



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

March 14, 2024 3:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D

1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Chair Ortega called the special meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Trustees present were Chair Ortega, Trustee Cate, and Trustee McClure.

- A. **Math Reform Draft Report-** Matthew Lewis, Math Instructor in Arts and Sciences Department presented on the Math pathways reform changes that have been applied at Yakima Valley College. They showed the board the previous Math pathway, starting with Math 50, that could take a student several quarters prior to achieving a college math credit, to the newly adopted Math pathway that seems to be much more successful with supporting data. The new pathway was supported by grant funding and half the Math department compiling a Math Reform Committee with the approval from the President of the College and stake holders. The Math Department is very happy with the results to achieve a goal of amending the Math pathway for students to achieve College Level Math Credits within three-quarters, and they did not let the set-back of CTC Link stand in their way. Trustee McClure questioned if a student entered the pathway into less than a 100 Level Math class if they could achieve their math credits within the three-quarters, and Mr. Lewis agreed that is the goal. Dr. Kaminski questioned if the student must take a sub-level support Math class if they are taken concurrently with the 100 level Math class, and Mr. Lewis and Dean Cavaness confirmed that the two classes are scheduled as a block course and taken together at the same time. For example, Math 107 and Math 7, are scheduled with the same instructor and students in a block back-to-back, so that the instructor can teach the college level Math class in conjunction with any support for the students to be successful. Dr. Kaminski questioned how many other colleges are adopting a similar Math Reform Pathway. Mr. Lewis stated that he was aware of Shoreline, Walla Walla had similar pathways, not sure of how many more at this time, but Yakima Valley College's data shows that the student's numbers have vastly improved on student's successfully passing their college level Math classes and completing them within one academic year. With the new reform the Math Department will continue to look into the student's placement data: grade in Math, GPA, and the student's confidence in their math skills on a scale from 1-5. Chair Ortega asked Mr. Lewis if their had to be a change in curriculum. Mr. Lewis stated that the curriculum was reworked with a backwards design. Dr. Kaminski thanked the Math Department and Committee for all their hard work making this reform a success. Dr. Cate asked if this new reform could be up for publication. Mr. Lewis answered that there will need to be a continuation of new data, and that this is a process that they are continuing to work on. Full report supplied in board packet.
- B. **Annual Student Outcome Data-** Dr. Sheila Delquadri, Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness presented on the data from Yakima Valley College of where is the college is now (an average of over five years) to where the college was in the past. This is a baseline used for initiatives and guided pathway advising. The data shared covered percentages from: 30 college level credits, fall to fall retention, quantitative requirements (including specialized Math), three-years to completion, and transfer degrees rates, as well as state employment rates. In the **30-college level classes**, YVC has grown from 11 % to 50%, and is



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1% higher than the system average. In **Fall retention** YVC is increased by 6 %, which is 5% higher than the system average. In **Quantitative requirements:** YVC is 10 % higher in their communication requirements, which is 18% higher than the system average; and 12% higher in their math requirements, which is 2 % higher than the system average. For the **Three-Year Completion** rates YVC is 9% higher, and 8% higher than the system average. Lastly, for **four-year transfer degrees** YVC is 4 % higher and 9% higher than the system average. Dr. Kaminski questioned if the transfer degrees count our baccalaureate programs, or if it is for other four-year universities. Dr. Delquadri stated that they will be changing that data in the future, this data represents any university in the country. Dr. Kaminski stated that this is surprising data, currently there is reading material that states 13% of students are not transferring out. Chair Ortega thanks Dr. Delquadri for this data. Dr. Delquadri stated that Yakima Valley College is higher in all outcomes, baselines and system averages which shows that we are a student focused institution. Full presentation supplied in board packet.

- C. **Lab Fee Increases** – Dr. Jennifer Ernst, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services presented on the proposed increases to student fees for 2024-2025. Dr. Ernst discussed the increase to each course and some of the reasoning for the increases including inflation. For example, the increase in fees for students to attend a Multi-Care Memorial facility has increased to \$50.00 for students for each of their clinicals. Dr. Ernst will be presenting an action item at next month's board meeting on the proposed fee increases. A copy of the handout is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

Study Session concluded at 4:23 pm.



