

Clark College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

GHL 213 and Zoom

In Attendance

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

Absent

Jeanne Bennett, Trustee

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President
Dr. Michele Cruse, Vice President of Student Affairs
Jim Wilkins-Luton, Interim Vice President of Instruction
Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations
Vanessa Neal, Interim Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Calen Ouellette, CEO, Clark College Foundation
Brad Avakian, Vice President of Human Resources
Sudha Frederick, Vice President of Information Technology

Other

Shelley Williams, Assistant Attorney General
Brooke Pillsbury, Senior Executive
Julie Taylor, Executive Assistant
Brandon Johnson, IT
Casey Figone, ASCC
Joey Hicklin, WPEA Co-Chair
Suzanne Southerland, CCAHE
Eliza Buttars, PTK President

I. [Call to Order/Agenda Review](#)

Chair Speer called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

II. Public Comment

The following meeting participants provided Public Comments during the meeting. Additional public comments were submitted and shared with the Board following the April Board meeting.

Beverly Brosius
Kushlani de Soyza
Yulia Brockdorf
Dr. Kelly Fielding
Valentyna Sapizhinska
Sydney Brahmavar
Tyler Frank
Cecelia Towner
Jude
Tammy Pham
Alma Pendergrass
Leilani Towner
Jill Forgash
Marianne Luther
Anna-Melissa Lyons
Kimberly Sullivan
Adam Aguilera
Carla Naccarato Sinclair
Emily Meoz
Olesia Dmytriieva

III. Action Items/Consent Agenda

- a. March 8, 2023 – Board Work Session Minutes
- b. March 8, 2023 – Board Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Trustee Gideon motioned to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Vice Chair Canseco Juarez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Constituent Reports

ASCC

Casey Figone, ASCC President, shared the following updates focused on three key areas:

- Student Involvement and Campus Climate – Focused on chartered clubs, student committee representatives, ASCC recruitment for Fall 2023, the Spring Involvement Fair, and Spring ASCC Social. Figone also emphasized the work ASCC is doing to get more involved with student advocacy and support.
- Student Resource Access – Figone shared the collaboration between student government and the Activities Programming Board to share events and activities across social platforms.

- Statewide Initiatives – ASCC VP David Goebel represented students and Clark at the weekly WACTC legislative meetings, and student government is also working closely to partner with Women’s League of Voters for Clark County.

WPEA

Joey Hicklin, WPEA Co-Chair, shared the following report:

- Systemic issues, including interim leaders and high turnover.
- Explanation that WPEA addresses the Board of Trustees with issues as a last resort, following connecting with supervisors, Human Resources, and others who can possibly impact change.
- Re-iterated that WPEA sees the need for a college-wide task force and concerns regarding the Board’s position of power, bias, and ego.
- Shared concerns with the meeting minutes in prior Board meetings being summative and not reflective of WPEA’s reports.
- Shared WPEA’s concerns that the College does not include front-line workers in decisions.
- WPEA Staff position cuts are retaliatory.
 - Accessibility concerns
 - COVID mediation
 - Vacant positions shift work to non-classified or negatively impact the classified workload.
- College is not doing well, and we are not serving our community.
- Accessibility and DEI at the forefront.
- Requested clarity on the relationship between WPEA and the BOT. WPEA shared:
 - Data invalidated,
 - Testimonies minimized,
 - Language erased, and
 - Faith is broken.
- Issues not isolated to Clark, and there are larger systemic issues to address. Hicklin emphasized that WPEA is trying to solve Clark’s problems through shared governance.

Finally, Hicklin shared that WPEA will not be silenced. How is the relationship viewed by the Board and how can the Trustees help WPEA develop new shared governance?

CCAHE

Suzanne Southerland, CCAHE President, shared the following updates:

- Acknowledgement of WPEA’s report and message.
- Report is on one topic on behalf of the Faculty Senate:
 - Nae to cut the faculty counselor.
 - Cut is a violation of the faculty contract.
 - To cut the faculty counselor, the college would have to cut two counselors, leaving the college with only two remaining counselors.
 - No cost savings
 - Fewer counselors per FTE than other regional SBCTC schools
 - If we cut a counselor, we will have 1,800 students per counselor.

- Moving forward divided – even farther than the strike
- Stated intimidation from Human Resources and the irreparable relationship between the VP of Human Resources and the CCAHE.
- Shared the attacks on Tenure across states.
- Overall opposed to cuts.

Clark College Foundation

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation (CCF) CEO, shared gratitude for the Board's inclusion of the Foundation in the constituent reports. Ouellette shared that he is proud of the partnership between the College and Foundation, supporting everything the College does.

Ouellette also shared that the Foundation partnered with O-Squad, including Clark faculty and staff for Penguins Give. He celebrated that the Foundation doubled the number of faculty and staff who gave during the annual giving initiative. Ouellette shared gratitude for faculty and staff advocacy.

V. **Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) First Generation Students Initiative**

Presented by Eliza Buttars, Clark Student, and PTK President

Eliza Buttars started her presentation by sharing an overview of the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society, including that 1/3 of all students are first-generation and a primary focus of PTK.

