

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
4:30 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Ozell Jackson III – Chair
Dr. Carl Bruner – Vice Chair
Ms. Mariko Doerner
Ms. Megan Scott O'Bryan
Dr. Christopher Villa, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Ozell Jackson, recognized that a quorum of Board members was present.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

New Employee – Sydney Busby – Outreach and Recruitment Specialist

V. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – February 4, 2025
2. Board Special Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2025
3. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report

It was moved by Megan Scott O'Bryan and seconded by Mariko Doerner to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC – Jasmin Flowers (Presented by Leah Eberle on behalf of Jasmin Flowers)

Legacy Projects - Each campus continues to develop and refine their legacy project initiatives:

- Mount Vernon is focusing on enhancing food service options for students.
- Whidbey Island is exploring a collaboration with the Weld Club and the Oak Harbor Arts Commission to create a sculpture of *Bruiser the Elk* for display on campus.

Services & Activities Fees - Applications for Services & Activities (S&A) fee funding is now open. Students and staff are encouraged to apply for support for clubs and programs.

Lewis & Yates Awards - Nominations for the Lewis & Yates Awards will be distributed this week to both staff and faculty.

Student Engagement Activities - Campus program boards are actively engaging students through various events:

- Mount Vernon hosted a spa day to help students relax in preparation for finals.
- Whidbey Island celebrated Mardi Gras with goodie bags and a pancake giveaway. Over the next two weeks, both campuses will continue to offer activities and support focused on helping students manage stress during the end-of-quarter period.

2. SVCFT – Kip Zwolenski

No report at this time.

3. WPEA – Lance Levesen

Lance provided an update on behalf of WPEA and the classified staff. Since his last report in November 2024, bargaining with Management and OFM resumed, though they have not revised the previously rejected compensation package. The union proposed several non-economic improvements, but most were met with “no” or existing contract language. Lance also shared data comparing current pay ranges to 2005 levels, highlighting that today’s proposed \$18 minimum wage is still not a living wage. Management/OFM responded by citing Washington’s high minimum wage.

WPEA is nearing the end of negotiations, but it’s uncertain whether the proposed contract, with COLAs of 3% and 2%, limited non-economic gains, and potential furloughs, will be ratified. A vote will go out to members soon, with results expected by next month. Lance welcomed further dialogue with the Board outside of meetings to discuss staff concerns or bargaining questions.

4. PRESIDENT – Dr. Christopher Villa

Dear Colleague Letter - The college has been engaged in responding to guidance from the United States Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR) pertaining to racial preferences and stereotypes under Title IV of the Civil Rights Act. Specifically, we are referring to the “Dear Colleague” letter dated February 14, 2025 and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) About Racial Preferences and Stereotypes document that ensued from the OCR on March 1, 2025. On March 3rd the college president jointly with the SVC Board of Trustees sent out a communication to college faculty and staff pertaining to the “Dear Colleague” letter and FAQ document. We will continue to do our best to keep the campus community informed and supported through timely updates. We will remain steadfast in our commitment to uphold our Guiding Principles, specifically focusing on Open and Honest Communication and Compassion and to prioritize the safety, rights, privacy, and educational access of our students.

Accreditation – The college submitted the SVC accreditation self-study recently in anticipation of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) Accreditation Visit scheduled for Monday, April 28th through Wednesday, April 30th. The Commission is recognized by the U.S Department of Education as an accreditor of higher institutions throughout the United States. The Commission accredits institutions of higher education “by applying data-and evidence-informed standards and processes to support continuous improvements and promote equitable student achievement and success”. Many thanks especially go to our Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), Dr. Gabriel Mast, Dr. Darren Greeno, the SVC Executive Cabinet, the SVC Marketing Department, and Members of the SVC Accreditation Committee for their roles in generating the self-study.

Hispanic Serving Institution Update - As a follow-up to Vice President Yadira Rosales presentation to the Board of Trustees in December, 2024, we have identified a more specific timeline with respect to acknowledging and celebrating our Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status. A college-wide email will be sent to faculty, staff, and students on Monday, March 10th, a press release will be sent to the SVC community on Monday, March 24th, and thereafter we will have a college-wide celebration during SVC Cardinal Community Day on Monday, May 5th. In addition, SVC will be hosting an Emerging HSI Consortium designed to provide support and strategies for emerging HSI’s in the state of Washington on Wednesday, May 14th.