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MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

March 14, 2024 4:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D

1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

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

Neil McClure, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Students

YVC Staff & Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees. Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, introduced Tenya Moravec, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Keith Pawlovich, Director/Registrar of Enrollment Services, and Karla Rabadan, Manager of Student Life, as well as her activity report.

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.

Erika Tollefson- Briefly spoke and stated that she was present to congratulate her fellow faculty members on being granted their tenure as well as herself today, and the process that they went through to achieve this accomplishment, and to thank all participating parties that help make this happen.

Emeke Udenze- was called but came up to the podium and shared he did not wish to speak on an action item today but was here to present with the STEM team for the STEM presentation later in the meeting.

D. Approval of Minutes: Chair Ortega moved that the minutes of the Regular Meetings of January 11, 2024, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee McClure and passed unanimously.

E. Action Items:

1. Granting of Tenure.

Dr. Jennifer Ernst, presenter RCW 28B.50.850 through 28B.50.869 and Article XII of the AGREEMENT between YVC and the American Federation of Teachers—Yakima establish the procedures for review of probationary academic employees and for renewal/nonrenewal of probationary employees, and for the withholding/granting of tenure. Each trustee has had the opportunity to read the tenure review reports and



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recommendations of the tenure review committees. The following faculty probationers, having been recommended for granting of tenure by their respective Tenure Review Committees, are presented for the Board's approval.

MOTION 24-03-04: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to grant tenure to the following academic employees effective the beginning of fall quarter 2024 :

Ericka Tollefson

Lisa Dominguez

Mark Fuzie

The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Baldoz and passed unanimously. Trustee McClure praised all of the members getting granted tenure for all of their hard work and thanked them for being an incredible part of the community. They are the star of the show. He knows the support that it takes within the team and the incredible skills to achieve for the student outcome is phenomenal.

2. Nonrenewal of Special Faculty.

Dr. Jennifer Ernst stated that the following special faculty members served in the 2023-2024 academic year:

Kevin Huerto

Samuel Faulk

MOTION 24-03-01: Trustee McClure moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to not renew the following special faculty members who served in the 2023-2024 academic year:

Kevin Huerto

Samuel Faulk

The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.



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Action Items Continued

3. Renewal of Faculty Funded by “Special Funds”.

Dr. Jennifer Ernst, stated that RCW 28B.50.851 governs the renewal of “special faculty.” The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), in WAC 131-16-400, defines “special funds” as, “all funds received by a college district other than those generated by operating fees collected by such district pursuant to chapter 28B.15 RCW and state general funds appropriated by the legislature and distributed to college districts by the state board by formula allocation.” Sources for “special funds” include grants, contracts, Running Start, and Worker Retraining.

The positions occupied by the following individuals are funded by “special funds” and are hereby recommended for renewal for the 2024-2025 academic year, subject to the terms of RCW 28B.50.851 and contingent upon the availability of funds:

- Angela Campos
- Brandon Charbonnel
- Brian Bodah
- Cara Warren
- Carrie Cooley
- Christopher Otten
- Cody Smith
- Daniel Armanino
- Deniele Fleming
- Elizabeth Shenyer
- Emilee Oldham
- Eraina Hatch
- Guadalupe Huitron-Lilly
- Holly Ferguson
- James Desler
- Jamie Treat
- Jeffrey Gerhardstein
- Jeremy Brown
- Jeremy Marion
- John Paul Cyr
- Joy Clark
- Judy Parker
- Karyl Johnson
- Katharine Solada
- Kevin Dyke
- Kristy Webster
- Kyle Ashley
- Lance Myler
- Larry Frazier
- Laura Yolo
- Linda Mensing
- Lindsey McNellis
- Luis Bello-Zarallo
- Margaret France
- Mary DeWitt
- Matthew Owen
- Michael Follansbee
- Monica Lemmon
- Nat Wall

Nathaniel Udall
Olga Gutierrez
Olivia Hernandez
Peter Udo
Ray Pritchard
Raymond Navarro
Stacey Gingras
Stacy DeBlasio
Stephanie Ahlgren
Stephanie O’Brine
Suzanne Smaglik
Teresa Lewis
Timothy Brown
Travis Margoni
Virginia Nakamura
Wendy Jones
Zachary Schierl

MOTION 24-03-02: Trustee McClure moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to renew the faculty funded by “special funds” to the above-listed individuals, contingent upon availability of funds for the 2024-2025 academic year. Trustee Cate seconded the motion. Trustee McClure questioned that this number is about 60 faculty members, what is our current number of faculty at this time. Dr. Ernst stated that the number changes and she will be getting back to the board with an exact number. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Renewal of Faculty Probationers.

