

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
Tuesday, December 10, 2019
4:30 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Christon Skinner, Chair

Ms. Kathryn Bennett

Ms. Lindsay Fiker

Ms. Flora Perez-Lucatero

Ms. Megan Scott O'Bryan

Dr. Thomas Keegan, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER:

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

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

The Chair, Christon Skinner, recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Arden Ainley, Chief Public Information Officer, announced that there were no media guests present, however, Trustee Lindsay Fiker, had a special introduction.

Lindsay Fiker introduced Kyle Von Stroberg, SVC alum and founder of the Second Chance Scholarship, as SVC's Transforming Lives Award Nominee for 2020. Following the introduction, Kyle stated that he was making Dr. Keegan an honorary member of the Second Chance Scholarship and presented him with a shirt.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Board Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2019; 2. Skagit/Islands Head Start Report

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

V. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC

No report.

2. SVCFT

No report.

3. WPEA

No report.

4. President

Accreditation

- Full-scale evaluation visit took place in April 2018, which then required an Ad Hoc report and visit in October that was focused on our assessment of student learning.
 - Earlier today received the final accreditation report from the October visit. The reviewer found that the College is in compliance.
 - Comments from the reviewer's report: "Leadership engaged faculty, staff, and students in discussions designed to encourage student learning outcomes assessment as less of an act of compliance and more of a cultural shift." Additionally, the reviewer stated, "As the College shifted away from a compliance-based approach, the end-result is a process centered on compassion, and grounded in equity. Members of the campus community were laser focused on these values and expressed that the process became more valuable and better understood by all. It was noted by several faculty during interviews that this was an important [moment] for the College."
 - Cultural change is just as important as compliance. Our focus is on the student experience and the extent to which they are learning and what they are learning, not simply being in compliance on a standard.
 - Recognized the work of Dr. Kenneth Lawson, Vice President for Instruction, the instructional deans, and an amazing group of faculty leaders—as well as the faculty as a whole for their focused work on changing how we look at student learning. This was an 18-month process that place while everyone was continuing the day-to-day work of the College.

- Recognized Dr. Dave Paul, Accreditation Liaison Officer, for his work in keeping the process on track, preparing the report and managing the logistics of the report and visit.

College Capital Projects

- Early Learning Center:
 - The project is on track; earlier this week selected three architectural finalists. Expect selection to take place December 19.
 - The Department of Commerce grant of \$800,000 has been released to the College. Expect the Head Start grant funds to be released in the near future.
 - The Early Learning and Childcare Center Committee, led by Brad Tuininga, SVC Foundation Executive Director, and community member Sue Krienan, continues their work to raise an additional \$275,000 to provide enhancements to the project.
- Pickleball Pavilion:
 - The architect and civil engineer have toured the site for feasibility. Expect to receive the feasibility report on December 23. The study will provide a cost estimate for the project. The donor has committed to a minimum of \$1 million and we do not expect to conduct fundraising. The report will help us determine if it will be a viable project.

Budget Update

- Dr. Ed Jaramillo, Vice President of Administrative Services, and Sabrina Houck, Institutional Planning and Budget Manager, have conducted the mid-fall quarter review of tuition collection and we are on track to meet our revenue projections for the year. They will continue the same review for mid-winter and mid-spring quarters. Will continue provide updates as the year progresses.

Legislative Report

- Dr. Keegan recently met with Senator Lovelett and Representatives Lekanoff, Smith, and Paul. Lindsay Fiker met with Senator Muzzall, recently appointed to replace Senator Barbara Bailey who retired earlier this quarter. Dr. Keegan will be meeting with Senator Muzzall soon.
- Dr. Keegan met with staff members for Representatives DelBene and Larsen to discuss our federal agenda and to seek support for our work with the Army Corps of Engineers on our wetlands mitigation work with Skagit County.

