

Clark College  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
February 24, 2021  
Via Zoom

**In Attendance**

Rekah Strong, Chair  
Jeanne Bennett, Vice Chair  
Jane Jacobsen, Trustee  
Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Trustee  
Paul Speer, Trustee

**Administrators**

Dr. Karin Edwards, President  
Dr. Michele Cruse, Interim Vice President of Student Services  
Dr. Sachi Horback, Vice President of Instruction  
Darcy Rourk, Interim Vice President of Human Resources  
Sabra Sand, Interim Vice President of Administrative Services  
Valerie Moreno, Chief Information Officer

**Others**

Tsering Cornell, Assistant Attorney General  
Suzanne Southerland, AHE President  
Sarah Thorsen, WPEA Steward  
Josiah Jones, ASCC President  
Lisa Gibert, CEO, Clark College Foundation  
Stephanie Weldy, Recorder

**I. Call to Order/Agenda Review**

Chair Strong called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

**II. Action Items**

- A. #1 – January 27, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- B. #2 – February 10, 2021 Board Special Meeting Minutes
- C. #3 – C-Tran Easement Proposal Letter (amended agenda)

**MOTION:** Trustee Jacobsen made a motion to amend the agenda with Action Item C (C-Tran Easement Proposal Letter). Trustee Speer seconded the motion and Action Item C was added to the agenda.

**MOTION:** Trustee Jacobsen made a motion to approve Agenda Items II A-C. Trustee Bennett seconded the motion and Agenda Items II A-C unanimously passed.

**III. Constituent Reports**

**A. ASCC**

President Joner gave an update on ASCC and highlighted the Canvas page, the Penguin Pantry and Legislative work (Senate Bill 5194) and the ASCC Constitution and Bi-Laws Committee. President Joner shared that he had a meeting with Trustee Canseco Juarez and looks forward to working with him. President Joner introduced Kai Sukles, ASCC Finance Director.

**B. AHE**

Suzanne Southerland shared an update with the Board regarding a response from the faculty survey and as a result, a faculty social (via Zoom) was planned. Ms. Southerland shared that faculty are looking forward to hearing more about the re-entry plan. Ms. Southerland gave a lobbying update and that more information would be made available after the Senate Budget is released in March. Ms. Southerland shared that there are 50 adjuncts who are currently out of work and that there is \$500 available (per adjunct~~st~~ who is currently not working) for a one-time grant. Ms. Southerland shared that the faculty have been participating in Clark's Equity Conference and shared her appreciation to Ms. Rashida Willard and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team and committee.

**C. WPEA**

Sarah Thorsen shared that WPEA has met with Labor Management and that conversations are ongoing. WPEA welcomed new Employee Relations Manager, Yaju Dharmarajah. Ms. Thorsen shared that based on a negotiated agreement between Clark and WPEA, there will be a training facilitated by Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) regarding labor law for the Executive Cabinet and other Supervisors.

**D. Foundation**

CEO Gibert shared her appreciation in regard to Clark's Equity Conference and shared her gratitude to Ms. Rashida Willard and the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team and committee. CEO Gibert shared that the Foundation hosted an event last night with Dennis Hayes, Founder of Earth Day. She noted that in the Foundation Report there were some questions answered that were asked by Trustee Speer. CEO Gibert shared that she has met with Trustee Canseco Juarez and is looking forward to his engagement on the Board.

**IV. Faculty Presentation – Dr. Sachi Horback, Vice President of Instruction and Justin Allen, Adjunct Faculty, Transitional Studies (English)**

Dr. Sachi Horback introduced Justin Allen, Adjunct Faculty, Transitional Studies (English). Mr. Allen shared a PowerPoint presentation and highlighted sections in his syllabus that focus on equity and justice. Mr. Allen shared the definition of the College Culture, Vision and Strategic Plan, Racial Justice Statement developed by the English Department, a Solidarity Statement and Policies pertaining to disabilities (ADA Accommodations). The Board thanked Mr. Allen for his presentation.

