

# Clark College

## Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

GHL 213 and Zoom

### In Attendance

Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Chair  
Denise Gideon, Vice Chair  
Marilee Scarbrough, Trustee  
Suzanne Donaldson, 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  
Brad Avakian, Vice President of Human Resources  
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  
Darcy Feider, President's Office  
Julie Taylor, President's Office  
Brandon Johnson, IT

### Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Canseco Juarez called the regular Board of Trustees meeting to order at 5:00 pm. He noted that to ensure a quorum, trustees will still have the option to join virtually if needed due to scheduling conflicts or illness.

### Public Comment

No public comment

### Action Items

1. Consent Agenda
  - a. June 12, 2024 - Work Session Meeting Minutes
  - b. June 12, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

- c. July 24, 2024 – Board Retreat Meeting Minutes
- d. 2024-25 Board of Trustees Board Meeting Schedule
- e. 2024-25 Board of Trustees Goals

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

2. FY 2024-25 Fund Balance Usage

MOTION: Trustee Scarbrough moved to approve the fund balance usage. Trustee Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed as presented.

3. FY 2024-25 Board of Trustees Officers and Committees

- a. Board Trustee Officers
  - i. Chair - Denise Gideon
  - ii. Vice Chair – Marilee Scarbrough
- b. Clark College Foundation Committee Board
  - i. Marilee Scarbrough
- c. Clark College Foundation Executive Committee
  - i. Marilee Scarbrough
- d. Legislative Committee
  - i. Jeanne Bennett
  - ii. Suzanne Donaldson
- e. Trustee Recruitment
  - i. Denise Gideon
  - ii. Suzanne Donaldson
- f. Social Equity Advisory Council
  - i. Cristhian Canseco Juarez
  - ii. Denise Gideon
- g. Board Budget Commitment
  - i. Marilee Scarbrough
  - ii. Suzanne Donaldson
- h. WACTC Equity Committee
  - i. Cristhian Canseco Juarez
- i. WACTC Legislative Action Committee
  - i. Jeanne Bennett
  - ii. Marilee Scarbrough

MOTION: Trustee Bennett moved to approve the slate. Vice Chair Gideon seconded the motion. 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

Gurrag Singh Dhami, ASCC President, presented the priorities for the 2024-25 academic year, emphasizing the goal of increasing student involvement and enhancing campus climate. Key

initiatives include quarterly engagements and collaboration with various groups to foster a sense of community, as well as hosting events like a forum with Dr. Edwards. The ASCC is committed to advocating for accessible resources, particularly supporting underrepresented student identity groups and improving technology access. In addition, the ASCC will engage with statewide initiatives to advocate for funding and student interests, partnering with organizations like the League of Women Voters to encourage civic participation. Volunteer days will also be organized to strengthen ties with local organizations, such as food banks and community services. Finally, the leadership team is now complete, and preparations are underway for the upcoming involvement fair and welcome week activities.

### WPEA

Courtney Braddock, WPEA Stewart, congratulated staff recognized for their years of service and the Exceptional Classified Staff Award. Appreciation was expressed for the hard work of classified staff in preparing the college for the fall quarter. Ms. Braddock noted disappointment with a tentative state bargaining agreement proposing a 3% COLA in the first year and 2% in the second, highlighting concerns about support for classified staff from leadership. She also addressed ongoing safety issues, including a recent L&I investigation into improper flooring removal. WPEA Stewart emphasized the need for clearer communication from leadership regarding safety measures and responses to staff concerns.

### CCAHE

Suzanne Southerland, President of CCAHE, welcomed the new Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Brown, and expressed gratitude for his commitment to Clark students. She conveyed strong support for WPEA staff in their pursuit of a fair contract, emphasizing the essential role of classified staff in supporting faculty and student success. Southerland raised concerns about tenure support and the potential impact on candidates, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds. She highlighted ongoing challenges faculty face, including the need for clarity on artificial intelligence policies and security measures in light of recent events. Additionally, she addressed concerns about the Respectful Workplace Policy, advocating for a thorough college-wide discussion to ensure it is effective and inclusive. Finally, she celebrated the mural "Coming Together for Art and Peace," recognizing its alignment with the college's goals for unity and collaboration in the year ahead.

