



# the evergreen state college olympia, washington

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

**November 17 and 18, 2015**

**Trustees Attending:** Emily Dunn-Wilder  
Fred Goldberg (Nov. 18)  
Irene Gonzales  
Keith Kessler  
David Nicandri  
Anne Proffitt  
Gretchen Sorensen

**Absent:** James Wigfall

**Staff Present:** George Bridges, President  
John Carmichael, Chief of Staff and Secretary to the Board  
Laura Coghlan, Director of Institutional Research and Assessment  
Wendy Endress, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Steve Hunter, Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management  
John Hurley, Vice President for Finance and Administration  
Holly Joseph, Interim Title IX Coordinator  
Dave Kohler, Director of Business Services  
Kelly Schrader, Coordinator of the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention  
Amanda Walker, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of  
The Evergreen State College Foundation  
Michael Zimmerman, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

**Others Present:** Jeff Beaulac, GSU Representative to the Board  
Brant Eddy, Staff Representative to the Board  
Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General  
Sandra Yannone, Faculty Representative to the Board

**November 17, 2015**

Ms. Sorensen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.. A quorum was present.

### **Adoption of Minutes**

**Motion** Mr. Nicandri moved approval of the minutes of the September 21 and October 22  
**2015-37** meetings. The motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **President's Report**

President Bridges provided the Trustees with a written summary of his scheduled activities since his appointment. He highlighted three topics.

1) Racism. Early in the term a member of the faculty issued a call for action, which ultimately led to a productive campus dialogue. The college's Diversity and Equity Standing Committee and the President's Diversity Fund Committee are both actively engaged in the college response. In October, a campus forum was held that discussed the experiences and challenges encountered by people of color at Evergreen. Further opportunities for discussion are planned and recommendations for actions are expected. President Bridges suggested that a multi-year action plan for advancing diversity at Evergreen will be needed.

2) Reputation. A major initiative to promote the college's reputation is planned. As a preliminary step, Devin Liddell from Teague spent a day with an eclectic group of Greeners, discussing approaches, questions, and issues that would likely arise in a campaign to elevate the college's reputation.

3) Climate Symposium. At Governor Inslee's suggestion, Evergreen will host a symposium in early January focused on responses to climate change. John Byrne, from the University of Delaware and a member of the Nobel-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, will provide a keynote address. Members of the legislature will be invited.

### **Public Records and Public Meetings**

Assistant Attorney General Aileen Miller provided a training on board member obligations under the state's Public Records and Public Meetings laws.

### **Enrollment and Retention**

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management Steve Hunter reported in Fall enrollment. The entering, undergraduate class is 5% larger this year compared to last year. Overall headcount is down slightly.

Director of Institutional Research and Assessment Laura Coghlan reported on fall-to-fall student retention. She recalled that last year's report showed a notable drop in retention. This year's report shows some recovery, with some distance still to go to return to 2013 levels.

### **Gallery Tour**

Trustees toured the Evergreen Gallery with faculty member Shaw Osha.

### **Financial Reporting**

Vice President for Finance and Administration John Hurley and Director of Business Services Dave Kohler presented quarterly financial reports for the period ending June 30, 2015. Mr. Kohler noted a \$9.4 million dollar correction to capital asset valuation. Dr. Hurley said that in light of recent audit work focused on the college's Housing assets, the decision was made to recalculate the value of all capital assets, a process that required reviewing records of capital improvements and depreciation over several decades. The resulting one-time correction is reflected in the current report.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Sorensen invited public comment. There was none.

### **Sexual Violence Response and Prevention**

Vice President for Student Affairs Wendy Endress introduced interim Title IX Coordinator Holly Joseph and Kelly Schrader, the Coordinator of the Office of Sexual Violence Prevention. Ms. Joseph said that her work as interim Title IX Coordinator includes a focus on training employees. The college has contracted with an on-line training company to provide a training that covers faculty and staff

responsibilities under Title IX. Working with staff in Human Resources and Computing and Communications, the college intends to launch the training soon.

Ms. Schrader described her work representing the college on an interinstitutional task force created by the legislature on sexual assault response and prevention. The task force includes prosecutors, assistant Attorneys General, representatives from community colleges, and each public baccalaureate institution. The task force has focused initially on gathering information, in preparation for discussing possible recommendations in 2016. Much of the task force's current work is done in subgroups, of which Evergreen is participating in two: a group on college conduct processes and one on campus climate assessments. The college will be required to complete an assessment of campus climate as regards sexual assault by the end of 2016.

Ms. Schrader provided a brief introduction to the Green Dot training program which all incoming students now receive. The Green Dot program is an evidence-based curriculum designed to encourage pro-social behaviors that reduce the incidence of sexual harassment and violence and help students build the skills necessary to intervene effectively with peers when incidents threaten to occur. President Bridges said that the program demonstrated some notable success when it was implemented at Whitman College.

### **Public Comment Policy**

John Carmichael, the President's Chief of Staff, presented a revised, proposed policy on public comment at board meetings. The revisions were made to reflect the discussion at the Board's September meeting.

**Motion** Mr. Kessler made a motion to adopt the proposed policy on public comment. The  
**2015-38** motion was seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Meeting schedule:**

**Motion** Mr. Nicandri made a motion to adopt a meeting schedule for 2016. The motion was  
**2015-39** seconded and passed on a voice vote.

### **Student Trustee Report**

Student Trustee Emily Dunn-Wilder introduced herself, describing her academic history, work as coordinator of the Shellfish Club, and her work on new student orientation, the Geoduck Student Union, and the Real Food Challenge. She said that she hoped to improve communications on campus this year. She is promoting more use of the Greener Commons web platform to stay in touch with students and will be working with the Provost to get feedback from students on academic offerings.

### **Community Representative Reports**

Jeff Beaulac reported as the Geoduck Student Union's representative to the Board. He said that student elections are currently underway to fill vacant seats on the GSU. The ballot also includes a poll about potential legislative advocacy priorities. The GSU is a smaller group than last year and is planning some events.

Sandra Yannone reported as the Faculty Representative to the Board. She said that two major processes of great concern to faculty last year were happily concluded: the presidential search and the negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement. The Faculty Agenda Committee this year expects to stay focused on issues of equity, including the status of adjunct faculty and the climate for people of color. In addition, the Faculty Advisory Panel on college budget is active, as is the College Readiness Disappearing Task Force. The DTF is focused both on student readiness for college work and on the college's readiness to support students.

Staff Representative to the Board Brant Eddy said that staff turnover continues to be a difficult and sometimes touchy issue for staff. He also noted that campus conversations about racism affect staff and expressed appreciation for Vice President John Hurley's public recognition that staff participation in these conversations can constitute legitimate college work. In light of continuing tragedies around the country involving gun violence on college campuses, many staff remain concerned about safety on campus. The staff view of what a safer campus might look like is sometimes at variance from the student or faculty view. Finally, he noted a distinct improvement in the general attitude of the campus, citing events such as the October 1 clambake.

Ms. Sorensen adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

### **November 18, 2015**

A quorum of the Board convened in an open public meeting at Mercato Restaurant to conduct a planning retreat. Mr. Goldberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and announced that the Board would meet in executive session until 10:30 to review the performance of a public employee. The Board returned to an open meeting as scheduled.

Among the issues discussed in the planning retreat were the Board's performance over the past year, the Board's relationship with the Foundation Board of Governors, models of Board governance, and ways in which the Trustees might support the President's goals in the year ahead. No action was taken at the planning retreat.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

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Fred Goldberg, Chair

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Dave Nicandri, Secretary