Dr. Jennifer Ernst stated RCW 28B.50.850 through 28B.50.869 and Article XII of the AGREEMENT between YVC and the American Federation of Teachers—Yakima establish the procedures for review of probationary academic employees and for renewal/nonrenewal of probationary employees, and for the withholding/granting of tenure. Each trustee has had the opportunity to read the tenure review reports and recommendations of the tenure review committees. The following faculty probationers, having been recommended for renewal by their respective Tenure Review Committees, are presented for the Board’s approval.

MOTION 24-03-03: Vice Chair Baldoz moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to renew the appointments of the following faculty probationers for the 2024-2025 academic year:

Second Year

Amanda Gall
Anna Pasce
Anothony Schmidt
Dr. Joanna Fischer
Peter Monahan
Renee DiMeo
Teana Robbins

Third Year

Cami Pangrazi
Emeka Udenze
Holly Cousens
Dr. Jonathan Byrn
Dr. Keith Reyes
Maria Saucedo
Steven Mock

Trustee McClure seconded the motion and stated that again this is an incredible achievement that almost makes him want to go back to school.

5. Exceptional Faculty Awards-Winter 2024

Dr Ernst stated RCW 28B.50.835 authorized an exceptional faculty award program to “foster partnerships by creating matching grant programs to assist public community and technical colleges in creating endowments for funding exceptional faculty awards.” In 1992, Yakima Valley College and the YVC Foundation agreed to participate in the program for exceptional faculty.

In 2001, in accordance with RCW 28B.50.843, the college negotiated a Memorandum of Understanding with the faculty union regarding the process for determining local awards from the Exceptional Faculty Awards fund invested by the YVC Foundation. The MOU reflected the division structure in place at that time. The faculty union executive board and the college have agreed on a Faculty Development Committee that reflects the current division structure. The committee is composed of one dean, one Arts & Sciences faculty, one Workforce Education faculty, one College and Career Readiness faculty, one faculty counselor, and one librarian. This committee has received and reviewed eight (8) faculty proposals for winter 2024. The final recommendations are provided in the document submitted today for the board’s approval.

MOTION 24-03-05: Trustee McClure moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the recommended award amounts to the recipients as submitted by the Faculty Development Committee.

Abra Ramos	Math	\$0.00
Carol Milliron	Nursing	\$1,500.00
Cara Warren	Allied Health	\$1,500.00
Guadalupe Huitron-Lilly	Counseling and Advising	\$1,500.00
John Jeremy Buegge	Life Sciences	\$1,500.00
Joanna Fischer	Veterinary Technology	\$1,500.00
Kristy Webster	English	\$1,500.00
Zachary Schierl	Physical Sciences	\$1,500.00

Trustee Cate seconded the motion and there was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Student Tuition Increase

Dr. Rich stated that the Washington State Legislature has approved an increase in tuition and fees for Community and Technical Colleges of up to three percent. Attached is a listing and fee rates established by the legislature and approved by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on February 1, 2024. In order to implement this tuition and fee schedule for the 2024-2025 academic year, the Board of Trustees must authorize the collection of these fees.