Pending MOU with Western Washington University (WWU) - Members of the SVC Cabinet and the president met with WWU President Sabah Randhawa and members of his leadership team in January 2025 to discuss how we can increase SVC transfers to WWU. We identified a number of deliverables that we expect will help us achieve this objective. These included: (1) developing a Guaranteed Admissions/Transfer Agreement (2) exchanging data that will assist us in developing strategies and interventions to increase transfer (3) arranging a meeting in spring 2025 with academic deans from both WWU and SVC to address processes and strategies that can enhance transfer (4) identify liaisons from equity programs between WWU and SVC who will collaborate to ensure that students in equity programs will continue to be served and (5) establishing a data sharing agreement that will enable WWU and SVC to better serve students. Our next meeting will be scheduled in spring quarter 2025 at WWU.

High School Partner Lunches – The week of March 3rd, the SVC Office of Student Outreach and Recruitment under the leadership of Diana Peregrina, Director, and Vice President Dr. Claire Peinado organized two high school partner lunches at the Whidbey Island and Mount Vernon campuses with the objective of increasing high school student enrollment and success at SVC. Multiple high schools were represented by various school counselors and staff in addition to community agencies. Dr. Mast presented enrollment data on SVC that included a return-on-investment presentation that continues to demonstrate the value of an SVC degree and/or certificate. The program concluded with a number of deliverables that SVC and the community will consider that will result in more high school students enrolling at SVC.

Women’s and Men’s Basketball - The Women’s and Men’s Basketball teams have had tremendously successful seasons that resulted in an enthusiastic campus send-off last Wednesday, March 5th with an exceptionally high turnout of supporters. Many thanks go to coaches Deb Castle and Carl Howell for their continued mentoring and support of our student athletes. Both teams made it to the “Sweet 16” tournament in the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC) playoffs, and although both lost in their efforts to continue in the tournament, we remain proud of our student athletes and coaches. Go Cardinals!

5. BOARD OF TRUSTEES/ACT

Trustee Jackson attended Trustee Tuesday on March 11. The theme was *Campus Access: What Institutions and Trustees Can and Cannot Do When Encountering Campus Disruptions*. Key takeaways included the importance of staying focused on the college’s mission—serving students—and being familiar with relevant policies and laws.

Trustee Doerner reported that the recent trip to Olympia for the Hill Climb was a valuable experience, especially the opportunity to engage directly with legislators. She also attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., where national discussions reflected widespread recognition of the ongoing challenges facing higher education.

VII. ACTION ITEM

1. Recommendation of Tenure – Ms. Lin Boydstun

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the granting of tenure to Ms. Lin Boydstun, Basic Education for Adults: I-BEST - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Nguyen Dao

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Mariko Doerner to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Nguyen Dao, Basic Education for Adults: English Language Acquisition – MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Timothy Ewing

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Timothy Ewing, Advanced Manufacturing and Design (BAS) - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Recommendation of Tenure – Mr. Edwin Gless

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the granting of tenure to Mr. Edwin Gless, Automotive Technology - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

5. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Garrett Kelley

It was moved by Mariko Doerner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Garrett Kelley, Engineering - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Recommendation of Tenure – Dr. Brittany Knutson

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the granting of tenure to Dr. Brittany Knutson, Communications Studies - WIC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. Recommendation of Tenure – Mr. Daniel Peña

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Mariko Doerner to approve the granting of tenure to Mr. Daniel Peña, Basic Education for Adults: English Language Acquisition – MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Recommendation of Tenure – Mr. Brian Stonelake

It was moved by Mariko Doerner and seconded by Carl Bruner to approve the granting of tenure to Mr. Brian Stonelake, Mathematics, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

9. Recommendation of Tenure – Mr. Matt Williams

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the granting of tenure to Mr. Matt Williams, Welding Technology, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Recommendation of Tenure – Ms. Laura Wisman

It was moved by Megan Scott O’Bryan and seconded by Mariko Doerner to approve the granting of tenure to Ms. Laura Wisman, Basic Education for Adults: Mathematics - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

11. Recommendation of Tenure – Ms. Catherine Wyman

It was moved by Mariko Doerner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the granting of tenure to Ms. Catherine Wyman, Computer Science (BS) - MVC, effective Fall Quarter 2025.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

12. Recommendation to approve proposed fee changes for 2025-2026.

It was moved by Carl Bruner and seconded by Megan Scott O’Bryan to approve the proposed fee changes for 2025-2026 as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. STUDY ITEM

1. Recommendation of Head Start Continuation Grant Application

This item was up for study and will be brought to the Board for approval at the May 13, 2025 board meeting. Mary Ellen Lykins presented information about the grant application and was available to answer any questions.

VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

May 13, 2025, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus, Administrative Annex – Study Session at 3:30 pm.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Jackson adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 5:31 p.m.

Ozell Jackson, Chair

Dr. Christopher Villa, President
Executive Secretary to the Board