**V. Reports from Board Members**

Trustee Bennett shared that she participated in a business engagement meeting with folx from the college and a local business. Trustee Bennett shared that she participated in a Board Equity Training and thanked Ms. Willard and her team for their excellent work. Trustee Bennett shared that she has had the opportunity to meet with President Edwards and is appreciative of her leadership at the College. Trustee Bennett shared that she is currently participating in the Northwest Regional Equity Conference and is excited to learn more.

Trustee Canseco Juarez shared that he has been completing the onboarding process and has met with individual Executive Cabinet members, Lisa Gibert (Foundation), Josiah Joner (ASCC) and Tsering Cornell (AAG). Trustee Canseco Juarez shared that he participated in the Community College National Legislative Summit and Trustee Tuesday events. Trustee Canseco Juarez shared that he participated in the Board Equity Training and shared his appreciation to Ms. Rashida Willard and her team at the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Trustee Canseco Juarez shared that prior to today's Board meeting, he participated in an Executive Session interviewing tenure candidates.

Trustee Jacobsen shared that she participated in the Board Equity Training and thanked Ms. Willard and her team's work. Trustee Jacobsen shared that she participated in a legislative meeting with Senator Annette Cleveland (49<sup>th</sup> District). Trustee Jacobsen shared that there was advocacy supporting the Capitol Budget and House Bill 1044 and Senate Bill 5227. Trustee Jacobsen shared that she is attending the Northwest Regional Equity Conference and is looking forward to the rest of it.

Trustee Speer acknowledged that February is Black History Month. Trustee Speer shared his report based on the Colleges four priorities for this academic year. Trustee Speer shared that from the lens of student success, he continues to be an active member of the ACT Equity Committee and that he is participating in the Equity Conference. Trustee Speer shared that from the lens of achieving financial stability, he has met with the Board Budget Committee and that he looks forward to learning more about the updated budget procedures. Trustee Speer shared that from the lens of improving campus climate, he participated workshops provided by Ms. Melissa Williams and the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion team, regarding Dreamers and African American Housing Update. Trustee Speer congratulated the ODEI team for the substantial impact they have had in the community with workshops and presentations. From the lens of expanding and deepening community engagement, he had a meeting with RealWear and other Clark College representatives.

Chair Strong thanked Dr. Edwards for her work and helping connecting folx, relationship repair and focus on racial equity. Chair Strong shared that she participated in the Board Equity Training and will be participating in Clark's Equity Conference. Chair Strong shared that she has met with Trustee Canseco Juarez and is looking forward to working with him on the Board. Chair Strong shared that she participated in the Executive Session prior to the regular meeting interviewing tenure candidates.

## **VI. President's Report – President Edwards**

### **A. President's Updates**

President Edwards shared that there are conversations for developing a comprehensive re-entry plan (tiered approach) for the fall. A task force has been identified that is a subcommittee of the Recovery Management Team. President Edwards shared that while all students and programs have been impacted, some have been more disadvantaged than others. We will look for ways to bring them back to engage in person. President Edwards shared that there are requests and conversations regarding in-person commencement. More information will be made available after a student survey has been conducted. President Edwards shared that she participated in the National Community College Legislative Summit. President Edwards shared that there is an Educational Opportunity Center Grant (due by March 1) being submitted. President Edwards shared that on a Federal level, there will be another relief package allocated to supporting education; will potentially provide some more relief to students and the institution. President Edwards shared that the State Budget Forecast will be released in March. President Edwards thanked the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for their work facilitating the Northwest

Regional Equity Conference. President Edwards shared that she will participate in some upcoming meetings in March; a Budget Kickoff Meeting, the State of the College, a meeting with the Mayor of Ridgefield and a virtual Sakura event.

VII. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VIII. **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is currently scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom.

IX. **Executive Session**

The Board will convene in Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1) at 6:31pm to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions or, litigation or potential litigation. The Executive Session is expected to last until 6:47pm. No final action will be taken during this executive session.

X. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.



---

Rekah Strong, Chair

Stephanie Weldy  
February 24, 2021

D