



Yakima Campus

S. 16th Avenue & Nob Hill Boulevard, PO Box 22520, Yakima, WA 98907-2520

P: 509.574.6800 • www.yvcc.edu

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE**

January 11, 2024 4:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D
1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Vice Chair Baldoz called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Chair Ortega was present by Zoom.

A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees

Board of Trustees Present

Bertha Ortega, Chair (Zoom)

Patrick Baldoz, Vice Chair

Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee

Neil McClure, Trustee

Cus Arteaga, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Students, Staff and Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, stated that there are 17 new recruits; introduced Raul Cardenas, Simulation Technician for Nursing Program, and Emilee Jongeward, Digital Printing Specialist.

B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda: Vice Chair Baldoz mentioned that he would be chairing the meeting due to Chair Ortega needing to present tonight via Zoom- due to health.

C. Call to the Public- No one present expressed the desire to address the board.

D. Approval of Minutes: Trustee Arteaga moved that the minutes from the previous regular Meeting of November 9, 2023, be approved with one spelling correction of Clery. The motion was seconded by Trustee, McClure, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

E. Action Items: Use of Reserve Funds for the expansion/upgrade of college technology, Brady Mugleston.

Motion 24-01-01: Trustee McClure approves the use of reserve funds for college technology. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate. There was a discussion between Trustee McClure and Mugleston about the project and it taking several years to complete.

F. Communications: NA

G. Reports:

1. Board of Trustees:

Trustee McClure apologized to the board that he was going to be unable to attend the Legislative Summit in Washington DC in February. Trustee Cate shared with the board that she was excited to attend the Summit this year, she plans to meet with Senator Newhouse and Senator Murray. Chair Ortega, shared with the board that she had been in contact with Washington delegates and confirmed a meeting with Senator Newhouse.

2. Students: Yadira Chavez, Yakima Student President, spoke with a guest speaker Marina from the Yakima Campus Business Program. Chavez gave a written report to the board sharing all of the student activities that

occurred over the November and December months. In November, Chavez expressed that they held a Turkey Toss on November 21, 2023, for students to help with stress during finals and getting excited for the holiday, this event had Cornish game hens acting as bowling balls as they knocked down water bottle pins similar to bowling, this event created laughter for all, and made her grateful to be a part of YVC. They also held a poetry workshop in November with the diversity series and the help of Mark Fuzie. In December during finals week, ASYVC set up hot drinks and games in the student lobby of both campuses to help students de-stress for success. Chavez is looking forward to the “snowball fight” that will be occurring on January 24th where staff and students get to come together and have fun throwing faux snowballs at one another, and enjoy snacks together, such as hot cocoa and cookies.

3. Community Relations Report: A written report that was supplied to the board.

Human Resource Activity Report: A written Report supplied to the board, Alma Ramirez confirmed there was nothing to add at this time.

4. Vice President for Administrative Services: Dr. Rich, shared information regarding the financial statement audit with the board, and informed them that the Northwest Commission for Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) timeline had changed. YVC reports are prepared and waiting to be audited, she is hopeful it will be completed by June 30th in time for year-end. She is hoping they will start this process in April. Dr. Rich also supplied the board with a FY23 cash balance report for the SBCTC, that shows the unrestricted cash balances and shared that this report will be shared with the legislators and stakeholders. She made the board aware that even though the college is in good financial standing this is the first time we have fallen short by \$6,673.00 of the 30% required operating budget target reserve funds, but wants the board to know this amount is not concerning at this time. Dr. Rich discussed with the board our Technology Complex Minor Project for the 2023-2025 biennium and showed the board a diagram of the expanded work room and additional office spaces. This project is underway and is going well, luckily most of the project’s construction will take place over the summer and hopefully will not have too much impact on staff and students. Trustee McClure asked if the project will create more collaborative spaces and Dr. Rich confirmed it will as well as the office spaces. Dr. Kaminski asked if the entrances would remain on the sides of the buildings, and Dr. Rich confirmed that they would. In addition to the expanded workspace areas, the project will also add upgrades to the HVAC systems and the upstairs men’s restroom. Next, Dr. Rich shared a written report of CTC Link status of what is currently working and what areas are still presenting challenges. Dr. Rich thanked the board for approving the reserve money to improve the technology on campus. The phones especially have been an issue campus-wide and staff will be excited to have them improved. She then reminded the board of how reserves work and how the amount they approved cannot be exceeded these funds will remain in the fund balance until the work has been completed or items have been purchased. Vice Chair Baldoz asked if the 5-year plan includes inflation. Dr. Rich stated that since we are a state college there are state contracts in place that help give leverage in buying or purchasing items, especially since when an institution in higher ed makes a purchase it can be used as a marketing tool for the company to other higher education institutions. Lastly, Dr. Rich shared with the board the retirement of David Lynx as the Director of the Larson Gallery, we were very sad to see him go. The college is hiring an interim Director who has previous experience from a Museum in Spokane and she is traveling from Moses Lake to the Yakima Campus, her name is Freya Ligget. In the meantime, Dr. Rich will be working in collaboration with the Gallery Guild to hire a permanent new Director of the Larson Gallery. This upcoming Saturday the Gallery will be having an opening event for faculty artwork. Feel free to come check it out.