Buttars shared information about the PTK College Project, which focuses on first-generation students, following Dr. Karin Edwards's suggestion. The first year of the project is research-based, followed by action in the second year.

This past Fall, PTK hosted the inaugural First Generation Students Day at Clark on November 8, 2022. Students, faculty, and staff celebrated the event through:

- President's Welcome and Keynote – Dr. Edwards shared her own story and experience as a first-generation college student.
- College Fair – welcoming other regional colleges to Clark.
- Professional Support – LinkedIn profile development, resume and cover letter assistance, and free headshots.
- First-generation Student Resources – job readiness and skills getting to the next level.

Buttars shared that she looks forward to making First Generation Students Day an annual event moving forward.

In addition to highlighting the PTK College Project and First-Generation Students Day, Buttars also emphasized PTK's commitment to professional development focused on personal development and having a professional edge.

Finally, Buttars shared that 91% of PTK members complete their associate's degree or transfer to a 4-year institution. As PTK President, Buttars sees the direct impact of group support on high academic performance and a sense of belonging.

II. Reports from the Board Members

Trustee Strong – Strong shared she had the amazing opportunity to attend the Black Students and Family Fair. She shared kudos to the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (ODEI) team, Dr. Edwards, and the energy around new, potential students. Strong emphasized her enjoyment of the opportunity to participate and well done.

Vice Chair Canseco Juarez – Shared gratitude for everyone at the Board meeting. He attended the AACC with Dr. Edwards in Colorado, which was an incredible experience. While it is a great conference, it's geared towards the operational side of education – great ideas, studies, dual enrollment, and other opportunities. Another great opportunity was meeting people from other community colleges and four-year colleges as well. It was great to hear how four-year universities are supporting/partnering with community colleges. He shared it was a conference to understand the landscape of higher education. Canseco Juarez emphasized the exploration of adding a commitment statement to the mission, vision, and values of future strategic plans. Finally, he shared gratitude for Dr. Edwards, his pride to have her as Clark's president, and how incredible her advocacy is for the College externally.

Trustee Gideon – Gideon shared that she met with Dr. Edwards and the Trustees regarding the challenges of the college. She is also working on trustee recruitment for the College, alongside Trustee Bennett and Dr. Edwards.

Chair Speer – Speer shared that it's been a busy month, including 5-6 Town Halls, delegation to Olympia (impressive students, staff, and faculty collaboration/advocacy), Trustee Tuesday – focused on apprenticeship programs and the power of apprenticeship programs, audit exit meeting (congrats to Sabra and team for continued clean audit), and the Board Chair Affinity Group – focused on best practices and what's going on throughout the system. He also attended the 50th Anniversary End of Vietnam War ceremony – dedication to those that served or are still missing in action, social equity advisory council, and the Sakura Festival. Looking ahead, on May 16, ACCT will host a webinar focused on adult learners returning to college.

III. President's Report

Presented by Dr. Karin Edwards

Dr. Edwards shared the following updates from the past month:

Budget Reduction – The College is currently working through the process and reviewing proposals. No action has been taken. The budget committee will review proposals and make recommendations. Proposals submitted have gone through Vice Presidents and has been inclusive of staff and various tools, including the Equitable Decision-Making Tool. 2-3 week timeline before Executive Cabinet receives the committee's recommendations.

Data Alignment – there may be opportunities to clarify. If people have questions regarding data, please reach out so we can provide you with accurate information.

Very busy month and the College is doing well serving our students and community –

- Bee Campus Certified
- Clean Financial Audit – resources handled exceptionally well by Vice President of Operations Sabra Sand and her team.
- Penguin Gives – raised more than \$70,000 for the college. 190 donors and 90 were faculty and staff. 35 college programs that will directly benefit.
- State Budget – The College started getting word on the budget over the last week, including:
 - COLA fully funded.
 - One-time funding for DEI > seeds to plant and grow from the resource.
- Boschma Farms – Continue to meet with architects and teams. We've passed 45% GMP, and are working to make an inclusive and welcoming environment for people to learn and grow in.
- Tomorrow is Take Your Child to Work Day – fun activities scheduled for tomorrow and thank you to the Committee for their work.
- This Saturday, hosting the first SWEC graduation at Clark.
- Black Student and Family Fair – The energy was high, and it was a great event.
- Mass packaging for FA – a huge win for students, the Financial Aid (FA) team, and the College.
- Dr. Jim Wilkins-Luton hooded on Monday – congratulations!
- Welcomed Dean Theo Koupelis
- Welcomed Director of AIR Cecilia Martin
- Next Friday, Marie Glusenkamp Perez will be on campus touring the Automotive Department.
- CCE program is just shy of doubling year-to-year enrollment.
- Sakura Festival – A nice event, regardless of the weather.
- Dr. Cruse, along with Trustee Bennett, met with Tribal Leaders across the state, in a Government-to-Government meeting.
- Funding for a Southwest Washington Criminal Justice Training Center, increasing CTC use and revenue for the college.

IV. Executive Session


There was no Executive Session held.

V. Next Meeting

The Board of Trustees is currently scheduled for a Work Session and Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, starting at 3:30 pm.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.



Chair Paul Speer

Brooke Pillsbury, Recorder