

Clark College
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 23, 2022
Via Zoom

In Attendance

Jeanne Bennett, Chair
Paul Speer, Vice-Chair
Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Trustee
Denise Gideon, Trustee
Rekah Strong, Trustee

Absent

Brad Avakian, Vice President of Human Resources

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President
Dr. Michele Cruse, Vice President of Student Affairs
Das Gupta, Interim Chief Information Officer
Sabra Sand, Interim Executive Vice President of Operations
Paul Wickline, Vice President of Instruction
Dr. Rashida Willard, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Others

Tsering Cornell, Assistant Attorney General
Xander Hawkins, ASCC President
David Simms, WPEA Steward
Suzanne Southerland, AHE President
Lisa Gibert, CEO, Clark College Foundation
Stephanie Weldy, Recorder

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Bennett called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

II. Action Items

A. January 2022 Minutes.

MOTION: Trustee Strong made a motion to approve the minutes. Trustee Canseco Juarez seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed.

B. August 2021 Minutes.

MOTION: Vice-Chair Speer made a motion to make a correction to the previously approved minutes of the Board's August 2021 minutes: to Section Nine, President's Evaluation/Contract Extension; the minutes should read, "extend President Edward's contract through June 30, 2024, and that her salary is \$247,200 with a one-time contribution of \$8,000 to her retirement, with economic openers for future salary and benefit adjustments". Trustee Gideon seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed.

III.

Constituent Reports

ASCC -

Xander Hawkins, ASCC President, reported that ASCC is working at the front desk to answer student questions. They are all busy working on a student mailer and creating videos on social media to increase enrollment. They would like to see ASCC positions hired before the school year begins to have no time lost in the planning of the school year. They hope to have a spring involvement fair to improve the campus climate. There will be coffee and a meet and greet. The Oswald Awards will be at the end of the spring quarter. The trustees thanked the student body for their focus and for creating a process to fill student government positions before the next school year. Xander does not have any data on why students are not going to college, but ASCC surveyed students who have not returned to Clark. Xander can share the results at a future meeting.

AHE -

Suzanne Southerland, AHE President, reported that Governor Insee would lift the mask mandate on March 21, 2022. Suzanne surveyed the faculty about the mask mandate. The majority of the faculty support an indoor mask mandate, and 67% support three feet social distancing. Suzanne reported that faculty have unique experiences with their students. An indoor mask requirement could help keep the college open in the spring. She stated that many of her students are absent due to COVID-related illnesses. The library has been severely understaffed and could reduce its hours of operation due to a staff shortage. Suzanne shared that the AHE received the local union of the year award because of their strong support for our adjunct faculty. Many adjunct faculty have to teach whatever is available and do not have a choice. They help keep the college open. Suzanne welcomed new Trustee Denise Gideon to the Clark College Board. Trustee Gideon thanked her and looks forward to working with the administration to ensure students, faculty, and staff are safe.

WPEA -

David Simms reported staff changes to WPEA leadership. He also thanked Yaju Dharmarajah, Labor Relations Manager and Compliance Director in Human Resources, for his collaborative work with the WPEA. He hopes Human Resources will continue to work positively and respectfully with the classified staff.

Foundation

Lisa Gibert stated that the CEO search is underway, with finalist interviews over the next two weeks. The Foundation hopes to name a new leader at the end of March. The Foundation is near the end of the Promising Pathways Campaign and has passed its goal of \$30 million raised. The Foundation will celebrate this success at the Savoring Excellence event held at the downtown Vancouver Hilton on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Tickets are selling fast. The Foundation will present the winner of the Outstanding Alumni Award. There are inspiring stories of what Clark College has contributed to their life. This year, the Community Foundation Scholarships did not use all their funding (not related to the Clark College Foundation). Although Lisa did not know the details, she stated that scholarship application requests have declined at Clark and around the country. It is vital faculty and staff spread the word about the scholarships available. Many students think they are not obtainable, but there are scholarships for students with different needs.

IV. Faculty Presentation

STEM Pathway MESA update presented by: Paul Wickline, Vice President of Instruction; Dr. Roberto Anitori, Microbiology Professor; Dalila Paredes, Director of MESA. The objective is to develop more seamless biology-related bachelor's degree pathways from Clark to WSU-Vancouver. It gives the student a more transparent, engaging, and efficient path to STEM 4-year degrees and careers. The group provided an update on Washington Consortium for Undergraduate Research and Equity (WA-Cure), SW Regional Alliance for Inclusive Science Excellence (SW RAISE), Course-taking analysis, Early STEM Engagement and Mentorship, Early STEM Preparation, and the status of other components.

