

Clark College
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
April 28, 2021
Via Zoom

In Attendance

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

Absent

None.

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President
Dr. Michele Cruse, Interim Vice President of Student Services
Dr. Genevieve Howard, Interim 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
Courtney Braddock, WPEA Steward
Josiah Joner, 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 – March 10, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

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

III. Constituent Reports

A. **ASCC**

President Joner gave an update on ASCC and highlighted the Spring Quarter Welcome Back Week, with a virtual Involvement Fair. He shared that ASCC collaborated with Lower Columbia Community College and Washington State University Vancouver on an Earth Day Event, with a

guest speaker. President Joner shared that ASCC hosted an Art Challenge that encouraged students to submit their artwork and that next month there will also be a Poetry Challenge in conjunction with Mental Health Awareness Month. President Joner shared that the S&A Fees Committee has been meeting and will have a report ready for the next Board meeting. He shared that election of the new ASCC Officers will be taking place in May. President Joner shared that the Oswald Awards will be held in person in June. President Joner gave an update on the Penguin Pantry distribution (348 boxes, 3200 pounds of food), which also included school supplies and personal hygiene items). The Board thanked President Joner for his leadership and acknowledged the challenges the students have faced during the pandemic.

B. AHE

Suzanne Southerland shared a presentation and gave an update on AHE concerns regarding the budget. Ms. Southerland shared that Clark has eliminated more than 60 positions in the last two years and that more than 50 part time faculty are currently unemployed. Ms. Southerland shared that there has been more than 13 programs that have been eliminated. Ms. Southerland emphasized that the faculty want to serve the students and that other approaches of budget cuts should be evaluated. Ms. Southerland shared that CARES federal funding should be considered for technology, COVID testing, safety protocols and an increase in payroll. The Board thanked Ms. Southerland for her presentation.

C. WPEA

Courtney Braddock shared a WPEA update highlighting that there are concerns with unresolved unfair labor practices and ongoing grievances. Ms. Braddock shared that WPEA has been meeting with President Edwards and the Interim Vice President of Human Resources. She shared that WPEA has been in collaboration with Clark regarding the COVID-19 vaccine clinic and encouraging Clark employees to participate. The Board thanked Ms. Braddock for her presentation.

D. Foundation

CEO Gibert shared a Foundation update highlighting a partnership the Foundation has with the Southwest Washington Boys and Girls Club. CEO Gibert shared the Foundation is evaluating ways in which to encourage students as they transition from their K through 12 school process and inviting other community groups into that broader conversation. CEO Gibert shared that Penguin Gives is 24-Hour giving challenge that will be taking place on Thursday, April 26, 2021. She shared that there is matching donor dollars to help encourage folx to participate and highlighted a new fund, Dissolving Disparities; established by President Edwards. The Board thanked CEO Gibert for her update and shared that they look forward to participating in the 24-Hour giving challenge.

IV. Staff Presentation – Amanda Brown, Libraries/Access Services & Connor Cantrell, Library and Archives Paraprofessional

Rashida Willard introduced Amanda Brown and Connor Cantrell. Ms. Brown and Ms. Cantrell shared a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted a student employee social equity training program that provides a series of reading, reflection questions and opportunities to discuss ways in which to address bias based behaviors that occur in the library. Ms. Brown and Ms. Cantrell highlighted ways in which their team has identified and responded to biased based incidents based on skill, research and training. They shared that since implementing this program, they have seen a transition occur that has empowered student in identifying and reporting biased based incidences as well as higher

levels of engagement with employees and their supervisors. The Board thanked Ms. Brown and Ms. Cantrell for their presentation and inspirational work.

V. Reports from Board Members

Trustee Jacobsen shared that the legislative session is over and shared appreciation towards State Senator Annette Cleveland for her advocacy of Clark College students, administration and faculty. Trustee Jacobsen expressed her appreciation for President Edwards and her leadership.

Trustee Canseco Juarez shared that he has had one-on-one meetings with President Edwards and thanked her for sitting on a Southwest Washington LULAC panel addressing equity work. Trustee Canseco shared that he has continued his onboarding and meeting with Trustee Speer and Ms. Weldy. He shared that he participated in the Student of Color Luncheon and appreciated the presentation by one of Clark's Counselors and her personal journey expressed through pictures.

Trustee Bennett shared that she has had one-on-one conversations with the other Trustees regarding inclusion and anti-racism work. Trustee Bennett shared that she has participated in BOD/BOT meetings excited about joint efforts.

Trustee Speer shared that he attended a Nursing Pinning Ceremony, Sakkara Festival as well as the All Washington Academic Team ceremony. Trustee Speer congratulated the two students who represented Clark. Trustee Speer thanked President Edwards for her courageous leadership balancing difficult topics and that she has his full and complete support. Trustee Speer shared that he is on a sub-committee of WACT that is addressing board composition in regard to the ways in which it relates to diversity.

Chair Strong shared that she has been meeting with President Edwards on a weekly basis and attended the BOD/BOT meetings. Chair Strong shared her appreciation for President Edwards and the way in which she has leaded the College through racial and social unrest as well as a pandemic. Chair Strong shared her appreciation for President Edwards and the way in which she has led the College.

