

Clark College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

GHL 213 and Zoom

In Attendance

Paul Speer, Chair

Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Vice Chair

Denise Gideon, Trustee

Jeanne Bennett, Trustee

Absent

Rekah Strong, Trustee

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President

Cath Busha, Dean of Student Engagement, on behalf of Dr. Michele Cruse

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

Vanessa Watkins, Director of Entry Services

Shelley Ostermiller, Interim Registrar

I. Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Speer called the Regular Meeting to order at 5:00 pm, and provided opening remarks, including an overview of newly appointed Board Trustee Marilee Jones Scarbrough, who will join the next Board of Trustees meeting on Wednesday, June 7.

II. Public Comment

No public comment

III. Action Items/Consent Agenda

- a. April 26, 2023 – Board Work Session Minutes
- b. April 26, 2023 – Board Regular Meeting Minutes
- c. May 16, 2023 – Tenure Special Meeting Minutes
- d. 2023 – 2024 Academic Calendar (Revised)

MOTION: Trustee Gideon motioned to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Trustee Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. FY 2023-24 Faculty Sabbatical Approval Vote – Chair Speer

- a. Roberto Anitori
- b. Tobias Peterson
- c. Erika Nava
- d. Senseney Stokes

MOTION: Trustee Bennett motioned to approve all presented sabbatical requests. Vice Chair Canseco Juarez seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Speer provided feedback that sabbaticals are an awesome way to bring information back to the college. He looks forward to receiving an update during a future Board meeting when the sabbaticals conclude.

V. Tenure Vote – Chair Speer

- e. Bruce Elgort (CTEC)

MOTION: Vice Chair Canseco Juarez motioned to approve granting tenure to Bruce Elgort. Seconded motion from Trustee Bennett. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Constituent Reports

ASCC

Casey Figone, ASCC President, shared the following report:

- Student involvement and campus climate, including sixteen chartered clubs, placement of eight student committee representatives, working on Fall 2023 ASCC recruitment, seeking advocacy support, and working in partnership with Cannell Library to connect students with OER to reduce costs of textbooks for students.
- Student resource access, including collaboration with the Activities Programming Board to post events across social media channels.
- State-wide initiatives, including Figone and ASCC VP David Goebel attending the Greater Vancouver Chamber's Legislative Outlook with college leadership and working with the Women's League of Voters for Clark County to increase advocacy.

Chair Speer acknowledged ASCC in their budgeting work, and shared gratitude for the presentation shared during the work session. Speer also inquired how new students starting in Fall 2023 get included in the ASCC recruitment. Figone confirmed that the priority deadline is at the beginning of May 2023 for student government. However, positions remain open until filled, so Fall 2023 students may be able to engage.

WPEA

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

- Acknowledged Bruce Elgort's Tenure, sharing a personal story that Elgort was the best professor he had at Clark.
- Communication between leadership and the Union. Hicklin shared that the lack of communication is disappointing and inadequate. He shared that WPEA seeks recognition and communication from leadership.
- Acknowledge progress in HR by updating position descriptions for classified staff. Still, there is work to be done, and WPEA expects swift implementation of change.
- Welcome of VP of IT Sudha Frederick and WPEA celebrates his positive approach to navigating space for classified IT staff, with hopes that Frederick's approach will be modeled in the future.
- Thrilled to announce WPEA and AHE collaboration, starting with a letter to EC sharing concerns for cuts. Hicklin shared that this is a turning point in addressing shared challenges and his gratitude for everyone engaged.

CCAHE

Suzanne Southerland, CCAHE President, shared the following report:

- Expressed gratitude for those engaged in the budget process, including everyone who lobbied fully-funded COLAs, opposed cuts, and to the budget committee and EC.
- Congratulations to Bruce Elgort on Tenure - a testament that challenging students is how we continue to attract them.

