

Clark College

Board of Trustees Work Session Minutes

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

GHL 213 and Zoom

In Attendance

Paul Speer, Chair

Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Vice Chair

Denise Gideon, Trustee

Jeanne Bennett, Trustee

Rekah Strong, Trustee

Absent

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President

Dr. Michele Cruse, Vice President of Student Affairs

Jim Wilkins-Luton, Interim Vice President of Instruction

Sabra Sand, Interim Vice President of Operations

Vanessa Neal, Interim Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Brad Avakian, Vice President of Human Resources

Das Gupta, Interim Chief Information Officer

Calen Ouellette, CEO, Clark College Foundation

Others

Benjamin Haslam, Assistant Attorney General

Brooke Pillsbury, Senior Executive to the President

Julie Taylor, Executive Assistant

Brandon Johnson, Information Technology

Julie Robertson, Director of Grant Development

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Speer called the work session to order at 3:30 pm.

II. Clark College FY 2024 Budget Overview

Presented by Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations

Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations, provided a comprehensive overview of the college's revenue, current and FY24 budget projections, and the upcoming college budgeting process and impact.

Board of Trustees Feedback and Discussion

Trustee Bennet – Bennett shared that the overview was well done and easy to understand and that there is difficult work ahead for Executive Cabinet. She shared that one of the most important parts of the budget process is the Budget Committee and the opportunity to bring various people into the committee for shared governance.

Vice Chair Canseco Juarez – Canseco Juarez shared gratitude for the presentation. He shared the value of the Budget Committee to the process and that he looks forward to the outcomes.

Trustee Strong – Strong shared appreciation for the budgeting process and the integrated opportunity for others to contribute as critical for the team to make tough decisions. She emphasized that leadership will have to make tough decisions, with guidance to hang in there, stick with the process, and don't be afraid to make those tough decisions. Strong shared that Executive Cabinet's role is to make long-term decisions well into the future, not what's happening now. She concluded that we need to ensure Clark College is functioning and serving the community perpetually.

Trustee Gideon – Gideon echoed the comments and sentiments of her colleagues. She emphasized the importance of leadership and being called to be responsible financial stewards for the college. Gideon was surprised to realize that the state does not fully fund positions and that we need to be mindful of that as we make the decisions and the impact on the budget. Finally, she shared that our budget situation is not unique to education and that she's seeing this trend in other organizations.

Chair Speer – Speer acknowledged the challenging leadership opportunities of the budgeting process. He acknowledged the budget approach, including the five-year projections, deeply embracing a set of values of what the community needs the college to be. Two important decisions – how to do this while honoring shared governance and a risk choice from a financial perspective (by finding a middle-ground with savings and business operations to further align with the community's needs as the community's college. Speer shared appreciation for the process and the analysis to make the final budget decision.

III. 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan Overview

Presented by Brooke Pillsbury, Senior Executive to the President, and Julie Robertson, Director of Grant Development

Brooke Pillsbury, Senior Executive to the President, and Julie Robertson, Director of Grant Development, shared a comprehensive overview of the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan,

developed in partnership with Executive Cabinet, faculty, staff, students, community partners, and the college's external partner, Education Northwest.

The team also shared the development of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), how mission fulfillment will be measured across departments, the data analysis which will inform the College's Scorecard (used to provide a snapshot through data of progress to goal), and next steps to implement the Strategic Plan following Board approval.

Board of Trustees Feedback and Discussion

Trustee Strong – Strong shared gratitude for aligning the budget process with the Strategic Plan.

Vice Chair Canseco Juarez – Canseco Juarez commended the College for a comprehensive and detailed strategic plan. He shared that the plan is the most comprehensive strategic plan he's seen based on the level of detail and analysis. Canseco Juarez shared the value in how various areas and employees can impact the outcomes and goals, building accountability across the College. He commended the College and everyone who was involved and shared gratitude for the process and excitement for implementation.

Trustee Gideon – Gideon shared appreciation for a clear and thoughtful Strategic Plan, acknowledging the attention to detail. She was happy to participate in the plan's development and celebrated its inclusive process.

Trustee Bennett – Bennett shared that she feels incredible joy and excitement, emphasizing that you don't see this at other organizations. She acknowledged Julie Robertson, thanking her for her skills reflected in the KPI development.

Question about diversity and inclusion reflected in our plan:

Is our community ready for Clark to lead in this area? If not yet, what can we do as a college to help support our community to help make it ready to accept the transformational change we are talking about?

Dr. Edwards responded by sharing ready or not, here we come. This is the work that needs to happen. It's our responsibility as a leader in the community. Our Strategic Plan survey feedback was very positive from those who responded, affirming it is part of our work and our responsibility to lead this change.

Vanessa Neal, Interim VP of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion added that looking at the demographics of Clark County, we need to be ready for students who will be coming to Clark. DEI is a journey and collective effort coming from the state's highest office.

Trustee Strong shared that 56% of our K-12 students in Clark County are students of color. The community has demonstrated that it is ready. Strong shared that she believes the community is ready and that the College has been helping to prepare the community for this.

Chair Speer – Speer emphasized that we are called to this because it is the right thing to do and for the survival of the College, with a great community impact. The Strategic Plan demonstrates that we are the community's college. Speer shared that the mission and vision language is exciting and will resonate. He acknowledged the intentionality throughout the plan. Speer shared feedback that he loves that we will have one College scorecard and encouraged the College to make the scorecard more visible to the community and students.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment.

V. Adjournment

Chair Speer adjourned the work session at 4:51 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Speer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Paul" on the first line and "Speer" on the second line.

Chair Paul Speer

Brooke Pillsbury, Recorder