



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 BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT

YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

February 24, 2025, at 10:00am

South Central Workforce

1205 Ahtanum Ridge Dr Ste B, Union Gap WA 98903

A. Roll Call

Board of Trustees Present

Patrick Baldoz, Chair
Laura Flores, Vice Chair
Bertha Ortega, Trustee
Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee
David Morales, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Staff

B. Trustees Check-in and Updates

C. Board Discussion

Dr. Sara Cate, Vice Chair Laura Flores, Trustee David Morales, and Trustee Bertha Ortega recently attended the National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. Upon their return, they shared key insights gained from the event, including valuable information and ideas that may enhance their roles and responsibilities as Trustees of YVC. Their discussions focused on how these takeaways could strengthen their governance and further support the college's mission.

D. Report from Alma Ramirez on Search Firms for the Presidential Candidacy Search: Alma Ramirez provided an update on the Presidential Candidacy Search, including details on 12 different Presidential Search Firms. Each firm submitted a proposal outlining its services, pricing, and timelines. The board members agreed to thoroughly review the provided documents and use the rubric supplied by Alma Ramirez to rank their top three search firms based on the key qualities they deem essential for hiring the next YVC President. Once the rankings are completed, the board will reconvene to discuss and determine which firm will be hired to lead the search process. This decision will be presented as an action item at the April 10th Board Meeting.

Additionally, Jocelyn Sheehan led a discussion regarding the letters sent to both the college and external communities soliciting nominations for candidates to serve on the interview selection committee. The board requested that Ms. Sheehan reach out to additional individuals to ensure full demographic and community representation in this process. Once this outreach is complete, the board will reconvene to finalize the selection committee members.

Alma Ramirez exited the board retreat.

E. Working Lunch with Board Members and Interim President Rich joined.

Dr. Rich shared with the board her experience at the recent Legislative Hill Climb in Olympia, where she was joined by Trustee David Morales and faculty member and AFT-Y President, Rachel Dorn. Dr. Rich highlighted



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how the collaborative event helped demonstrate to legislators that YVC presents a united front. They were able to meet with all legislators from YVC's district, with the exception of Representative Dufault, though Dr. Rich was able to have a follow-up conversation with him after the session. Additionally, Dr. Rich expressed appreciation for the legislative receptions she attended and extended her thanks to Trustee Bertha Ortega for her presence as ACT President. Dr. Rich also shared with the board the new Executive Orders and discussed how the college is consistently working to ensure compliance with the law while remaining true to the college's mission statement.

- F. Constitution and Bylaws and Delegation of Authority Board Policy:** The board held a formal discussion with Dr. Rich to review the Constitution and Bylaws, as well as the Delegation of Authority Board Policy. The goal was to suggest updates to outdated language in both documents to ensure they accurately reflect current processes and practices between the board and the college. An action item to update both documents will be presented at the next regular board meeting in March 2025.

- G. Commencement:** The board discussed this year's upcoming commencement, including the selection of the keynote speaker. There was also conversation about the platform party dinner, with suggestions for improving the event next year and hopes for increased attendance from legislative representatives, as well as VIP seating arrangements.

- H. Adjournment:** 3:00 pm



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