- Concern about an effort by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to have there be no cost for Running Start students to attend college.
 - Proposal is to have colleges pay for all books and fees for Running Start students with no additional funds from the legislature.
 - The System has not taken an official position, but Dr. Keegan has shared his position with our state legislators and they have been very receptive.
 - There are two different funding structures between higher education and K-12. The legislature funds the full cost of educating students in the K-12 system, however, the legislature only funds about half of what it costs to educate students in our system.
 - The proposal is inconsistent with the funding structure in our state, and will result in a cut of \$500,000-\$1 million to our college.
 - Expect that we will determine our system's position at next week's WACTC meeting. Will update the Board at or before the next Board meeting and will provide talking points on the issue.

Center for Inclusive Excellence

- SVC is a leader in equity efforts on many fronts in our system. As a result, many requests for us to present our work come to us from across the country. Most of the requests have come to Gretchen Robertson and Kip Zwolenski to present their work on inclusive pedagogy.
 - In an effort to continually shape the work—and share our work more broadly, while also recognizing the resources required in doing so, we created the Center for Inclusive Excellence this past summer. The College is providing seed resources by providing release time to Gretchen and appointed her as the Director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence.
 - The expectation, which is being realized, is that the Center will be a stand-alone enterprise budget that will become self-supporting in time. However, the College may minimally subsidize the effort as it both improves our own teaching and learning efforts and brings positive recognition to the great work we are doing.
 - Dr. Keegan then introduced Gretchen and she presented an overview of the Center's work.

College Advancement

- Athletic Auction on November 9 was very successful—nearly 300 people attended and the event raised \$108,245.
- SVC Foundation is working on renegotiating the vending machine contract for the Mount Vernon Campus. The tentative agreement will bring in a \$10,000

donation each year for five years, plus a percentage of all sales. Proceeds and donations will benefit the athletics program.

- The Foundation hosted the Evenings with Champions event last week—raised \$42,000 prior to the event and the brought in an additional \$5,100 at the event.
 - \$30,000 will support 10 Champions of Diversity students with \$3,000 each in scholarships their first year. The remaining funds will support second year Champions of Diversity students.
- The Hall of Fame Council met on November 22 and reviewed 32 nominations in five categories (Alumni, Community Member, Faculty, Public Official, and Staff).
 - The following were selected:
 - Mr. Legson Kayira – Alumni
 - Ms. Vi taq^wšəblu Hilbert – Community Member
 - Mr. Gary Knutzen – Faculty
 - Dr. Ernest Tutt – Faculty
 - Mr. Jerry Dodd – Public Official
 - Mr. David Ryberg – Staff
 - An induction ceremony will be held on March 5, 2020, 5:00 p.m. in McIntyre Hall. Tickets will go on sale January 6, 2020.
- Received an unexpected scholarship of \$9,000 from the Skagit Community Foundation. The scholarship has been awarded to nine students; six students in the BASAM program and three SVC graduates that went on to other colleges/universities.
 - The Skagit Community Foundation has committed to award another \$9,000 for the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Received a \$550,000 bequest from the estate of Eva Gordon.
 - Donation of \$550,000 to 17 colleges in the state for a total of \$9.3 million.
 - Ms. Gordon was a Seattle-area philanthropist and wise investor. Typical of many of our donors in that she was committed to helping others succeed in education without wanting attention for themselves.
 - The SVC Foundation intends to establish the Eva Gordon Memorial Endowment to support SVC scholarships, emergency or childcare funding, program support, or Foundation operating needs.
- Since the last Board meeting, SVC has enjoyed some great media coverage about a variety of highlights, initiatives, and accomplishments; including two front page stories and 35 major regional stories and an increase in media coverage of Cardinal Athletics.

