

Clark College
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Wednesday, June 10, 2020
Via Zoom

In Attendance

Jane Jacobsen, Chair
Rekah Strong, Vice Chair
Jeanne Bennett, Trustee
Jada Rupley, Trustee
Paul Speer, Trustee

Administrators

Dr. Sandra Fowler-Hill, Interim President
Bill Belden, Vice President of Student Services
Dr. Sachi Horback, Vice President of Instruction
Kelly Love, Chief Communications Officer
Bob Williamson, Vice President of Administrative Services
Valerie Moreno, Chief Information Officer
Kevin Witte, Vice President of Economic and Community Development

Others

Kimberly Witherspoon, Assistant Attorney General
Lisa Gibert, CEO, Clark College Foundation
Sarah Thorsen, WPEA Representative
Evans Kaame, ASCC President
Suzanne Southerland, AHE President

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Jacobsen called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

II. Introductions

Interim President Fowler-Hill invited Bill Belden to introduce the Phi Theta Kappa All Washington Academic Team. Mr. Belden introduced Marcy Gilchrist, Vice President of Student Affairs to introduce two Clark Student's, Julisse Hopmann and Kellie Langston. Ms. Gilchrist shared the achievements of Ms. Hopmann and Ms. Langston. The Board expressed their admiration for the student's achievements.

Chair Jacobsen expressed her gratitude for President Fowler-Hill on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chair Jacobsen presented Interim President Fowler-Hill with a quilt made of Clark College memorabilia and read the following statement:

On behalf of the Clark College Board of Trustees, we wish to recognize Interim President Sandra Fowler-Hill for her inspirational leadership at Clark College this past year.

Dr. Fowler-Hill joined our college community at a time when we needed strong, caring, consistent and active leadership to guide the college through difficult challenges. We knew she was the right

choice at the right time for Clark: a strong communicator, a good listener, a creative problem solver and a decisive decision maker. She walked the college through the known challenges facing Clark. She did so with compassion and courage, she signed on knowing the challenges she would face understanding her role to help the college during its college presidential transition. If the story ended right there, she set an extraordinary example of grace under pressure. But as we know all, the story took a stunning turn in mid-March as a historic pandemic shut down the college forcing all operations and instruction online.

Dr. Fowler-Hill has led us through that unexpected and monumental challenge with a firm yet gentle hand, making hard decisions swiftly to protect students and the college community.

Dr. Fowler-Hill has left Clark College better than she found it. She has helped heal fractured relationships both at the college and in the community. She has laid the foundation for the incoming President to be successful and she has earned the respect and admiration of her college community and her board of trustees.

As Clark College begins our new chapter welcoming Dr. Karin Edwards as our next President, We want to acknowledge the powerful role you played as our interim President this past year. We are excited for you and your husband that you can resume your retirement plans that were interrupted when you agreed to be our interim President. We are so grateful to you for a year that we could not have done without you.

Chair Jacobsen invited each Trustee to share two character and quality traits that have been noticed and appreciated about Interim President Fowler-Hill.

III. Action Items

- A. #1 – May 27, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. #2 – Election of Board Officers and Committees
- C. #3 – 2020-2021 College Budget
- D. #4 – 2020-2021 ASCC Budget

MOTION: Trustee Bennett made a motion to approve Agenda Items III A-D as a consent agenda
Trustee Rupley seconded the motion and Agenda Items III A-D unanimously passed.

MOTION: Trustee Speer made a motion to consider the following statement, Chair Jacobsen
seconded the motion and the statement unanimously passed.

In recent weeks a long overdue awakening and acknowledgment has taken place across the country. We have witnessed the senseless murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others who have lost their lives to racism. The cumulative trauma of these and hundreds of years of overt and systemic racism weighs heavily on communities of color and hold us all back as a society.

As the Board of Trustees:

- We are in solidarity with the College in standing with those who stand up against hate, state violence, and racial inequities; and we affirm our commitment to social justice and equity.
- We acknowledge the disproportionate impact of this trauma on our faculty, staff, and students of color. We hear you; you matter and you belong here.

- We hear the voices of Clark's students when they say, "Let our Voices Be Heard", when they declare, "Racism is Alive"; and we share in their hopefulness for the future. We hear you; you matter and you belong here.
- We recognize that words can initiate change but action is what secures change. With that recognition, we acknowledge our unique governance, policy, and fiduciary role and commit to listening, identifying and dismantling racist systems and policies, and ensuring that the Policies and Procedures of the Board of Trustees are consistently performed with an equity lens.

