

Clark College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

GHL 213 and Zoom

In Attendance

Denise Gideon, Chair

Marilee Scarbrough, Vice Chair

Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Trustee

Jeanne Bennett, Trustee

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President

Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations

Dr. Michele Cruse, Vice President of Student Affairs

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

Dr. Terry Brown, Vice President of Instruction

Sudha Fredericks, Vice President of Information Technology

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Cecelia Martin, Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness

Other

Shelley Williams, Assistant Attorney General

Darci Feider, President's Office

Julie Taylor, President's Office

Mike Silva, IT

Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Gideon called the regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Public Comment

Robert Weston

Tyson Dykes

Demi Wickwire

Levi Cantrell

Stephanie Hall

Debra Montez

James Ron Powers

Action Items/Consent Agenda

- a. October 16, 2024 - Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. October 16, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Trustee Scarbrough moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Canseco seconded the motion. Motion passed as presented.

c. College Calendar

MOTION: Trustee Bennett moved to approve the 2025-2027 College Calendar. Trustee Canseco Juarez seconded the motion.

COMMENT ON THE MOTION: Vice Chair Scarbrough acknowledged the challenges posed by the 2025 academic calendar starting on a religious holiday and noted that, despite efforts to explore alternatives, adjusting the calendar was not feasible.

Motion passed as presented.

Constituent Reports

The board highly values the constituent reports and again asked that written reports be submitted in advance of each board meeting.

ASCC

Gurraj highlighted ASCC activities that prioritize increasing student engagement. He highlighted events, including Dogs, Donuts, and Democracy on Election Day, where 250 students enjoyed therapy dogs, donuts, and voter engagement. The Penguin Pantry distributed over 6,900 pounds of food to 904 students and families, and eight clubs were successfully chartered, with more in progress. The ASCC continues to enhance campus resources, support events like Stuff a Sasquatch, and collaborate with state-wide organizations to advocate for student needs.

WPEA

Courtney reported concerns about a harassment claim and barriers to public comment, noting a lack of transparency in changing the public comment process that could appear retaliatory. Feedback from classified staff on October's power outage highlighted delayed communication, confusion about timesheets, and insufficient emergency preparedness, such as a lack of flashlights and emergency lighting. The Labor & Industries (L&I) investigation into hazardous materials emphasized the need for timely testing, a clear communication plan for renovations, and defined responsibilities for compliance. In bargaining, the WPEA criticized the 5% wage increase offer, overwhelmingly rejected by members, and urged Clark College to push OFM to return to negotiations to address meaningful wage increases and staff retention.

CCAHE

Suzanne Southerland's report highlights several key topics. A celebration of life was held for Professor Julian Nelson, recognizing his contributions to Clark College, with gratitude expressed to the event's organizers and sponsors. Faculty are deeply committed to student success, navigating challenges such as supporting struggling students while ensuring accountability and balancing teaching with committee work. Concerns about high turnover in the Executive Cabinet were raised, emphasizing the need for transparency and stability in leadership. The report also expressed solidarity with WPEA in advocating for fair wages.

Rhianna Johnson

Clark College is committed to advancing Career-Connected Learning to help students achieve economic mobility and support their families in an increasingly challenging environment. This initiative aligns with the goals of Guided Pathways, focusing on preparing students for workforce success or university transfer by equipping them with skills they can articulate and apply in real-world settings. Significant progress includes the development of a Career Hub, currently in beta testing, as a centralized repository for resources, a toolkit for employers, and a database of external partnerships. Faculty are actively engaged in integrating career-connected learning into curricula through workshops, departmental training, and community partnerships. These efforts, supported by faculty surveys and collaboration with Career Services, ensure students gain workplace skills, experiential learning opportunities, and clear pathways to success.

Reports from the Board Members

Trustee Bennett

Trustee Bennett provided an update on upcoming legislative work.

Trustee Canseco Juarez

Trustee Canseco Juarez provided highlights from the recent ACCT conference in Seattle, where Clark College leaders presented on foundation initiatives and donor engagement. He shared insights from sessions, including the SNAP 50/50 reimbursement model to support students and strategies for building effective boards during times of transition. Canseco Juarez emphasized the importance of maintaining focus on the college's mission despite turnover, a challenge faced nationally, and commended Clark for strengthening relationships, increasing donor and community engagement, and staying mission-driven.

Vice Chair Scarbrough

Vice Chair Scarbrough shared her attendance at the ACCT conference, highlighting it as a valuable professional development opportunity and a chance to explore key issues for community colleges. She also attended the Clark College Powwow and the Foundation's Scholarship Story event, emphasizing the importance of community-building efforts. Scarbrough reflected on the Passing the Key ceremony, noting its positive energy and the crucial role of the Foundation in making such milestones possible.

Chair Gideon

Chair Gideon reflected on the ACCT conference as a revitalizing experience, emphasizing the collective commitment to student success and the importance of focusing on the positive impact of their work. She highlighted the board's role in supporting, not managing, departmental efforts and shared insights from Pierce College on creating culturally responsive programs that address barriers for working adults and underserved students. Chair Gideon also discussed strategies to improve diversity and inclusion on boards, noted her participation as a delegate, and acknowledged the inspiring impact of students at the recent scholarship dinner.

President's Report

Dr. Edwards invited Donna Larson and Cath Busha to present on the Veteran's Center of Excellence (VCOE). The VCOE was awarded a grant in 2020 to enhance support services for

student-veterans. The \$449,460 grant funded a full-time Student Success Coach, a part-time program support staff member, and resources such as ADA-compliant furniture, a loaner laptop program, veteran-focused tutoring, and career fairs. Because of COVID-19 challenges, a one-year no-cost extension was granted to fully utilize funds through December 2024. During the grant period, the college expanded professional development, advising practices, and programming in the VCOE. As the grant concludes, Clark College is focusing on sustainability by training academic advisors to continue supporting veterans and maintaining impactful programs. Future plans include continued workshops, partnerships, and community engagement to support student-veteran success.

Dr. Edwards then shared updates on recent college events and initiatives. She highlighted the success of the Foundation Scholarship Dinner, announced that the PTK Regional Conference will be hosted at Clark College, and celebrated the completion of Boschma Farms with the "Passing of the Key" ceremony, acknowledging the 18-month construction process and thanking Sabra for fostering a welcoming and inspiring environment. Dr. Edwards also discussed a meeting with the Gates Foundation to explore potential partnerships and provided updates on accreditation, noting a visit scheduled for October 20-22, 2025. Finally, she reshared plans to recruit two new Vice Presidents, with the search set to begin in April 2025 and a target start date of July 1, following the established and inclusive process involving key stakeholders.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees work session and regular meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, starting at 3:30 pm.

Executive Session

The Board convened an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 at 6:40 p.m. for the purpose of discussing with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency or the Board is likely to become a party.

Executive Session is expected to last until 7:10 pm. No final action will be taken during this executive session.

At 7:10, an announcement was made that the executive session would be extended to 7:31 a.m./p.m.)

At 7:11, an announcement was made that the executive session would be extended to 7:45 a.m./p.m.)

The Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 has ended at 7:47 p.m.

The regular meeting was reconvened at 7:47 p.m.

No action was taken by the Board during the Executive Session.

Adjournment

Chair Gideon adjourned the regular meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Denise Gideon

Denise Gideon, Chair

Darci Feider, Recorder