5. Vice President of Instruction and Student Services: Dr. Ernst shared with the board the annual report for the division of workforce education by Dr. Skye Field, and celebrated Dr. Field completing her dissertation and completing her recent doctorate. This includes sharing that the Dental Hygiene Program passed its accreditation by CODA with no reports. Also, in the WED report, there have been new hires in nursing,

business, applied baccalaureate programs, and automotive and agriculture. There are 3 upcoming accreditation reviews for automotive, teacher education, and veterinary technology. Dr. Ernst shared with the board that if they would like to take a tour of the Technology Complex before the remodel takes place she would be happy to coordinate a tour for them to see the 80's wood paneling currently in the building so that they would have an opportunity to see the before and after. Dr. Ernst shared with the board an update on enrollment (passed out a report to each of the trustees): the college has been actively enrolling students through last Friday and CCR is still enrolling students. The college is up 12% in enrollment. CCR is down currently but we are hopeful it will increase since that program is still actively enrolling students with the help of Lori Kunkler the Interim Dean of CCR and Grandview. Also, Dr. Ernst shared recognition for Dr. Delquadri to the board for her hard work helping enroll students for the winter quarter, student orientation fell on a snow day, but YVC's staff worked hard to enroll students in their classes in time. Dr. Ernst also shared recognition of the Pathway Navigators that helped jump on phones and regain students who had missed the payment deadline for the winter quarter. She will be bringing additional information to the board at another date to discuss information from Dr. Delquadri about modality and times. Dr. Kaminski spoke to the board regarding Dr. Ernst's enrollment report stating that you can see that the college is down 30% from the winter of 2022', and expressed to the board that is why YVC has had to adjust from doing business as usual. Trustee McClure asked if this enrollment decline is YVC-specific or if other colleges are also being affected. Dr. Ernst answered that YVC is increasing at a faster percentage rate than some other colleges. Trustee Baldoz questioned why the rate of growth is so slow. Dr. Ernst replied that the national data- shows that the unemployment rate affects enrollment because people at this time just can't afford the tuition. Dr. Kaminski spoke to the board and shared that during COVID lots of students got used to virtual learning instruction, and now there are many more options to obtain degrees virtually, for example, Southern New Hampshire College. Dr. Kaminski prefers face-to-face learning for students at Community Colleges. Chair Ortega asked if the new FAFSA application is affecting our students. Dr. Ernst replied that we will see the impact this fall of the 24-25 school year, most of our students are still on the older version of the FAFSA form, but the college has partnered with the ESD 105, the gates Grant, and another of other organizations to try and help YVC students receive financial aid and funding.