MOTION 24-03-06: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the collection of increased tuition and fees established by the Washington State Legislature and approved by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Vice Chair Baldoz seconded the motion. Trustee McClure asked if this increase was for tuition and not fees? Dr. Rich confirmed that it was for tuition, that the operating budget gets approved by OFM, looking at what the college will need to collect in tuition, the legislators at state board approve the rate, and the board of trustees approves the college to collect the increased rate. She also mentioned to the board this is earlier in the year than in years past. Usually this does not get approved until June after student’s register for Fall quarter and their

accounts have to be adjusted, this year hopefully no adjustments will need to be made. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Sabbatical Leave Recommendations

Dr. Kaminski presented that in accordance with the negotiated faculty agreement, a Faculty Sabbatical Leave Committee was convened to review requests for sabbatical leave. I have met with the Sabbatical Leave Committee and the successful applicant, and I am pleased to recommend to the Board of Trustees a one-quarter sabbatical for Eric Anderson. During Mr. Anderson's sabbatical he will be traveling to Japan to learn more about the practice and history of Shintoism, this will allow him to experience firsthand additional insight for studies in anthropology that he can bring back to the college and communicate an additional cultural perspective

MOTION 24-03-07: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve a one-quarter sabbatical leave for Eric Anderson in the 2024-2025 academic year; provided that he negotiates a contract with the college covering the time frame for the leave and the activities to be conducted during and after the sabbatical.

Trustee McClure seconded the motion, no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Communications: Written Report supplied in board packet.

G. Reports

- 1. Board of Trustees:** Trustee McClure shared that he was happy to see an awesome tenure review. Chair Ortega took some time to discuss the board's experience at Washington D.C. She spoke to the legislators about more money for faculty and students and discussed with them the concerns around the new FAFSA policy and changes. She thanked Oscar Verduco for providing them with great information to take along, some colleges are even delaying enrollments due to the FAFSA concerns. Trustee Cate stated that Dr. Kaminski did an excellent job in sharing her concerns regarding the new FAFSA changes to representative Newhouse. Chair Ortega agreed that Dr. Kaminski did an excellent job discussing the FAFSA issues to all members of the legislators, she is a great President, and it makes Chair Ortega proud to be a member of this board of Trustees for YVC.
- 2. Students:** Jessica Rodriguez, Grandview Student President informed the Board that Yadira Chavez was not able to attend the meeting this evening due to finals, but that we had Guadalupe Torres, the Lead Student Ambassador for the Yakima Campus informing the board of some of the student activities going on around campus. Ms. Torres informed the board about the Winter Welcome, Popcorn Event that took place on January 2 & 3rd that included an opportunity for students to ask questions, enter a raffle to win a beanie or a scarf, and complete a student survey. Also, there was a Faux Snowball Fight on campus that was a huge success, it lasted longer than expected. The participants of the snowball fight included, two faculty members, security staff and students and it lasted two hours. Trustee Cate asked the students what the fake snowballs were, and the students responded that they were cotton and that you could barely feel them. In February, the students hosted a Palatines and a Valentines Event where they could make friendship bracelets and decorate cookies, this was a great way to destress from midterms and exams. In February also there was a Diversity speaker who attended the Grandview Campus on February 20th and the Yakima Campus on February 21st, his name was Omari Amili; he discussed the overcoming disadvantages and miseducation in the PNW and finding a sense of belonging and success in the college setting. Ms. Rodriguez shared with the board on April 18th-20th there is a Students of Color Conference, and our own Yadira Chavez, the Yakima Student President will be one of the speakers. The students are continuing to advertise activities around both campuses with popcorn and fliers. Chair Ortega thanked the students for speaking and shared that she is happy to attend events and participate in the future, she really appreciates their reports. Ms. Rodriguez shared there is a spirit week coming up April 8-12th there will be dress up days, such as: Pajama Day and group day. During the group day the ASYVC are thinking of

dressing up as crayons or minions. They are also excited for the upcoming Spring Fling where there will be a guest speaker comedian coming to campus.