Administrative, Instructional and Student Services

- The BAS degree in the Applied Management program will begin offering a Health Care track—there is demand locally and statewide. The program will be targeted at those currently employed in the healthcare field and will include an internship and course schedule that will accommodate working adults.
- Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Planning: HSI is a grant administered through the US Department of Education, Title V. The program provides grants to assist HSIs to expand educational opportunities for, and improve the attainment of Hispanic students. The grants also enable HSIs to expand and enhance their academic offerings, program quality, and institutional stability. To qualify for the grant, an HSI institution must have an enrollment of full-time equivalent students that is at least 25% Hispanic students at the end of the award year immediately preceding the date of application.
 - Currently we are at approximately 22% Latino/Hispanic students. However, we have 3,500 students who have not reported on race/ethnic status. One reason may be that the question on statewide application is confusing. We began an email campaign last week to encourage students to complete that question on their student profile. We estimate that if 200 of those 3,500 students identify as Latino/Hispanic, SVC will qualify as an HSI.
- Student Services Inclusive Excellence Learning Communities: Launching the next two cohorts of Student Services Learning Communities, which focus on increased knowledge, awareness, and skill-building regarding issues of equity, power, and privilege.
- Athletics:
 - The women's soccer team advanced to the final eight and then lost in an overtime game to Walla Walla.
 - The men's basketball team is currently undefeated and ranked third in the NWAC.
 - The Athletic Director job description will be posted within the next few weeks, with an expected start date of July 1.
- Health and Wellness: Sandy Jordan, Director BAS Student Services & Wellness Education is continuing the development of the Wellness Resource Center (WRC), which includes a number of services to students focused on health and wellness: food pantry, wellness programming, and hygiene products and single dose medications.
 - The Center recently received \$5,000 from the Tulalip Tribe to support mental health and wellness programming beginning with student athletes and will be expanding to the broader SVC student community.

- The Student Services Division was awarded a Student Emergency Assistance Grant from the SBCTC.
 - The grant is for \$25,000 for FY20 and \$34,000 for FY21. It provides emergency support funds for: housing costs, gas, bus passes, child and health related expenses, groceries, meals, utilities, and books.
- Office of Student Equity & Inclusion: Held Champions of Diversity event last week. Honored 90 students with either a scholarship for school, or a scholarship for an experience at the North Cascades Institute. The total amount of scholarships awarded was over \$170,000.
- Veterans' Education: In November, our Veterans' Education Team spent three days at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Base meeting with sailors and discussing their education interests, transition issues, and programs at SVC. Historically it has been difficult to gain access to NAS so this is a very important step in serving active duty sailors and their dependents.

Administrative Services

- Continuing work on the Office of Civil Rights audit of the website—Dr. Ed Jaramillo is leading the response efforts. Received a resolution letter and we expect to have successful completion of the work by December 20.
- Financial Statements audit and accountability audit are underway.

President's Office

- Mount Vernon Campus Commencement will have two ceremonies on June 18—2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Many people have not been able to attend the ceremony in the gym, which has created unhappiness. By offering two ceremonies we hope to be able to have everyone in attendance in the gym.

5. Board of Trustees/ACT

- Christon Skinner:
 - Expressed his appreciation that President Keegan keeps the Board updated and aware that staff and faculty are performing at high levels. Feel fortunate that the Board is not dealing with some of the issues that other colleges experience.
 - Appreciated hearing an update on Accreditation.
- Lindsay Fiker:
 - Met with Senator Ron Muzzall, recently appointed to fill Senator Bailey's position, at his recent town hall meeting. Senator Muzzall is an SVC alum and was an agriculture major at Washington State University. He

manages 3 Sisters Family Farm and 3 Sisters Cattle Co. on Whidbey Island. She looks forward to meeting him in Olympia and having him visit the college during the off time.

VI. STUDY ITEMS

1. Recommendation of Academic Calendars for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022

Dr. Keegan stated that the Academic Calendars for 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 are developed as part of faculty contract negotiations. Board approval will be sought at the February 11, 2020 meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No requests were submitted.

IX. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

February 11, 2020, 12:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus – Board Room.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, and no action taken following the Executive Session, this meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Christon Skinner, Chair

Dr. Thomas A. Keegan, President
Executive Secretary to the Board