

Clark College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

GHL 213 and Zoom

In Attendance

Denise Gideon, Chair

Marilee Scarbrough, Vice Chair

Jeanne Bennett, Trustee

Cristhian Canseco Juarez, Trustee

Suzanne Donaldson, Trustee

Administrators

Dr. Karin Edwards, President

Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations

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

Dr. Terry Brown, Vice President of Instruction

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Darcy Rourk, Interim Vice President of Human Resources

Dr. Mark Wahler, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs

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

Other

Ben Haslam, AAG

Shelley Williams, AAG

Darci Feider, President's Office

Brandon Johnson, IT

Call to Order/Agenda Review

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

Action Items/Consent Agenda

- a. January 22, 2025 - Work Session Meeting Minutes
- b. January 22, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment

Tysson Dykes

Laura Nagel

Robert Weston
Tanya Diaz-Kozlowski
Constituent Reports

ASCC

Gurraj Dhami, ASCC President, reported increased student involvement in clubs, programs, and events, including Virtual Music Bingo and the placement of 11 student representatives on committees. ASCC successfully chartered 10 clubs, with six more in progress, and approved \$19,957 in funding for the Vocal Music Program's spring travel to San Francisco, along with support for Student Life furniture reupholstery. To expand resource access, ASCC continues growing its social media presence, and the Penguin Pantry distributed 14,411 lbs. of food, serving 331 students, including 152 first-time users. In statewide advocacy, ASCC representatives Jaelyn Sayler and Dorji Damdul joined Dr. Edwards and Board members at Legislative Day in Olympia, WA.

WPEA

Courtney Braddock, WPEA, thanked the board for allowing a speaker to give a public comment without signing up in advance and encouraged reconsideration of the practice to allow more flexibility. She expressed frustration over stalled contract negotiations on non-economic provisions aimed at improving staff working conditions. Braddock also raised concerns about unanswered facilities and environmental health and safety requests, urging leadership to provide clear timelines. She commended recent efforts by college administrators to improve communication and recognized the retirement of longtime college electrician Billie Garner.

Clark College Foundation

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation, reported that scholarship applications are open, with over \$2 million available in awards. He highlighted ongoing efforts to strengthen arts programs through curriculum development, facility upgrades, and donor partnerships. Ouellette also welcomed six new board members to the Foundation and introduced Nick Poindexter as the new Associate Vice President of External Relations.

Student Presentation: Mia Beightol

Mia Beightol, a Clark College student-athlete, was recognized for winning the NWAC Women's Cross Country Championship, becoming the second woman in school history to achieve this title. She shared her excitement about the experience, highlighting the support from her coaches, teammates, and family. Her coach praised her dedication, both academically and athletically.

Reports from the Board Members

Trustee Donaldson

Trustee Donaldson reported attending the Economic Forecast event at the Hilton, where experts discussed workforce development trends. She also participated in Legislative Day in Olympia, joining Clark College representatives to advocate for legislative support. Additionally, she met one-on-one with Dr. Edwards to discuss college priorities and ongoing initiatives

Trustee Bennett

Trustee Bennett reported attending Legislative Day in Olympia, where she noted strong legislative support for community colleges, though funding remains a challenge. She highlighted discussions on Running Start, tuition policies, workforce development, and the need for capital funding, expressing hope that Clark College could be prioritized in future investments. She also praised the success of the Northwest Regional Equity Conference, emphasizing Clark College's leadership in equity efforts. Additionally, she attended the CREDC event with Dr. Edwards.

Vice Chair Scarbrough

Vice Chair Scarbrough reported that she attended Dr. Bettina Love's presentation. She also participated in webinars on DEI in higher education, noting national concerns. At the ACCT conference in Washington DC, she and other trustees met with congressional representatives who were supportive of the college's work but stressed the need for accountability and measurable outcomes for DEI programs. She emphasized the importance of staying focused on the college's mission.

Trustee Canseco Juarez

Trustee Canseco Juarez reported that Clark College leadership is staying informed on issues affecting the college and community and is preparing for potential challenges. He attended a session on the college's immigration policy. He also attended the ACCT conference in Washington, DC, where, as a member of the ACCT Finance and Audit Committee, he reviewed national investment trends and financial oversight. He provided an update on the Under 45 Caucus, highlighting its growth and focus on trustee representation. Lastly, he discussed legislative meetings, noting both support for Clark College and existing barriers to funding.

Chair Gideon

Chair Gideon reported on her participation in recent legislative and national events. She attended legislative meetings in Olympia, where representatives were informed about Clark College's priorities, and noted the presence of students who shared their experiences. At the ACCT conference in Washington, DC, she joined over 1,400 trustees and presidents, with Washington state making up 10% of attendees. She also attended a webinar on the Dear Colleague Letter and discussed the college's ongoing work and commitment to serving students and the community.

President's Report

President Edwards reported on recent events and initiatives at Clark College. She highlighted the Brunch with the Bosses event, which provided an opportunity to engage with ASCC leadership through activities and discussions. She acknowledged the success of the Northwest Regional Equity Conference and welcomed the return of Dr. Bettina Love as a speaker. She recognized Phi Theta Kappa for receiving the Reach Award and commended staff for their work on immigration policy training and communication efforts. Lastly, she noted the governor's upcoming press conference on the state budget, mentioning that an overage in the previous year's budget would impact funding for the upcoming year.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees work session and regular meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025, starting at 3:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees will hold a special session on Monday, March 3, 2025, for tenure review.

Executive Session

The board will convene an Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110(1) at 5:54 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 6:24 p.m. No final action will be taken during this executive session.

At 6:25 p.m., an announcement was made that the Executive Session would be extended to 6:55 p.m.

The Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 has ended at 6:55 p.m.

The regular meeting is reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

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

Adjournment

Chair Gideon adjourned the regular meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Denise Gideon

Denise Gideon, Chair

Darci Feider, Recorder