- 3. Vice President for Administrative Services** – Dr. Rich discussed the upcoming financial statement audit that will be happening sometime during the first part of April, there is not a date yet, but she will keep the board informed. She is hoping that if there is correction or adjustments that need to be made, they can be accomplished prior to year-end, because otherwise it can create additional accounting challenges. Dr. Rich discussed the safety survey that was sent out to all state agencies from DES. Yakima Valley College had the most responses, by sending out emails and notifications to YVC staff and faculty they received a great response, which is a great reflection of YVC's safety culture and thoughtfulness around campus. She would like to get together with a committee to review the comments and be a useful tool to help direct safety under our strategic plan on campus. Chair Ortega asked if it was an online survey. Dr. Rich answered that "yes" it was an online survey that gets sent out from the state board to all state agencies. The responses get shared back with the college. Rich gave an update to the board on the Technology Complex Remodel, currently the plans are with the City of Yakima for permitting this 1.5-million-dollar project to refurbish and refresh the office spaces, upstairs restroom, and the HVAC. The plan is start construction in June and hope to have it completed by the end of September, she has been working with a consultant out of Spokane for furniture and furnishings.

Dr. Rich shared a CTC Link update with a copy of a printed report to the board, Dr. Rich referenced Matthew Lewis's earlier, "can do attitude" in reference to CTC Link and making some processes harder. It is important to pay close attention to the data in CTC Link and where items may get incorrectly miscoded, and to always see where we can code better, while making sure everyone can still operate in the system. Our team is great at puzzling the situations and coming up with solutions. Dr. Rich reported that she was able to attend a PeopleSoft Users Conference- Alliance, this past month with five other staff members. This was a great opportunity for professional development, there are over 250 other college attendees discussing how other colleges use their PeopleSoft software. All Pillars from the administrative services were represented at the conference, she looks forward to attending the same conference next year. Dr. Rich shared that the college has partnered with the Department of Health to host a pollen monitoring station at the Yakima Campus. Previously all the data for this survey was conducted in N. Seattle to represent the pollen count for all of Washington State, which is a misrepresentative for the Yakima Valley. Now they are developing and funding equipment across the state for a better data representation, in addition to Yakima there will be pollen monitoring stations in: Vancouver and Spokane at Gonzaga. YVC will provide a rooftop location, power and Wi-Fi, with a staff member to change out the data collection tapes. The Department of Health will be providing an incentive to the staff member collecting the data. If anyone wants to monitor the pollen there is an app that you can download Pollen Sense, faculty may be able to eventually use this resource for class material in the future. Trustee Cate stated that this should reflect climate change and show an increase in pollen counts and allergies in the Yakima Valley. Dr. Rich agreed and shared that the North Seattle location is being used to model connection from Allied Health, thanked Dan Ferguson, and the opportunity to partnership.

- 4. Vice President for Instruction and Student Services**- Dr. Ernst stated that she wanted to alert the board that at the next meeting in a study session there will be a presentation that the ASYVC have voted to use reserve funds for the Sherar Gym to be updated: fix AC in the gym, as well as broken bleachers and update some of the equipment. Nice to have the AC next year when the students rehearse graduation in the gym. At the next meeting, the board will be presented with a timeline for the upcoming project. Dr. Ernst shared YVC's effort to build enrollment gains. There was a data entry error for full-time FTE data and now there is a 5% increase in CCR division with the credit bearing data is up 11%. Dr. Ernst shared that she is happy to announce Keith Pawlovich as the new Registrar and Director of Enrollment Services, and Pedro Navarette has rejoined Yakima Valley College as the Dean of CCR and the Grandview Campus. Pedro is here tonight even though he does not officially start back on campus Monday, March 18th. Together the team is working towards building enrollment in STEM, and the MESA grant

(Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement), the community BAS program and guided pathways are here tonight to give an in-depth view of STEM in our area. YVC is known for, “The heart of STEM education in Central Washington.” Dr. Ernst introduced Vanessa Tucker, STEM Navigator and Cristy Rasmussen, STEM Director to give a presentation on the STEM club and what STEM is doing here at YVC.

