

Clark College

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 28, 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

Dr. Terry Brown, Vice President of Instruction

Sudha Frederick, Vice President of Information Technology

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

Calen Ouellette, Clark College Foundation Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Darcy Rourk, Interim Vice President of Human Resources

Sabra Sand, Vice President of Operations

Dr. Mark Wahlers, Interim Vice President of Student Affairs

Other

Shelley Williams, Assistant Attorney General

Darci Feider, President's Office

Julie Taylor, 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.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action Items/Consent Agenda

- i. April 23, 2025 - Work Session Meeting Minutes
- ii. April 23, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Trustee Bennett moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Canseco Juarez seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Constituent Reports

ASCC

Gurraj Dhami, ASCC President, reported strong student engagement this spring, including over 260 participants at the Spring Involvement Fair. ASCC chartered 14 clubs, placed 11 students on committees, and gathered campus feedback through the “Let Your Voice Be Heard” initiative. Social media outreach continues to grow, with 1,607 Instagram followers sharing resources and event updates. The Penguin Pantry distributed over 19,000 pounds of food in April.

WPEA

Courtney Braddock, WPEA Representative, reported on the WPEA and CCAHE Solidarity Celebration. WPTE & STEM Secretary Senior Stephanie Hall was recognized as the 2025 WPEA Member of the Year. Braddock stated that WPEA submitted a letter to President Edwards in support of state funding of the ratified 2025–2027 WPEA Higher Education Contract. The contract was not included in the final state budget signed on May 20. The budget outcome affects over 400 classified staff at Clark College, who will not receive scheduled cost-of-living adjustments in FY 2026. WPEA expressed concern about the lack of communication from leadership regarding advocacy efforts.

CCAHE

AHE did not give an oral report. A written document was received the day of the meeting and will be included in next month's Board packet.

Foundation

Calen Ouellette, CEO of the Clark College Foundation, reported on upcoming board leadership changes, with Debra Blom and Gabe Jacobson set to begin two-year terms as Chair and Vice Chair. He noted the renaming of the softball field to Raines Softball Field in recognition of a significant gift from the Raines family. Ouellette also shared that community interest in naming opportunities is growing. The Foundation is preparing to engage new graduates through Penguin Nation materials supported by a new data-sharing agreement.

Penguin Early College (PEC) Center

Dani DePuy-Grobbel, Associate Director of Dual Enrollment, gave an overview of the Penguin Early College (PEC) Center and Running Start program. She reported that Clark enrolled approximately 2,100 Running Start students in Fall 2023, with an additional 30–50 underage students, with 22% engaging in PEC Center services. The center provides academic support, mentorship, social programming, and basic needs resources. Students served through the center showed higher full-time enrollment, stronger academic performance, and greater BIPOC representation than the general Running Start population. DePuy-Grobbel highlighted recent initiatives such as peer mentoring, family support events, and K-12 partnerships. She outlined plans for expanded outreach, assessment, and orientation programming in the coming year.

Reports from the Board Members

Trustee Donaldson

Trustee Donaldson reported attending the Noche de Familia event on campus, the Board of Trustees budget meeting, and a one-on-one meeting with Dr. Edwards.

Vice Chair Scarbrough

Vice Chair Scarbrough reported attending the ACT Spring Conference and highlighted three key sessions: artificial intelligence, trustee support for presidents, and governance through policy. She also attended the Arts@Clark event at Art at the Cave Gallery, noting that the gallery owner is a former Clark College student and the event featured student and faculty artwork.

Trustee Bennett

Trustee Bennett reported attending the ACT Spring Conference and shared a key takeaway emphasizing the importance of staying focused on student success despite external challenges. She noted that the Cowlitz Indian Tribe was recognized as the ACT Partner of the Year. Trustee Bennett also expressed interest in seeing Clark College submit nominations for ACT awards in the future.

Trustee Canseco Juarez

Trustee Canseco Juarez reported attending the VCLI graduation ceremony held on campus and highlighted the organization's work in preparing leaders of color for service on local boards and commissions. He spoke about ongoing partnership opportunities between Clark College and community organizations. He also noted his attendance at the Heather McGhee event and extended well wishes to students and faculty as the quarter concludes.

Chair Gideon

Chair Gideon reported attending the Leadership Clark County event to celebrate Rhianna Johnson's receiving of the Community Impact Award following last month's board meeting. She also attended Black Family Night, which focused on increasing enrollment of Black families at Clark College, and praised the keynote speaker, Clarissa Hightower. Chair Gideon held a Chair/Vice Chair meeting with Dr. Edwards and attended the Heather McGhee event. She thanked students, faculty, and staff for their continued efforts as the academic year concludes.

Report from the President

President Edwards reported that Nate Humphrey has been named the next Executive Director of the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. She shared updates on the BUILD leadership development program, including the graduation of 22 participants, and acknowledged ongoing legislative concerns related to proposed federal financial aid changes. She noted continued engagement with elected officials, including representatives from Senator Murray's and Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez's offices. Updates were also provided on the Vice President of Student Affairs search, recent economic development discussions through CREDC, and community engagement efforts, including the Heather McGhee event and the upcoming commencement ceremony. President Edwards confirmed that accessibility policy concerns raised at the last meeting were addressed and documented in the board packet.

Next Meeting

The Board of Trustees have scheduled a special session on Wednesday, June 2, 2025, starting at 1:30 pm. The Trustees and the College President will be virtual.

The next Board of Trustees work session and regular meeting are scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, starting at 3:30 pm.

Executive Session

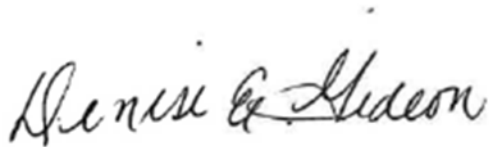
Pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g), the Board shall convene an executive session at 5:56 p.m. to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment, or to review the performance of a public employee.

The Executive Session is expected to last until 6:30 p.m. No final action will be taken during the executive session.

The Executive Session under RCW 42.30.110 ended at 6:30 p.m. The board took no action during the Executive Session.

Adjournment

Chair Gideon adjourned the regular meeting at 6:31 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Denise G. Gideon".

Denise Gideon, Chair

Darci Feider, Recorder