VI. President's Report – President Edwards

A. President's Updates

President Edwards invited Bob Williamson to share with the Board regarding Title IV. Mr. Williamson shared that the State Attorney's General Office provided new model language on Title IV. He shared that the Board has an opportunity to review the change and that a public hearing for a permanent rule change would remain. Mr. Williamson recommended that at the June 8, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, the Board adopt another 12-day emergency rule. Mr. Williamson shared that no action is required at this time and that this was an opportunity to provide notice and context.

President Edwards invited Kelly Love to share a legislative update. Ms. Love shared that the Legislature passed the measure creating transfer degree program options in prisons – opening the door to new opportunities for students at Larch. HB 1044

Ms. Love shared that the Legislature passed the measure providing for greater equity and access in community and technical colleges. It is a comprehensive package of supports and reforms. ASCC President Josiah Joner successfully advocated on this bill, as did members of our faculty.

SBCTC also provided input to make sure the goals of the measure are supported with necessary funding. E2SSB 5194

Ms. Love shared that the Legislature passed the measure requiring diversity, equity, inclusion and antiracism training and assessments at colleges. Thanks to DEI Vice President Rashida Willard for her work on this legislation to ensure it supports and advances the ongoing work at Clark College. E2SSB 5227

Ms. Love shared that the Legislature passed the measure authorizing community and technical colleges to offer applied bachelor's degrees in computer science. SSB 5401

Ms. Love shared that the Washington Legislature passed the measure making Juneteenth a legal state holiday. June 19 will become a paid day off for state workers. Juneteenth also known as Emancipation Day and Freedom Day. SHB 1016

Ms. Love shared that these bills are now on the Governor's desk for his signature and thanked the Trustees for their work in reaching out to our local legislators. Ms. Love also thanked Bob Williamson for his work throughout the session, helping to support President Edwards and a KUDOS to President Edwards who made this a priority among all her other priorities to ensure the best possible legislative outcomes.

Ms. Love gave a Federal advocacy update and that Congress had agreed to provide congressionally directed spending or "earmarks" in some of its appropriations for FY 2022. Clark College is an eligible requestor for the "Community Project Funding." Ms. Love shared that Clark reviewed several projects that might be considered eligible given the guidelines and shared that three proposals have been submitted to our federal delegation for their consideration.

- 1) Clark requested \$1.5 million from the Labor-HHS-Educations Appropriations to help purchase equipment for the advanced manufacturing center at Clark College Boschma Farms in Ridgefield. This would help leverage other sources of funding from the foundation and the college. We received letters of support from local, county and regional partners.
- 2) Clark requested \$600 thousand in Community Project funding to help upgrade our IT server room and IT security systems. It would leverage other sources of funding to protect our system and our users from cyber-intrusion. We received letters of support from our local businesses, business organizations and community organizations.
- 3) Clark requested Community Project funding to make capital improvements to the "T" Building – home for our transitional study students. Plumbing, electrical, accessibility and lighting are all essential. This building used to be the federal welfare agency office back in the 1960's. The federal government donated the building to the college, and as such, it is not eligible for state renovation funding.

President Edwards invited Sabra Sand to share a budget report. Ms. Sand highlighted the funding for Boschma Farms has been approved and once there is allocation from the State Board, the operating budget will be developed. Ms. Sand shared the following systemwide funding changes. Ms. Sand shared that there is a one-time cut for this year of \$6.8 million and that it will be restored in the new biennium. Ms. Sand shared that there is a \$5 million funding to help increase tenured faculty positions. Ms. Sand shared that there is \$6.8 million for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs and that the remainder of the funding has been distributed towards counseling grants. Ms. Sand shared that another \$8 million has been allocated for emergency

assistant grants to students and \$10 million for grants pertaining to job skills programs. Ms. Sand shared that there is a potential statewide increase for student tuition of 2.8% and that an additional \$395k is expected in additional revenue. Ms. Sand shared that a 1.7% salary increase for faculty related to I-732 was also passed.

President Edwards shared an update with the Board and highlighted the work that the Recovery Management Team has done and acknowledged that there are questions concerning the return to campus plan that are currently being discussed; information will be provided and communicated as the plan continues to develop. President Edwards shared that there are restrictions for COVID relief funding and that the funding cannot be used for any structural deficit. President Edwards highlighted the need for Clark to obtain financial stability and that the budget committees are developing a plan in regard to considering a 5% cut. President Edwards shared that no final decisions have been made at this time and that the goal is to create long-term financial stability.

VII. Public Comment

The following people gave public comment: Don Appett, Virginia Kyle, Yusufu Kamara, Arwen Spicer, Suzanne Southerland and an anonymous public comment read by Ms. Weldy.

VIII. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5:00pm via Zoom.

IX. Executive Session

The Board will convene in Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1) at 7:07pm to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions or, litigation or potential litigation. The Executive Session was expected to last until 7:27pm. At 7:27pm, the Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes. No final action was taken during this executive session.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.



Rekah Strong, Chair

Stephanie Weldy, Recorder
April 28, 2021