



Yakima Campus

S. 16th Avenue & Nob Hill Boulevard, PO Box 22520, Yakima, WA 98907-

2520

P: 509.574.6800 • www.yvcc.edu

MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

April 11, 2024, 4:00 p.m.

Grandview Campus, Library Conference Room, 055-0155

500 West Main Street, Grandview WA 98930

Chair Ortega called the special meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Trustees present were Chair Ortega, Trustee Flores, Trustee Baldoz, Trustee Cate arrived a few minutes late.

- A. **Sherar Gymnasium Improvement Project** – Ray Funk, the Director of the Athletics Department, presented an overview of the Sherar Gym Improvement Project at the Yakima Campus with a power point presentation. The project objectives were for safety concerns, as well as image and PR concerns. Mr. Funk outlined the proposed enhancements to the HVAC system, stressing the urgent need for these updates due to the gym's lack of air conditioning, which poses safety concerns for both students and staff. Mr. Funk recounted an incident where a janitor nearly fainted from the excessive heat in the gym and highlighted how the volleyball team had to schedule practices during cooler times of the day to avoid discomfort. Mr. Funk shared that when he was driving from the Yakima Campus down to the Grandview campus today, he was recalling all of the High Schol gymnasiums that have either been built by new construction or remodeled and that they all included air conditioning. Mr. Funk shared a blueprint drawing of the Sherar Gymnasium and the areas that would be impacted by the proposed HVAC project. Additionally, Mr. Funk expressed concerns about the condition of the bleachers, noting that the lack of central support during their initial installation has led to cracks in many of them, 50% or over 370 tops are either cracked or completely broken since the installation in Spring of 2006. He provided photographic evidence via a PowerPoint to support his claims. The project aims to not only reinforce the bleachers for safety but also to enhance their appearance and comfort for students and patrons attending events at the Sherar Gymnasium. Furthermore, there will be updates to the bleacher logos to reflect the college's recent rebranding from YVCC to YVC that was previously added to the bleachers in June of 2016. Trustee Cate inquired about the possibility of securing a grant for the renovation, to which Funk responded that they were not aware of any suitable funding opportunities. Dr. Rich added that she and Funk had been actively seeking funding for gymnasium projects, but such funding typically requires approval from student reserve funds due to budgetary constraints and state law not allowing the use of funds to be used from the state operating budget. With the current surplus in the student account, it is an opportune time to proceed with the gymnasium repairs not to exceed \$400,000.00 with a timeline on repairs and renovations for the board. The project should hopefully be completed by August 1, 2024 in time for NWAC volleyball to commence. He will be presenting this as an action item to the board at the May session.

Study Session concluded at 4:23 pm.



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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

April 11, 2024 4:30 p.m.

Grandview Campus, Library Conference Room, 055-0155

500 West Main Street, Grandview WA 98930

Chair Ortega called the regular meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees

Board of Trustees Present

Bertha Ortega, Chair

Patrick Baldoz, Vice Chair

Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee

Laura Flores, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Students

YVC Staff & Faculty

Board of Trustees Not Present

David Morales, Trustee (excused)

Introduction of Guests and New Employees. Chair Ortega announce the two new board of trustee's members, Laura Flores, and David Morales. Mr. Morales was unable to attend the meeting tonight, but he will be at the next session meeting in May . Ms. Flores spoke and shared with the board that she is a member of the Grandview community, and she serves of the Grandview City Council, where she attends meetings in this very same room. She stated she was happy to be on the YVC Board of Trustees. Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, was unable attend the meeting in Grandview. Senida Lopez, Asst. Dean of the Grandview Campus, introduced Daniel Armanino, Sociology Instructor, Christian Gomez, IT Customer Service Specialist, Carolina Licano, Instructional Technician 3, Adriana Navarro, Student Services Coordinator, Sam Garcia -Figueroa, Cashier/Office Assistant, Monika Lemmon, Art Instructor Sandra Zesati, Student Engagement Specialist, all new employees on the Grandview Campus. Dr. Teresa Rich, VP of Admin Services introduced her new Interim Administrative Assistant, Noemi Mendoza Santiago.

- B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda.** Chair Ortega stated that there would be two opportunities for Call to the Public.
- C. Call to the Public** – Chair Ortega stated that at this time the public is welcome to make comments on any of the action items on today's agenda. Following the reports, there will be another Call to the Public for anyone who wishes to make comments on issues that were not action items. Jocelyn Sheehan let Chair Ortega know there was no one listed to speak.
- D. Approval of Minutes:** Chair Ortega moved that the minutes of the Regular Meetings of March 14, 2024, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Baldoz and passed unanimously.
- E. Action Items:**



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1. Student Lab Fee Increases

Dr. Jennifer Ernst, presenter RCW 28B.15.100 and 28B.50.140, general lab fees must be reassessed from time to time to determine if sufficient revenue is generated to cover operating costs unique to individual courses. Administrative staff and faculty have reviewed current lab fees and emerging needs and recommend the adjusted fees, which were presented in the March study session, become effective fall quarter 2024.

