

Clark College
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board
of Trustees
March 9, 2022
Via Zoom

In Attendance

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

Absent

Paul Wickline, Vice President of Instruction

Administrators

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

Others

Tsering Cornell, Assistant Attorney General
Xander Hawkins, ASCC President
Angela Dawson, WPEA Steward
Suzanne Southerland, AHE President
Lisa Gibert, CEO, Clark College Foundation
Julie Taylor, Recorder

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

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

II. Action Items

A. February 2022 Minutes.

Additions/Corrections to Proposed Minutes:

1. Chair Bennett noted that the February 2022 minutes were missing the Board's

approval of a correction to the August 2021 minutes and requested the following addition:

“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: 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.”

2. Chair Bennett also noted that the February 2022 minutes contained errors in Section Eight, Board of Trustees 2021-2022 Committee Assignments and requested the following corrections:

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

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

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"

MOTION: Vice Chair Speer made a motion to approve the February 2022 minutes with the additions and corrections noted above. Trustee Gideon seconded the motion and it unanimously passed.

III. Consideration of Tenure

MOTION: Trustee Canseco Juarez moved that the Board of Trustees, after having given reasonable consideration to the recommendation of the Tenure Review Committee, grant tenure to Darcy Kennedy. Vice-Chair Speer seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor/0 opposed/1 abstained. (Trustee Strong abstained.)

MOTION: Trustee Canseco Juarez moved that the Board of Trustees, after having given reasonable consideration to the recommendation of the Tenure Review Committee, grant tenure to Nicholas Luisi. Vice-Chair Speer seconded the motion. Motion passed by a vote of 4 in favor/0 opposed/1 abstained. (Trustee Gideon abstained.)

MOTION: Trustee Canseco Juarez moved that the Board of Trustees, after having given reasonable consideration to the recommendation of the Tenure Review Committee, grant tenure to Olga Lyubar. Vice-Chair Speer seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed.

MOTION: Trustee Canseco Juarez moved that the Board of Trustees, after having given reasonable consideration to the recommendation of the Tenure Review Committee, grant tenure to Richa Sharma. Vice-Chair Speer seconded the motion, and it unanimously passed.

IV. Constituent Reports

ASCC –

Xander Hawkins, ASCC President, reported that ASCC finalized dates for the involvement fair, coffee social with tutoring services, and an online open student forum with President Edwards.

ASCC is clarifying Clark College's policy on emergency funds for travel in the travel contract. They will move forward to find an estimate for the cost to build a new auditorium

and plan to gauge student interest with a survey before presenting a final price and vote to the student body.

The student survey project mentioned at the February Board meeting will move forward in April and be administered in May.

Promotional videos continue to be posted on Tik Tok to raise awareness about various resources at Clark.

The Discord Server Project is inequitable. ASCC will improve the student resources page on Canvas to access the same information and resources initially planned on the Discord Server Project.

AHE –

Suzanne Southerland, AHE President, reported faculty representatives on the Recovery Management Team are working collaboratively to determine the mask requirements and protocols for the spring term.

The reception for Vice President of Instruction Paul Wickline was very well received, and appreciate the collaboration with the President's Office. Everyone was able to see Paul's light-hearted, theatrical, and humorous side. Thank you, Chair Bennett and Trustee Speer, for attending the event. Suzanne also thanked the IT department for providing a hybrid event so others could attend remotely. The bakery department did a great job and provided penguin cookies and coffee. The attendees were happy to see colleagues, Paul and Dr. Edwards.

Suzanne congratulated the tenured faculty.

WPEA –

Angela Dawson congratulated Joey Hicklin as the new Clark representative for the 2023-2025 bargaining session.

WPEA is aware of the budget reductions and would like to encourage College leadership to consider the impacts on students and the community of prior reductions to classified positions. The members desire transparency in the budget process.