### Creative Writing Festival

Professor Alexis Nelson presented on the Columbia Writers Series and the Creative Writing Festival, both dedicated to enriching the student experience and engaging the community. The Spring Writing Workshop, part of the festival, attracted 220 registrants and featured craft workshops and readings by nationally recognized authors. Recent initiatives include establishing transfer agreements with Central and Eastern Washington Universities, launching the Swift literary journal in 2022 for hands-on student experience, and introducing a new Literary Internship Program funded by a Student Success Grant with local organizations. Looking ahead, the program aims to enhance the Creative Writing Festival, deepen partnerships, promote student recruitment, and host notable authors like 2024 National Book Award finalist Kaveh Akbar, who will visit campus on October 3.

## Reports from the Board Members

### Trustee Canseco Juarez

Trustee Canseco Juarez expressed gratitude to Dr. Edwards for her exceptional communication and support throughout the year. Canseco Juarez attended the July board retreat virtually and appreciated the experience. He highlighted his participation in the "Trustees of Color" affinity group by the state board, which helps build a sense of community and fosters collaboration among trustees across Washington's colleges. Canseco Juarez emphasized pride in the unique initiatives at Clark College and recognized the significant contributions made by the college to benefit students and the community.

### Vice Chair Scarbrough

Vice Chair Scarbrough thanked Trustee Canseco Juarez for his leadership and for taking on the extra responsibilities associated with the role, which benefitted both the trustees and the college. She attended the presentation by Erin Jones, whose theme was unity with an equity focus. Scarbrough attended the Foundation Retreat and emphasized the continued focus on strategic initiatives. She pointed out the importance of engaging the community and enhancing donor recruitment. Lastly, she attended Trustee Tuesdays, where they received an overview of the budget process and the importance of advocating for necessary funding to support staff and faculty at the college.

### Trustee Bennett

Trustee Bennett expressed gratitude to Trustee Canseco Juarez for his leadership over the past two years as Vice Chair and Chair, highlighting his bilingual commencement addresses that resonated with students and his support for affinity groups. Bennett praised the dedication of the trustee group to Dr. Edwards and the college's mission to support student success. They emphasized the importance of improving connections and communication among trustees while focusing on student needs. Last, she expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming legislative budget year and the opportunities it presents for the college.

### Trustee Donaldson

Trustee Donaldson shared that she participated in the board retreat. She also met with visitors from Joyo, Japan, and attended a pinning ceremony. She highlighted her experience at the college's opening day, particularly appreciating a well-produced video on success tools. She expressed gratitude to Darci and Julie for their support. Additionally, Donaldson thanked Trustee Canseco Juarez for his leadership and congratulated Denise Gideon on her new role as chair.

### Chair Gideon

Chair Gideon shared that she attended many of the same events as the other trustees, particularly highlighting Opening Day and praising the professional video emphasizing unity. She expressed a strong commitment to fostering unity this year and thanked those present for attending the board's first in-person meeting. Recognizing the nerves of new trustees, Gideon emphasized collaboration in navigating board traditions.

### President's Report

Dr. Edwards began by expressing gratitude to Trustee Canseco Juarez for his leadership and commitment to the college and community. She highlighted the successful opening week of the academic year, noting a 4% increase in enrollment and emphasizing the importance of keeping students engaged. Dr. Brown was also warmly welcomed, marking a positive start to the year.

Additionally, Dr. Edwards mentioned the hiring of new faculty and staff and celebrated the success of the Bachelor of Teacher Education program. She provided updates on safety measures and the college's response to recent incidents, along with a commitment to thorough testing for asbestos before any renovations.

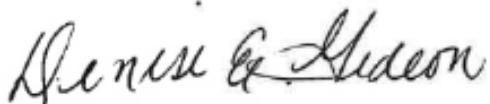
Emphasizing the importance of communication between management and the union, Dr. Edwards expressed a commitment to ensuring that employees have a meaningful voice in the college's operations. She concluded by thanking everyone for their presence and support, setting a collaborative tone for the year ahead.

### Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees work session and regular meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, October 16, starting at 3:30 pm.

### Adjournment

Chair Gideon adjourned the regular meeting at 6:14 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denise Gideon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Denise" on the top line and "Gideon" on the bottom line.

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**Denise Gideon, Chair**

Darci Feider, Recorder