- IV. Discussion - Consideration of Dr. Karin Edwards' Proposal to Take 12 Days Furlough for Fiscal Year 2021
Chair Jacobsen expressed appreciation for Dr. Edwards' willingness to take a furlough day, however, based on current circumstances, Chair Jacobsen recommended one furlough day a month starting in November. The Trustees all agreed it would be in the best interest of the College.

MOTION: Trustee Speer made a motion and Trustee Bennet seconded the motion for Dr. Edwards to take 8 days furlough. The motion unanimously passed.

- V. Audience Statements

Tavish Bell submitted a public comment to Stephanie Weldy via email. The comment was read by Kelly Love:

Recently ZOOM's CEO announced a decision to work with FBI and local law enforcement to root out potential misuse of the platform. This decision will predictably deepen racial hierarchies and the disparate burdens of surveillance across lines of race, wealth and power. Given this decision coupled with the more than twelve security and privacy problems with ZOOM I'm asking the college to reconsider our ZOOM contract. Reconsidering our ZOOM contract for an open source product like Jitsi, Wire, or Tox, would ensure the security and privacy that our community expects would be provided and upheld. I'm asking if the board will recommend reconsidering our ZOOM contract in the interest of supporting both the social equity plan and cybersecurity at Clark.

- VI. Constituent Reports

A. AHE

President Southerland was not available to stay for the duration of the meeting and present a report, however, the following report was sent to Stephanie Weldy and read to the Board of Trustees during the meeting:

I have surveyed the faculty and collected several ideas to help with our enrollment issues. I will share those ideas with the Executive Cabinet and the Board in the next week. I also want to share that the CCAHE Equity Team is working on a focused plan to combat racism at Clark and in our community about a specific racial justice issue each year through our website, membership meetings and weekly updates. Lastly, I want to say thank you again. Sandra, for your graceful and strong leadership. You were the right person at the right time.

B. WPEA

Sarah Thorsen updated the Board that there are Classified Staff that have gone above and beyond to make face coverings for students in order to help them get back on campus. Ms. Thorsen shared that the WPEA has been diligently working on helping get students back on

campus safely. Ms. Thorsen shared that it has been a day-to-day and ongoing effort to keep things moving forward in the midst of demands and budget cuts. Ms. Thorsen expressed her gratitude for Interim President Fowler-Hill's leadership and fairness with Classified Staff. Ms. Thorsen expressed her excitement in welcoming Dr. Karin Edwards as the new President. Trustee Speer shared his appreciation for the leadership of the Classified Staff and the work they do behind the scenes.

C. ASCC

President Kaame shared that this meeting would be his last as President. President Kaame shared that the ASCC will be focusing on three different priorities the next academic year; resource access, systemic challenges reformation and lastly, State wide initiatives. President Kaame expressed his appreciation for the Board, faculty and staff for their tireless leadership. The Trustees expressed their appreciation for President Kaame's leadership and wished him the best for his future endeavors.

D. Foundation

CEO Lisa Gibert updated the Board that donors have been extremely generous, even in the midst of COVID-19. The Penguin Pantry, emergency grants and flexible scholarships have been well funded and supported. CEO Gibert shared that scholarships are being offered to students after their tenure at Clark in order to continue their post-graduation academic work.

VII. Reports from Board Members

No reports were given due to meeting time constraints.

VIII. President's Report

A. COVID-19 Response - IT - Val Moreno, Chief Information Officer

Val Moreno shared a PowerPoint [presentation](#) sharing a detailed plan on the response of the IT Department to COVID-19.

B. Enrollment Reports

Interim President Fowler-Hill directed the Board to review the Enrollment Reports in their Board packet.

C. College Update on Board of Trustees Priorities 2019-2020 Interim President Fowler-Hill

Interim President Fowler-Hill updated the Board on the priorities established for her at the beginning of her tenure. Interim President Fowler-Hill shared the accomplishments and thanked the tremendous work and focus of her team. Interim President Fowler-Hill shared a picture slide show capturing her year on campus.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is a retreat, currently scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2020 at 9am at Columbia Tech Center Campus, Room 141.

X. Executive Session

The Board did not go into executive session.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 7:17pm.



Jane Jacobsen, Chair

Stephanie Weldy
Recorder
Date: June 10, 2020