The Governor's new mask guidelines have prompted the college to review current college policy around the masks. The members want to encourage the college to include front-line staff in the decision-making process of new COVID-19 protocols. Current protocols and messages around the campus about being fully vaccinated minimize the experience of front-line staff, who are also some of the most vulnerable to contracting COVID-19.

The Washington State Legislature approved the preliminary budget with the negotiated 3.25% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and \$2,000 lump sum payment for classified staff that makes under \$99,000 a year. The WPEA is advocating for the legislature to pass State Bill 5693, which will increase targeted classification ranges to hire and retain some of the most underpaid positions in the state.

WPEA leadership at the college would like to thank Frank Prochaska, staff representative, for his tremendous work over the past fourteen months representing Clark classified staff. Frank has been a catalyst of change for our members and has had a positive impact. Frank will continue his work in the WPEA as a Labor Advocate Specialist. Our new staff representative is Deb Montez. Deb has worked in higher education for over twenty years and has a wealth of knowledge. We look forward to working with Deb and the college to collaborate on issues that impact classified staff.

Foundation -

Lisa Gibert, Foundation CEO, congratulated Chair Bennett for receiving the Iris Award. The search for a new CEO is in progress. The semi-finalists have met with community stakeholders, constituents, the Executive Cabinet, and Dr. Edwards. Three finalists will come back to meet with additional people and take a college tour. The Foundation hopes to name a new CEO very soon.

Lisa shared that the Rotary Scholarship applicant pool is very good. Rotary has received the highest amount of applicants from Clark College students this year – about 25%.

V. Student Presentation

Dr. Rashida Willard introduced student Marcel Johansen. Dr. Willard had a question-and-answer-style interview with Marcel.

1. Please introduce yourself and tell us what led you to Clark?
I am from Ghana, West Africa. I discovered Clark College after moving here from Philadelphia.
2. What has your journey been like at Clark? What challenges have you had to overcome?
My journey has been a roller coaster. I could not start at Clark College immediately because I was undocumented. It was costly to begin the documentation process. Nothing has been simple, but I did find some internal scholarships to help. It wasn't easy to work and go to school. I learned perseverance and to keep pushing ahead.
3. What are the resources at Clark that have helped you succeed at Clark?
The Welcome Center was a significant benefit that helped me immensely. I got help with what documents I needed to complete and advisor names to meet. The Black Student Union (BSU) gives me community and friendships. I feel less alienated in a predominately white space. The BSU provides food which I appreciate because there are many days I am hungry.
4. When is your graduation date, and what do you want to do with your degree in the future?
I will graduate in the spring of 2022. I am surprised it came so quickly, but it has been an exciting journey. I will transfer to Portland State University. I want to go back

home to Ghana and use my degree to build the community there.

5. What is the biggest lesson you learned being a student at Clark?

The biggest lesson I learned is to ask questions. It is the best way to learn.

Dr. Willard thanked Marcel for being at the Board Meeting. She has learned a lot from him, too, and she enjoyed seeing him participating in dance wars in the Diversity Center every day.

Trustee Speer thanked Marcel for sharing his story and asked Marcel how the college could make it easier to ask for help. Marcel shared that the best way is to find a way to highlight undocumented students in outreach places. If students know the possibilities, it may encourage them to try.

Trustee Canseco Juarez thanked Marcel for being vulnerable and transparent with his story. He looks forward to celebrating his graduation with him in the spring and wishes him all the best.

VI. Reports from Board Members

Jeanne Bennett -

Chair Bennett stated the Board would begin an evaluation process for Dr. Edwards. She has appointed Trustee Speer to create and manage the evaluation process. The evaluation (also called a 360) gathers feedback from internal and external participants. There will be an executive session to share what they learned in the coming months. There will also be a public session at a future meeting to share results. Trustee Strong stated there could be negative responses when individuals are not ready to move forward with the college's goals. We want to ensure we have embedded tools to acknowledge the additional work she has experienced at the college and in the community.

