student programs enrollment

Mitigation plans are in process for the above identified risks.

B. Policy Homework Overview

President Murray reviewed the policy review process. The Board reviews and approves the viability of 1/3 of the Board Policies each year. The assignment is given every September with a due date of the November Board Meeting. This year, the Board is asked to review Articles 1. Instructions and a worksheet will be sent after the Board meeting.

C. Accreditation Update

President Murray discussed the presentation included in the packet to update the Trustees as Cascadia approaches the end of its 7-year accreditation cycle. This year (2025-26) is considered Year Six when the college's Standard 2 Report is due. This report covers college "Governance, Resources, and Capacity."

D. 2025-26 Strategic Plan Initiatives

The Strategic Plan is an evolving set of initiatives within the three pillars of the college's work: Equity, Access, and Superior Learning. Each year, initiatives are sunset (finished and wrapped up), become operational or are kept on-going.

The presentation included in the packet details the status of the initiatives as we move from 2024-25 to 2025-26. Note that these initiatives are revisited throughout the year during monthly Board meetings as Mission Fulfillment Moments when we analyze them in more detail with accompanying data.

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6. Discussion & Presentation Items

A. Mission Fulfillment Moment: UWB Transfer Report
Erin Blakeney introduced Michael Horn, who provided a brief overview of the Transfer Update Data Slide Deck included in the packet. Key highlights included:

- Strong transfer intent: Among Cascadia students, transfer intent remains high, with the percentage of full-time students indicating transfer goals continuing to rise over time.
- Highest yield rate to UW Bothell: Cascadia consistently achieves the highest yield rate for UW Bothell, meaning a greater proportion of admitted Cascadia students choose to enroll. This reflects both Cascadia students' commitment to UW Bothell and the strong support provided by UW and Cascadia staff to facilitate enrollment.

B. Year-in-Review: Inclusion, Advocacy, and Community
Chari Davenport presented the IAC's 2024–25 Slide Deck, included in the packet. The discussion highlighted continued growth across several programs, including:

- Civil Rights Audit, HEDs Results, DIA
- Cascadia Scholars
- Diversity & Equity Center
- Foundations of E&I Course
- Student of Color Conferences
- Affinity Groups

C. Year-in-Review: Administrative Services
Sean Poellnitz provided an overview of the Administrative Services' Year-in-Review Slide Deck, included in the packet:

- Financial Health: 2024–25 final revenue was under budget; no drawdown required; reserves remain in excellent condition.
- Department Accomplishments
- Report Card & Key Learnings
- Recap: Our "Secret to Success"

7. Action Items

A. Election of 2025-26 Board Chair and Vice Chair

A new Board Chair and Vice Chair are determined each September. Their duties begin after the conclusion of the September meeting.

- Vice-Chair Quint has been nominated for Chair.
- Trustee Lee has been nominated for Vice-Chair.

MOTION: Trustee Qadri
SECOND: Vice-Chair Quint
OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

B. Determination by Consensus of Sub-Committee Membership & School Board Liaisons

New sub-committee members and school board assignments must be determined each September. These duties begin after the conclusion of the September meeting.

Consensus:

- Finance Sub-Committee: Trustee Lee and Chair Ponto to serve.
- Accreditation Sub-Committee: Tabled for this year; Michael Horn and Shannon Bath will meet with the Board at a later date to discuss.

School Board Liaisons:

- Chair Ponto to represent at Northshore School District.
- Vice-Chair Quint to represent at Riverview School District.
- Trustee Qadri and Trustee Lee to represent at Lake Washington School District.

C. Title IX Regulations Rules Adoption

Ellen Evans, AAG, reviewed the process the Trustees will follow for voting:

April 2024, the Department of Education issued a Final Rule amending the Title IX regulations. Cascadia implemented rules in compliance with those amendments in January 2025. That same month, a federal court issued a decision vacating the 2024 Final Rule, which meant that Institutions of Higher Education must comply with the 2020 Amendments to the Title IX Regulations. Cascadia began the rulemaking process to repeal WAC 132Z 119, which complied with the 2024 regulations, and adopt WAC 132Z-120 which aligns with the 2020 Amendments. These rules were first reviewed by the Board of Trustees on March 19, 2025.

Following the required rulemaking process under the Administrative Procedure Act, Cascadia filed a CR-101, published in WSR 25-09-066, and a CR-102, published in WSR 25-

13-083. A rulemaking hearing was held on August 5 at 2pm. No comments were received, and no changes were made to the rules as initially proposed.

"Having reviewed the materials in the rulemaking file, I move to repeal WAC 132Z-119 and adopt WAC 132Z-120 as a new section to the Student Conduct Code."

MOTION: Trustee Lee
SECOND: Trustee Quint
OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

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10. Other Reports

A. Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)
Muskaan Grewal greeted the Trustees and noted that she will provide a report at the October board meeting. She shared one update:

- The first major event of the quarter will be the ice cream social on the first day of school.

B. Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)
Dave Shapiro
• No report this month. He did, however, recommend a great book to read: *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey.

C. Cascadia Classified Union (WPEA)
Ryan Higgins provided the Board with an update on recent developments:

- OFM–WPPA Contract: A new tentative agreement between OFM and WPPA includes a 3% and 2% COLA, with back pay effective in July. The contract was sent out for a vote, and members approved it. The Head of OFM will determine the feasibility of the agreement; if feasible, it will move forward to the legislature for budget recommendation. If not feasible, bargaining may resume.
- Parking Rates: No decision has been made yet.

D. Reports from Board Chair and Trustees
None

E. President's Report – Dr. Murray
President Murray invites the Trustees to attend the ACT Fall Conference, scheduled for November 13–14 in SeaTac. Please advise him if you wish to be registered for the event. As November 13 coincides with our Foundation Fall Scholarship event, President Murray will not be in attendance at the conference on that date.

11. Other Business or Announcements

None

12. Next Meeting

Date: October 15, 2025, 4:00pm

13. Meeting Adjournment

Chair Ponto adjourned the meeting at 4:56.

Approval of Minutes

Approved and Adopted on: October 15, 2025

Meghan Quint

Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:

Eric W. Murray

Dr. Eric Murray, President

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
Shahryar Qadri, Trustee	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Erin Blakeney	X
Chari Davenport	X
Sean Poellnitz	X
Ryan Higgins	X
Muskaan Grewal	X
Dave Shapiro	X
Thais Lima	X
Susan Thomas	X
Deann Holliday	X
Erik Tingelstad	X
Michael Horn	X
Shannon Bath	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Maia Wood	X
Ana Nina	X
Kayla Williams	X
Larissa Tikhonova	X

Becky Riopel	X
Leyli Merdanova	X
Moli Ny	X
Jina Park	X
Darin Chung	X
Alex Tang	X
Stephanie Whatley	X
Liberty Krieger	X
Gordon Dutrisak	X
Tasha Vice	X
Jenny Piper	X
Chantell Carancho	X
Kristina Young	X
Vickie Ashe	X