STEM Presentation: Presented by, Vanessa Tucker, Cristy Rasmussen, Emeka Udenze, Matthew Loeser, Julizza Gomez, Alex Rojas, Ethan Gu, Audrey Harveaux -**Full power point presentation filed with the Board Packet in the President’s office**

Emeka Udenze was the initial presenter for the presentation due to a time constraint, he shared with the board a conference that he was able to attend with the STEM club students, and how important it was to connect these students within the local community. He shared that there was an increase with MESA due to the work of Cristy Rasmussen, and the different workshops and events he has been able to attend and be a part of. The workshops allow students to see different careers within the STEM field and help them make connections where they can apply knowledge to their fields of study. Cristy Rasmussen introduced Julissa Gomez our next speaker who is a student here at YVC. Julissa shared that she moved to Yakima from Chicago, IL around nine years ago, originally started studying to be an accountant, until one of classmates spoke about STEM. She had an opportunity to speak with Cristy Rasmussen and changed her field of study from Accounting to Computer Science. Computer Science is something that she is now passionate about. The MESA grant is something that she advocates for due to the opportunities it has been able to supply. In STEM club her opinion is heard, and she is grateful for the staff in the STEM club because she can tell they are passionate about what they do. Also, she enjoys meeting people in the same field of study that she is. The next presenter was Biology Instructor, Matthew Loeser. He presented the board with an overview and history of where the STEM club started and how it has grown from 2014 to where they hope for it to be in the future. In 2014, there was only one NSF grant and the Department of Education (no fulltime personnel) and a few Science clubs, with only a handful of research projects which were limited to the STEM community. To now, there are more than \$5,000.00 in grants, thriving STEM clubs, engineering clubs, and many research partnerships with a fantastic opportunity to grow. The Federal and State level has grown grants as well as leadership and employees to help get behind these STEM programs. The faculty that helps work on goodwill on and off contract to help make the STEM program a success. The future may even hold a STEM building and fulltime research programs if this continues to grow. He hears students say, “I am here because of STEM.” Mr. Loeser introduced the next student speaker as, Ethan Gu. Ethan shared with the board that he is a running start student at YVC and plans to go to the University of Washington for pre-med, he is in the undergraduate research program. He shared his summer research presentation that he worked on under the guidance from his instructor, Shawn Teng, on Pesticides in Wine and Soil, the current process to analyze these pesticides is too long and expensive. His research was trying to find an opportunity find another method to achieve the same results. This was his first time participating in an undergraduate research program, he enjoyed the level of independence he was able to achieve with lab-follow up, instructions, and the ability to solve his own problems and find solutions. This process was a great experience and has inspired him to further undergraduate research. He had his research poster on display for the board members to see. Cristy Rasmussen, Director of Stem shared with the board that the physics department chair at the University of Washington recognized YVC’s summer research program and was able to help with expanding the volunteer culture. It is important that are students are well-rounded with volunteer experience to be good candidates for universities such as UW. STEM club has given students volunteer opportunities where students can shine and have partnered with the ESD 105, Union Gospel Mission, Operation Harvest. Cristy reported she was very proud that over a hundred students helped with Operation Harvest this year. Also, Leslie Potter-Henderson has been able to create a relationship for YVC students with the Museum of Flight for Aerospace Engineering, where students have an opportunity to speak directly with engineers. Alex Rojas presented to the board about his experience with the STEM club. He stated that he originally was a student at Perry Technical Institute to become an electrician, and now is attending YVC to pursue a degree towards electrical engineering. He is part of the STEM and MESA club; he has been happy to take

advantage of the volunteer opportunities offered through the STEM club. He was a part of the Central Washington State Fair, Operation Harvest, and Museum of Flight. He was able to learn information and volunteering has given him an opportunity to build on his resume, build skills, learn how to talk to people and help develop character. Vanessa Tucker, shared with the board that she is happy to report the STEM club's enrollment is busting at the seams with record attendance. The STEM ambassadors are amazing and promote and welcome students. The club has partnered with the library, and they are able to hold STEM club meetings on the Second floor. The STEM club opens doors for students to learn how they can change the world and visit larger universities and connect them to additional resources for academic and career opportunities. They have had two fundraisers this year: a BBQ and sold pumpkins to earn funds to visit a Museum in Seattle, WA. Audrey Harveaux a STEM Club Ambassador shared with the board that she compares the STEM club to a black hole. You come to one meeting, then two, until you get sucked into the STEM club. Her job is to get you in the door to the STEM club and then you will get sucked into amazing opportunities for volunteering, research, and the STEM experience. Cristy Rasmussen shared that Matthew Loeser and Vanessa Tucker are incredible support for STEM, so are the students they are like a supportive beehive. The club has grown from 15 students to 150 students over the years. Students are constantly grabbing other students and pulling them in. The STEM environment is made up of people who truly care. Matthew has donated so many hours to STEM, compensated or not. The students can share academic support with one another and someone to connect to. The Winter workshop happens once a year to find money for students, and shares with them the importance of a Linked In profile, how to be successful in a job interview, research opportunities, etc. She shared on other great opportunities STEM has been able to provide for students and shared with Trustee Cate that they are currently working on MOAs with PNWU. Chair Ortega thanked all of the STEM team for their presentations and reiterated that the board is here for the students, special thanks to all of the students.