Cristhian Canseco Juarez –

Trustee Canseco Juarez congratulated the tenured faculty and thanked them for their hard work. He looks forward to seeing all the contributions they make to the college.

Trustee Canseco Juarez congratulated Chair Bennett and Lisa Gibert for receiving the Iris Award. He also congratulated Trustee Strong, who received the Iris Award in 2019.

He attended a budget meeting earlier this month and appreciated all the grant work that Julie Robertson does. One grant supports a middle college high school to allow the college to partner with Hudson's Bay and Fort Vancouver High School to increase our outreach to students. There is also the One Million Dollar grant which supports student enrollment. The college is hopeful they will receive grant funds for both.

Trustee Canseco Juarez thanked Sabra Sand for her work with the budget and her transparency. He recognized the Guided Pathways Committee and apologized for not attending past meetings due to his schedule but looks forward to future meetings. He acknowledges everyone is preparing for finals and hopes everyone has a nice spring break.

Denise Gideon –

Trustee Gideon congratulated the tenured faculty.

She participated in the NW Regional Equity Conference and appreciated the passion and the much-needed conversation.

She attended the Social Equity Committee meeting.

Trustee Gideon continues the onboarding process and looks forward to meeting more people.

Paul Speer –

Vice-Chair Speer congratulated Chair Bennett and Lisa Gibert for receiving the Iris Award.

He attended the Social Equity Committee meeting and looks forward to transitioning from monthly to quarterly meetings and returning to face-to-face meetings.

Vice-Chair Speer participated at the Facilities Master Plan meeting and discussed departmental moves across the college and budgets for renovations. He was pleased to see the committee use the equitable lens to look at these decisions. How do we get feedback from those who are missing at the table?

He attended the Budget Committee meeting and received updates on grants the college has applied for.

He noted Sabra Sand would host a budget status update for the college on Zoom to discuss the current budget. He appreciates the transparency. There are many budget challenges around the state. During COVID, the federal government provided additional funding, which allowed the college to buy time.

Rekah Strong –

Trustee Strong appreciated that she and her staff could attend the NW Regional Equity Conference.

She congratulated Chair Bennett and Lisa Gibert on their Iris Award win. She wished everyone a Happy Women's History month and is happy to share space with such amazing and powerful women.

VII. President's Report – President Edwards

Dr. Michele Cruse read the following report from Dr. Edwards.

Tonight, I'm at the Workforce Southwest Washington Board of Directors meeting. In addition to the Board's regular business, time has been set aside to talk about women in the workforce. I will share some of my personal experiences, as well as enrollment and employment trends for women in higher education.

I'm pleased to report that the FY 2022 omnibus agreement includes \$1.5 million for our North County advanced manufacturing center.

In terms of the next steps, the House will complete votes today so House Democrats can go on their annual retreat. The Senate may not vote until Saturday. Then the president will sign – probably at a White House signing ceremony on Monday or Tuesday. The first earmarks approved by Congress in more than ten years, and Clark College is getting one!

The state budget is expected to be released this week or next. We should start preparing thank you letters to our legislators for their support of community colleges. We will share details as they become available.

Sabra is hosting budget forums this week, giving insight into where we stand now and some projections.

Next week is exam week, then students and faculty are off for two weeks. The college will primarily be in remote operation from March 19-27. This is a cost-saving measure that's been in place for some years. The net saving for these college closures this past year is approximately \$58,000.

We're watching what's happening in Ukraine and continue to hold them in our thoughts. I know we have students and colleagues with close ties there.

Congratulations, Trustee Bennet and Lisa Gibert, for being named Iris award winners! You're so deserving.

VIII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IX. Next Meeting

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

X. Executive Session

The Board convened an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) at 6:03 p.m. to evaluate an applicant's qualifications for public employment or review a public employee's performance. The executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) ended at 6:23 p.m. The regular meeting was reconvened at 6:23 p.m. The Board took no action during the executive session.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



Jeanne Bennett, Chair