6. **President's Office:** Dr. Kaminski shared YVC's Legislative request for 2024' and gave the board each a handout, which included information on investing in college campuses and climate recovery, strengthening the computer science workforce, and expanding climate solutions curriculum. Trustee Cate showed an interest in helping with the climate solutions curriculum. Dr. Rich spoke about the capital budget and energy performance standards. In 2-3 years, all of the old state buildings will need to be updated to meet the new performance standards, but currently, there is no funding to accomplish this. Legislations need to plan, identify, and then do the work to allow the funding. Hopefully, we get the governors on board to help with the climate initiative, because this requires expertise that community and technical colleges don't currently have. Dr. Kaminski shared with the board the disaster that occurred at Bellingham Technical College. Dr. Rich agreed with Dr. Kaminski and shared that Bellingham Technical College built their new building in a swamp, and the foundation was not settled or compacted, the steel construction did not hold and now the brand-new building is condemned. They have already asked the state for 19.3 million to fix damages to make this building usable. Chair Ortega asked if YVC could benefit from this climate initiative. Dr. Rich answered, yes in the climate solution curriculum. Dr. Rich asked Dr. Field if she had been involved in this discussion previously. Dr. Field responded no, but is familiar with a national workforce working on SEED (students for environmental education and discovery) a green climate curriculum. Dr. Rich shared that at YVC we have our occupational and facilities team participating in green climate committees. Trustee Cate shared that she would be interested in hearing about a follow-up climate solution. Next, Dr. Kaminski gave the board a, who gets "hurt" and who gets "helped" handout that preceded in discussion on projected changes to Pell distributions and FAFSA concerns, as well as a YVC brochure on challenges to the New FAFSA. Dr. Kaminski shared with the board that she had a meeting on January 10th with Senator Murray's staff, and hopes to set up meetings with Senator Cantwell's staff and Representative Newhouse's staff when she is in

Washington D.C. for the Legislative Summit, February 5th-7th, to discuss her concerns to the new FAFSA application. The previous FAFSA application gave points to students who came from families with rural farms, small businesses, or families with multiple students in college, now they don't. Also, with the old application students could walk into Financial Aid and get help, now these students have to have access to the internet, a computer, and the IRS website. This new process has lost the hands-on face-to-face interaction and help for students who can find this process confusing. Also, this could be a deterrent for parents who don't trust cyberspace, who may be undocumented, or who don't have a social security number. Dr. Kaminski shared with the board that this new FAFSA application also does not account for inflation of funds. She had a meeting yesterday with Dr. Ernst, Oscar Verduzco, Leslie Blackaby, Patty Murray's staff, and other representatives regarding this issue. She plans on bringing up her concerns at her WACTC meeting in Olympia and to representatives in Olympia and Washington D.C. Next, Kaminski had a handout for each of the board members on the Upward Bound annual report comparing data from 2022-2023, as well as 2017-2022, which is doing great. The President shared a meeting update with the board for December and January; and discussed WACTC meetings, cyber attack follow-up, nurses pinning ceremony (gave handout), professional development day that was held on YVC campus, hill climb coming up in Olympia on January 25th, as well as a STEM day that is going to be held at YVC Yakima campus with activities for youth on January 27th. Dr. Kaminski discussed her January 10th meeting with the YVC Foundation and an update on student scholarships as well as the international student reception. Showed an International Student video to the board, where each of the students got to speak about their field of study, experience at YVC, and favorite foods. Chair Ortega shared with the board that Mary Sundquist was a part of the foundation that advocated for scholarships to include International Students. Lastly, Dr. Kaminski referenced a handout shared with the board on an article she found in the Sunday Herald from October 7, 1951, on Yakima Valley Junior College's night school registration.

7. Classified Staff- No report.

8. Faculty- no written report. Dan Shapiro spoke instead of AFT-Y's President Rachel Dorn due to her having a class. He shared with the board the Faculty Art Show that will be opening in the Larson Gallery this Saturday from 3:00 -5:00 pm that Dr. Rich has already mentioned. There will be artwork from four full-time faculty members, 3 adjunct faculty members, and one from David Lynx. He stated that he was pleased to announce the new full-time faculty that had been hired. Shapiro shared that about the climate solutions bill curriculum mentioned by President Kaminski, currently there is a Climate Environment Club, that may be able to be turned into a class for instruction instead of a club. The current club President is Sophia an International Student here at YVC. Trustee Cate stated that she has expertise with Health and Climate and would be happy to help with the curriculum. Shapiro spoke to the board about AFT-Y's CBA negotiations and mentioned they were now working with a mediator, and have met with her several times to help progress with the collective bargaining agreement. He supported the other union on campus in completing their CBA with YVC's administration. Also, Shapiro let the board know that the High Demand and the Nursing bargaining had not been completed yet.

H. Call to The Public- No one present expressed the desire to address the board.

I. Date of Next Meeting- Will be Thursday, March 14, 2024, with no public meeting for February 2024. The board will discuss the possibility of meeting for a Winter Retreat in February.

J. Executive Session: There was no executive session.

K. Adjournment: Session Adjourned at 5:54 p.m.