V. President's Report – President Edwards

Dr. Edwards shared that the legislature will go into budget meetings next week. There appears to be significant support for community colleges. There is substantial support to increase enrollment for cybersecurity, workforce opportunity grants, and financial aid. There is an agreement in cost of living increases for faculty and staff. Dr. Edwards hopes to get significant support and understands the budget forecast is in the billions.

She shared that the college is coming out of a challenging time. COVID has had a considerable impact on the college, and we will need to look at moving forward. It will not be a smooth transition but a work in progress, and she looks forward to it. The Executive Cabinet did meet to discuss the mask mandate. In the coming days, the college will provide a survey to gather feedback from across the college to make an informed decision. She is aware there is a genuine concern on both sides. The NW Regional Equity Conference started today with 475 registered for the event. Dr. Edwards did participate in judging the Youth of the Year program at the Boys and Girls Club of Clark County. She was pleased that a Clark student was selected.

VI. Reports from Board Members

Jeanne Bennett -

Chair Bennett stated how appreciative she is of all the hard work everyone at The college is doing. Chair Bennett participated in the newspaper article about the

diversity on the Clark College Board of Trustees, and she also looks forward to when it is not front-page news. The college has an opportunity as faculty, staff, trustees, and leadership to be the change. Lead in the direction we want the community to go in. Chair Bennett congratulated Dr. Rashida Willard on her NW Regional Equity Conference leadership. She attended the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference in Washington DC. She enjoyed speaking with so many people who have community colleges and our students in their hearts. People who understand our students are the drivers of our economy and are working hard for them. Trustee Strong's daughter attended the conference, and articulated student needs to representatives, and it was impressive.

Cristhian Canseco Juarez –

Trustee Canseco Juarez continues to work with Dr. Edwards on barriers at the college. (He also congratulated Dr. Rashida Willard on the NW Regional Equity Conference. He enjoyed listening to the keynote speaker and looked forward to this week's remaining conference events.)

Denise Gideon –

Trustee Gideon shared that she continues to attend her new board member orientation. She attended the Student of Color luncheon and enjoyed hearing from another PeaceHealth employee. She is attending the NW Regional Equity Conference and is enjoying the bag of swag she received. Trustee Gideon participated in an interview about the diversity on the Clark College Board of Trustees and is anxious to shift to the Board's success and not the racial make-up.

Paul Speer –

Trustee Speer shared how proud he was to see *The Indy* and *The Columbian* do an article on the diversity of the Clark College Board of Trustees, and he too will be pleased when it is not front-page news. He has done some recruitment in the community. Trustee Speer recognized Dr. Rashida Willard for a great start to the NW Regional Equity Conference. He found it inspirational to listen to the comments and thoughtful opinions. The state diversity committee met and is working on priorities.

Rekah Strong –

Trustee Strong shared that she attended the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) conference in Washington DC. Dr. Jill Biden was the opening speaker. Gina Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce, also spoke. They acknowledged the Build Back Better bill and incorporated Community Colleges to help get the economy back. Another speaker noted we most likely won't go back to the way we were and think about what post-pandemic will look like. We must prepare how the college will navigate the change. Trustee Strong stated she was very proud of the innovative work done at Clark College. She attended the Student of Color luncheon and appreciated Trustee Canseco Juarez's willingness to share his experiences. She participated in an interview about diversity on the Clark College Board of Trustees. She stated how proud she was to see the growth and change.

VII. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

VIII. **Board of Trustees 2021-2022 Committee Assignments**

The Board discussed committee assignments and the need to adjust assignments with the addition of Trustee Gidion to the Board.

MOTION: Chair Bennett made a motion to approve the Board of Trustee 2021-2022 Committee Assignments. Vice-Chair Speer seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed.

Clark College Board of Trustees

- Chair Jeanne Bennett
- Vice-Chair Paul Speer

Clark College Foundation Committee

- a. Board (Position #1) Jeanne Bennett
- b. Executive Committee (Position #2) Rekah Strong

Legislative Committee

- Primary Jeanne Bennett
- Alternate Cristhian Canseco Juarez

Facilities Master Plan

Paul Speer

Strategic Planning

Denise Gideon

Social Equity Advisory Council

- Primary Denise Gideon
- Alternate Paul Speer

Trustee Recruitment

Rekah Strong

Jeanne Bennett

IX. **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is currently scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

X. **Executive Session**

The Board did not go into Executive Session.

XI. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.



Jeanne Bennett, Chair

Julie Taylor
Recorder
February 23, 2022