5. President

Community Relations Report – Written Report included with the board packet

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

President's Report –Dr. Kaminski addressed the board shared items regarding the process of where the college was in bargaining negotiations with the AFT-Y. She let them know that we are currently in the process of working with a mediator from PERC as suggested by the AFT-Y, and that there are pros and cons to that process. The downside is that the mediator is very busy, and she can only meet with the two sides on certain dates, which slows the process down a bit. A few of the facts are: The mediator has met with the AFT on November 9th, November 21st, December 8th and December 14, 2023 alone in caucus. The mediator has met with the YVC Admin Team on January 12th, January 19th, as well as February 29th and March 1, 2024. There are future scheduled dates to meet on March 19th, March 27th, and April 9th, 2024- for these future meetings, the teams will be able to discuss items with the mediator. The AFT-Y has brought around 90 new proposals to this bargaining negotiation and the YVC Admin team has tentatively agreed to 18 items subject to a package. The YVC Admin have brought about 20 proposals to the bargaining negotiation and the AFT-Y have agreed to three items tentatively subject to a package. This has been a slow process with some many negotiating items on the table, and it takes time for over 100 proposals between both sides. We want to do this process thoughtfully and with a good result. The YPS has given the YVC Admin team a comprehensive proposal and they have been meeting and working through negotiations on: January 17th, February 15th, March 18th and March 28, 2024. A handout with these items were given to the board from Dr. Kaminski and is filed in the board packet in the President's office. The next item discussed by the President was the Conference Budget and the Operating budget for the upcoming year. She referred to the provisos for individual colleges and Yakima Valley College is not one listed, some individual colleges are allowed big sums of money but not all. She handed the board a handout on Capital Budget and energy efficient statewide programs that the college will benefit from with

additional funds. Dr. Rich spoke and agreed that the funding is preparing for the Governor's Climate Initiative which is fabulous. Dr. Kaminski references the capital budget that she had passed out to the board members and let them know this was the Reader's Digest version. That there were four options to as for funds for the next 2025-2027 biennium. The fourth option to be asking for all of the funds at once, which would equal 1.5 billion dollars and include 17 projects, but the odds of getting this granted would be pretty slim. The third option would be to ask for \$700.00 million dollars that would cover four projects and would not be completed until the 2027-2029 biennium. The second option would be to ask for \$600.00 million to cover six projects and would also be completed in the 2027-2029 biennium. The last option being number one would be to ask for \$500.00 million for two projects that would not be completed until the 2029-2031 biennium. For reference Yakima Valley College has been awarded only 3-4 million in the past for capital projects. The next item of business Dr. Kaminski presented to the board was on the Teacher Education Enrollment, it opened March 1st and is planning on running full force this Fall. Chair Ortega asked if that was the previous program that was on pause, and Dr. Kaminski confirmed that it was. There was a discussion with the board of funding allocations based on actual enrollments of students and not target enrollments, due to updated coding of data in CTC Link. Dr. Rich was happy to announce that YVC is coding this data correctly. Dr. Kaminski referred to handout and shared with the board that Bellevue stands to lose the most funding according to these data, and Trustee McClure also agreed that Wenatchee Valley College stands to lose about 40% of their funding. Dr. Kaminski shared a FAFSA update with the board, she is grateful for Oscar Verduzco, Director of Financial Aid and the big hurdles that his department has had to overcome. They are still waiting to process applications; the state board is still pausing this process by about another 4-6 weeks. Normally at this time of year YVC has held 6-8 workshops to help students complete financial aid applications, due to the changes this year they have held 12 workshops. For the final four sessions they have even provided snacks for students and held a Q& A for faculty and staff to help assist with the process. All is not well with the new financial aid changes. Dr. Kaminski handed out a student letter to the board, she received permission from the student and the faculty member to share it at this meeting. The letter expresses a beautiful expression of how YVC can change the lives of students. Dr. Kaminski announces that two YVC students will be receiving scholarship awards at South Sound Puget College on April 25th and all board members are invited to attend if they wish, also this Friday, tomorrow is the Nursing Pinning Ceremony from 1-3pm in the Yakima Valley College Conference Center, that she invited all board members to attend if they wish. Dr. Kaminski reference how nice the ceremony was last year.