MOTION 24-04-01: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to student lab fee increases to the following academic employees effective the beginning of fall quarter 2024:

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously.



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F. Communications:

G. Reports

- 1. Board of Trustees:** Chair Ortega welcomed the new Trustee, Laura Flores. She shared with the board how she had been working with Dr. Kaminski and Kim Tanaka from state board on the ACT Conference that would be held on the Yakima Campus on May 2nd and 3rd and that she was excited for everyone to attend.
- 2. Students:** Jessica Rodriguez, Grandview Student President informed the Board that Yadira Chavez was not able to attend the meeting this evening, and that she had a guest student speaker attending the meeting with her tonight. Ms. Rodriguez shared upcoming events on the Yakima and Grandview campuses. Chair Ortega asked the students how they were navigating the new FAFSA applications. The students spoke up and shared their concerns and how challenging it had been. The new application would not let you continue and would just halt the process if you were unsure how to answer a question. Chair Ortega encouraged the students not to give up and reach out to Mr. Verduco the Director Financial Aid if needed, not to let them off the phone until the application was fully completed. The board had a brief discussion of their concerns for the new FAFSA applications. Dr. Kaminski shared with board all the additional workshops that YVC has been offering, and that the state board is having work out the kinks for the new application process on their end that YVC is doing everything we can and partnering with ESD 105 and other avenues around the valley to try and help get information and help out to the students at the High Schools and on both the Yakima and Grandview Campuses. Full details of events are filed with the board packet as a written report was submitted.
- 3. Vice President for Administrative Services** – Dr. Rich discussed the upcoming financial statement audit that will begin the week of April 22nd and will conclude by June 30th, yearend. The initial conference will be held the last week of April or the first week of May. Dr. Rich discussed the governor’s budget proposal in December and the timeline for the unfunded mandates and the next year’s operating budget proposal. She will be bringing a proposal to the board at the May session for the 2024/2025 proposed operating budget. Last year the operating budget was not able to be fully voted on until September, due to the legislation not concluding until later in the year and the board the board was asked to approve spending authority until that September session. Dr. Rich is hoping to have an action item for a proposed 2024-2025 Operating Budget this year at the June Session. Dr. Rich let the board know an update on the capital project the Technology Complex and that there will be a bid opening on April 25th. She thanked Dr. Field and everyone that had to be relocated out of the Technology Complex for moving and finding a new space on campus until the project is completed. It hopefully will begin in June and be finished by the end of December. Dr. Rich shared with the board that the CHRO hiring committee has been selected and the applications have closed, they will be having a future meeting soon continue with the hiring process.



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- 4. Vice President for Instruction and Student Services-** Dr. Ernst shared with the board a wonderful work of art that was given to her tonight by Monika Lemmon, the new art faculty member on the Grandview campus that was introduced earlier by Senaida. Trustee Cate asked if the artwork was several landscapes. Chair Ortega commented that it looked like a sunrise. Dr. Ernst deferred to Ms. Lemmon to speak about the artwork of the students. Ms. Lemmon shared that it indeed was different landscapes from around the Yakima Valley that was collaboratively put together in one piece of art for Dr. Ernst as a thank you from the students for funds she had donated, which has allowed the art students to keep materials on campus and help them be successful in class. All trustees shared that the artwork was beautiful and well done. Dr. Ernst then gave a update to the board on enrollment numbers, and stated that since the pandemic drop of 20-25% in enrollment the college has seen a growth of 14% at the start of spring quarter. Also, there have been big gains in CCR which had grown by 19%. Dr. Ernst did share that there were continuing challenges with the new FAFSA program, and that Oscar Verduzco is continuing to hold FAFSA workshops to try and help navigate the new changes. Dr. Ernst shared those 4051 students are currently enrolled at YVC and 974 of those students are enrolled at the Grandview campus. Dr. Ernst then introduced Dr. Skye Field, Dean of Workforce Education and Herlinda Ruvalcaba, Director of the BAS programs to share additional insight to the BAS programs as asked previously by the board during their past retreat. Dr. Skye Field introduced the BAS programs and Ms. Ruvalcaba. Ms. Ruvalcaba shared with the board that she was a YVC alumni and was able to achieve her degree from the BAS program. She then had the pleasure of introducing three students currently enrolled in the BAS programs: Dianna Rodriguez, Samantha Mallery and Thatcher Weedin. Danna Rodriguez shared with the board her struggles initially at YVC as a student and being a single mom, but she has had the opportunity with the flexibility of classes and support from her advisor to successfully complete a degree. Samantha Mallery, shared with the board that she was a previous bartender that previously studied the Viticulture Program and with the encouragement and support of Trent Ball was able to pursue her BAS degree. Thatcher Weedin spoke to the board about his time and effort here at YVC and successfully working and pursuing the BASM degree here at YVC. Ms. Ruvalcaba shared how proud she was of each of these students, and what a wonderful opportunity it is to allow students from the Yakima Valley to be able to earn a four-year degree right here at home at lower cost than a university. Dr. Ernst thanked Dr. Field and Director Ruvalcaba, and then directed her time to Pedro Navarrete, the Dean of CCR and the Grandview campus and Senaida Lopez, the Interim Dean of the Grandview campus to provide their annual report to the board. Dr. Ernst shared how happy she was to have Dean Navarrete back on the Yakima Campus. Mr. Navarrete spoke to the board and introduced Ms. Lopez to present Grandview's annual report. Ms. Lopez shared with the board that she was happy for all the new hires on the Grandview campus that were previously introduced. Ms. Lopez was very happy to share that Sandra Zesati, the new Student Engagement Specialist, was hired to do outreach and recruitment in