Clark College Foundation

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation CEO, shared that he celebrated his one-year anniversary as CEO of the Clark College Foundation and the following:

- Foundation budget for FY 24, including maximizing Operating Budget shift to Clark College, scholarships, grants, gifts, and capital investments.
- Alumni Engagement – including partnership event with Cannell Library and Firehouse Axes social for alumni and donors. Ouellette looks forward to future community engagement opportunities.
- Foundation is preparing for the upcoming gala themed 90 Years of Clark College at ilana.

Chair Speer acknowledged how the Foundation tells the story of Clark College and the representation, social media, and community engagement. Speer celebrated Ouellette and shared gratitude on behalf of the students.

V. Spring 2023 Enrollment Update

Presented by Vanessa Watkins, Director of Entry Services, and Shelley Ostermiller, Interim Registrar

The enrollment team was welcomed and introduced by Cath Busha, Dean of Student Engagement.

Watkins and Ostermiller provided an overview of the Spring 2023 enrollment for new and returning students, as well as an overview of specific populations, including BAS, international, and running start students. The team also shared their ongoing recruitment strategies, as well as their specific strategies employed for Spring 2023. Spring strategies included:

- Connecting with K-12 partners,
- Working with Transitional Studies in supporting student persistence,
- Strong collaboration with CommMark and ODEI,
- Collaboration with Financial Aid regarding FAFSA/WASFA awareness and application events,
- Continuing to foster employer and community relations, which is an area the team called in the opportunity to make introductions with industry partners to cultivate enrollment.

The team concluded their presentation by sharing what's ahead, including new and continuing student registration for Summer and Fall 2023 and upcoming Running Start information nights.

Trustee Questions and Feedback:

Trustee Gideon asked what contributes to the low rate of Financial Aid applications in Washington. Watkins deferred to Kate Jacky, Interim Director of Financial Aid, who shared that part of the issue is that Washington high schools don't require application completion as part of students' graduation requirements. Another reason is that in areas like Seattle, family incomes

may be higher, so they don't apply. It's also been challenging to get students to attend FAFSA events, and the team is working to get into the community to engage students where they are.

Trustee Canseco Juarez shared his gratitude for the presentation. Canseco Juarez also shared feedback regarding the upside-down triangle diagram and the opportunity to identify the students we lose in each stage and how to focus recruitment by stages to increase outcomes.

Trustee Bennett shared that she wonders where the college will find future students. While K-12 is great, where else are we going? Examples Bennett shared included community groups, Rotaries, etc. Watkins shared that K-12 is an easy place for the team to go and that Clark has good connections in that environment. She also shared that they are working their way back to community events but struggling to establish great relationships and would love an introduction to help get in those doors. They are also working to re-developing the college's ilani relationship following the pandemic.

Chair Speer shared that the work the team is doing is fantastic for stabilization and creating an uptick in student enrollment counts. Speer shared similar feedback regarding the funnel diagram – consider thinking about each ladder rung to learn about who they are and why they step away, identifying barriers. He also emphasized looking for alternate places for students or different messaging that we could tweak to support reception and engagement from different audiences.

I. Reports from the Board Members

Trustee Gideon – Gideon shared that she's been busy doing college business. She and Trustee Bennett hosted info sessions for trustee recruitment (seven individuals who attended two events). She's also working to onboard and orient our new trustee, Marilee Jones Scarbrough, and has participated in the Tenure review process.

Trustee Bennett – Bennett shared that she's had a great time doing future trustee recruitment with Trustee Gideon. She also represented the college at the Government-to-Government with Dr. Cruse. Bennett expressed excitement and gratitude for the work the Foundation is doing to establish community relationships, that she enjoyed the Tenure reception and looks forward to celebrating Bruce Elgort next year, and that she met with Dr. Edwards for their monthly meeting.