6. **Faculty** – Ms. Rachel Dorn, AFT-Y Yakima President, first congratulated the three faculty members who were granted tenure during this meeting. She spoke about her concern for the special faculty members that work hard for the college and their lack of stability and security not knowing if they are renewed from year to year. She hopes that YVC will show faith and move more special faculty to a tenure track this fall. She acknowledged the two “non-renewed” faculty members and stated that she felt they were being treated differently. Ms. Dorn stated to the board that the negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement started 10 months ago, and her numbers do not match the numbers previously stated by Dr. Kaminski for bargaining proposals, she is not aware of the 18 YVC admin has agreed to, but she will check into this with her negotiating team. Ms. Dorn shared a letter with Dr. Kaminski inviting her to join the bargaining unit for CBA negotiations. The AFT-Y are asking for tenure track transparency, firm step increases, and a clear and transparent salary placement scale. She stated that this process has been expensive for both YVC and the AFT-Y in both time and money. Ms. Dorn asked the board questions that they could not answer:
 - a. Are the trustees aware of how much money YVC has spent on an outside contracted attorney to lead these negotiations? Negotiations have spread out over 10 months versus the 3 months that it took in 2020.
 - b. Are the Trustees aware of how much YVC paid for arbitration and court reporter fees to respond to our grievance over the non-renewals of “temporary” special faculty last year?
 - c. Does the board feel like they are getting their money's worth?

- d. How do we move forward or start the process of changing our relationship to a collaborative one that benefits students?

She shared with the board that a lot has changed at the college since 2020, and when she went into bargaining in 2022, she was optimistic that the AFT-Y could meet and discuss the issues with the admin team, the last 10 months have been frustrating and disappointing and that the faculty are working without a contract, but the AFT still hold onto optimism and hoping compromise can still happen. It is important to the students that there are good working conditions. She wants to conclude bargaining but cannot agree to something that makes the working conditions worse for her members, and to make a reasonable effort to help administration understand when and where work conditions are inequitable, unfair and contribute unnecessary stress and lowered morale to the workforce, which can impact our students and community. Full report filed with the board packet in the President's Office.

Dr. Kaminski spoke to Rachel's report and stated that she wanted to add clarification to her report. That it was the mediator's plan to meet separately. She has no control over the mediator's calendar and when they meet. The existing faculty contract is in effect until a new contract is bargained and agreed upon.

- 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.

Mary DeWitt- Presented to the board that she was born and raised in the Yakima Valley, Toppenish, and in winter of 2020 she started at Yakima Valley College. She has observed the culture and the events tonight. She stated that she was happy to see the wonderful student and staff presentations, but the faculty, staff and students are in a current culture of fear, being undervalued, and distress. She has been in the education field for twenty-five years and vocalizes her opinions and concerns. She urges for a contract for equity due to the climate problem on campus. There are micro-aggressions from people of power on campus. She has had relatives and close friends ask why she does not leave YVC, and she shared its because she believes in YVC. There is an indispensable staff here and that all individuals want to make this campus a better. She hopes we can repair the broken culture by meaningful and strategic actions.

- I. Date of Next Meeting**— The next meeting will be Thursday, April 11, 2024. Grandview Campus, Library Conference Room, 055-0155. 500 West Main Street, Grandview WA 98930.

- J. Executive Session -NA**

- K. Action Items.** No action was taken.

- L. Adjournment.** The regular meeting was at adjourned at 7:05 p.m.