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the lower Yakima Valley and she will be visiting schools, participating in community events, and will serve as the running start advisor for the Grandview Campus. Ms. Lopez shared statistics of growth in enrollment and events that are happening here on the Grandview campus, including FAFSA workshops to try and help students navigate challenges with their financial aid.

5. President

Community Relations Report – Written Report included with the board packet- Dustin Wunderlich spoke briefly about the upcoming jazz ensemble event that would be taking place at the Eisenhower High School and invited all board members to attend if that were interested.

Human Resource Activity Report – Written Report included with the board packet

President's Report –Dr. Kaminski addressed the board and thanked them for coming to the Grandview Campus. Dr. Kaminski shared an Informative Item with the board that the that all of the admin and exempt contracts for staff were being renewed at the college for this upcoming year, (the full information item is filed with the board report packet). Dr. Kaminski shared items regarding the process of where the college was in bargaining negotiations with the AFT-Y. She stated that the administration is still in the process of working with mediator to complete a CBA for the AFT-Y. Dr. Kaminski shared how happy she was to get here from the students here tonight in Grandview and the progress the Grandview campus has been making. Also, Dr. Kaminski shared concerns with the board about the FAFSA application for this upcoming school year. As they heard previously tonight from the student that had been struggling with their application this is a big concern. She has been attended meetings and conference with state board where other Presidents are also sharing their concerns about the FAFSA applications. There is a FAFSA workshop that any student can attend once a month between this high schools, the college campuses and the ESD 105. The college is doing everything they can to try to inform and help students complete their applications, unfortunately the concern lies with the state board and entering the information into CTC Link. Hopefully, this will be cleared up prior to the fall. Dr. Kaminski brought her concerns of the next years' operating budget to the board of trustees. She stated that the college is in the middle of a biennium but that not many state allocations where set aside for YVC and the ones that were at strict Provisos. The state legislation has approved a COLA for this upcoming year without the money to provide support for the COLA, funded but not fully funded. This is putting the college in a deficit and the college will use reserve funds to try and operate the college as business as usual. Chair Ortega asked Dr. Kaminski about how other colleges were handling this situation. She was aware that Dr. Kaminski did not want to discuss furloughs or layoffs, but she believes that is what some of the other colleges are doing just that. Dr. Kaminski agreed that she does not believe that YVC will look at furloughs or layoffs this next year but is at almost a



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million-dollar deficit in the operating budget in which the board will see at the next session's study session. She wants to try and keep all of the staff and personnel that we have but may not be able to add programs or positions and the college would like to.

Faculty – Ms. Rachel Dorn, AFT-Y Yakima President, addressed the members of the board and shared that the AFT-Y did not agree with all of the negotiations numbers that Dr. Kaminski shared at the last meeting, but was happy to say that she thought there were less than 100 items left on the bargaining table, and between the two parties (Admin and AFT-Y) that about 30 articles/items had been agreed to. She was happy to see forward progress and shared that there has been better communication since the mediator had been brought on board. Ms. Dorn shared that the High Demand MOA has had some breakthrough and communication, and there is hopes that the Nursing Educator MOA might be signed by the end of this week. Ms. Dorn then shared to the new trustee that this bargaining process was much different than what she and her team experienced in 2020, and there has been much frustration due to the time period that it has taken; and that the admin and the AFT-Y have not come to an agreement for this year's CBA. Ms. Dorn also shared that she comes to each of these meetings to represent the faculty and is happy to be here in Grandview for this more intimate meeting. It is important for the new trustee to know that the reason she speaks for the faculty is because these issues discussed affect the working conditions for staff and faculty, and the learning conditions for the students. She shared that the faculty, classified and admin staff are all important parts of the school and learning environment and with strong transparent communication and policies everyone can learn and do their jobs in a safe and respectful environment.

H. Call to the Public – The public is welcome to make comments on issues not on the agenda after being recognized by the chair. Comments will be limited to five (5) minutes or less. Trustees may ask questions of the speaker for clarification but generally will not discuss items that are not on the agenda. If appropriate, they may refer the subject to college staff for research or request an item be placed on a subsequent agenda.

No one signed up to speak.

I. Date of Next Meeting— The next meeting will be Thursday, May 9th, 2024. Yakima Campus, West Campus Conference Room, 038-122 Meeting Room D. 1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA 98902.

J. Executive Session -NA

K. Action Items. No action was taken.



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L. Adjournment. The regular meeting was at adjourned at 6:08 p.m.