Vice Chair Canseco Juarez – Canseco Juarez shared that he participated in the Tenure reception, and congratulations again to the Tenure recipients. He represents the Board on the budget committee and heard the budget update during the work session. Canseco Juarez took another chance to thank everyone involved in the budget process, sharing that trust and openness to have conversation and dialogue through difficulty, as well as transparency through the college's perspective. He emphasized that the budget process is one of the few things Trustees provide final input on and the inclusivity of the process. Canseco Juarez also shared that he's on the Guided Pathways Committee, and acknowledged the great work being done and that he looks forward to what's going to be accomplished. Finally, Canseco Juarez wished students the best in the next few weeks prepping for finals and commencement, plus faculty supporting them.

Chair Speer – Speer shared that he attended an ACCT seminar on adult learners and what colleges are seeing across the country – good stuff going on across the country and great things to be learned from others. He attended the quarterly BOD/BOT meeting, continuing to acknowledge Calen and Board leadership at Foundation. Speer continued by sharing appreciation for everyone speaking from one voice, leveraging skills across Clark College and the Clark College Foundation and how we run both the College and Foundation as one. Great to see in the uplifting work in practice. Speer attended the Tenure Reception, which was motivational with great comments and celebration. Finally, Speer acknowledged the Budget Committee, including the noteworthy work and process and results across the College.

II. President's Report

Presented by Dr. Karin Edwards

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

- Pizza with the President - Students asked questions and Dr. Edwards asked the students questions as well. Dr. Edwards shared gratitude for Casey Figone and the ASCC team.
- Career Fair – packed with students and employers. Employers shared feedback that they were pleased with activity and energy at the event.
- Tenure Reception – wonderful event, with lots of laughter, appreciation, and celebration. Each Tenure had their own story, but all shared their hope for the future and what Clark College holds. Dr. Edwards also shared gratitude for the Office of Instruction for hosting the event.
- Attended Noche de Familia, hosted by Rosalba Pitkin and the ODEI team – She shared it was a great event for families to come together and learn about the college. Very well done and well received. Dr. Edwards shared gratitude for the ODEI team and their hard work.
- Interviewing for faculty and Dean positions with Jim Wilkins-Luton and looks forward to the potential in the candidates.
- Met with Mayor Anne McEneny-Ogle and Greater Portland, Inc., to learn about how we can bring more activity to Vancouver and focus on how we can attract and increase economic development.
- Participated in a panel at WSU-V regarding education post-COVID – focused on trying to predict higher education, enrollment, student needs, professional development, funding impacts, and more.
- Attended the Ridgefield Neighborhood Association with Calen Ouellette and Sabra Sand – focus included Boschma Farms and Ridgefield development, including Costco and YMCA, with Clark as the anchor.
- Boschma Farms ground-breaking next month – more to come.
- BUILD graduation on Friday, May 26, including four EC members in the graduating cohort. Dr. Edwards acknowledged that BUILD has been a tremendous learning experience.
- OSWALD awards tomorrow, Thursday, May 25
- C-Tran Bus Wrap – highlighted at the Career Fair so watch for it around town.

- PPI – ODEI hosting Dante King on Friday, May 26
- Participated in Naomi Tutu's talk, daughter of Desmond Tutu – key takeaway from the talk included "When you're in a flood, build a bridge and not a wall."
- Celebration of Sabra, the Budget Committee, and everyone involved - Gratitude for team, legislators, and celebration for not cutting any filled positions. Great to have reserves to pull from to close the deficit and the process open and inclusive. Dr. Edwards strongly encouraged everyone to let the process run its course.

III. Executive Session

The Board convened an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) at 6:15 pm to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. The executive session is expected to last until 7:30 pm.

The executive session under RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) ended at 7:32 pm, resuming the regular meeting. The Board took no action during the executive session.

IV. Next Meeting

The Board of Trustees is currently scheduled for a Work Session and Regular Meeting on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, starting at 3:30 pm.

V. Adjournment

Chair Speer adjourned the regular meeting at 7:32 pm.



Chair Paul Speer

Brooke Pillsbury, Recorder