



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**

October 10, 2024 4:30 p.m.

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

A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees

Board of Trustees Present

Patrick Baldoz, Chair (unable to attend)
Laura Flores, Vice Chair (ZOOM)
Bertha Ortega, Trustee
Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee (ZOOM)
David Morales, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Staff & Faculty

Bertha Ortega chaired tonight's meeting due to Chair Baldoz, not being present and Vice Chair Flores having traffic interruptions, Vice Chair Flores is able to attend the meeting via Zoom.

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Alma Ramirez, Chief Human Resources Officer, named the number of hires that had taken place around the campus withing the past month. She requested that each new hire present at the meeting today stand and introduce themselves to the board. Two new hires were present at the meeting, one was Hilary Emerson, which is a previous employee in a new position as the Director of Running Start, the second employee was Daisy Garcia, a new biligual program assitant.

B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda

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

D. Approval of Minutes: Trustee Cate moved to that the minutes of the Study Session & Regular Meetings of September 12th, 2024, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Morales and passed unanimously.

E. Action Items: No Action Items

F. Communications: There were no communications.

G. Reports

1. Board of Trustees: Bertha Ortega has issued a reminder regarding the upcoming Trustee conferences scheduled over the next two months in Seattle, WA. Additionally, please note that the date for next month's Board of Trustee meeting has been revised from November 14th to November 7th at 4:30 PM.

2. Students: Karla Rabadan, the Student Life Director, introduced the Student Government members to the Board of Trustees. Each member presented their name and title while wearing Yakima Valley College apparel. Alev Ucar, YSC President, provided an overview of recent campus events, including ASYVC Training, Running Start events at both the Yakima and Grandview Campuses, New Student Orientations, and Yak Nights, as well as the achievements of ASYVC. Damien Saenz-Garcia, GSC

President, highlighted the Welcome Back Yaks Event held on September 25th, which successfully served over 300 students with pizza, drinks, and YVC merchandise, creating a welcoming atmosphere. Mr. Saenz-Garcia also discussed upcoming events, including Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Disability Awareness Month, a club and resource fair, a Halloween costume contest, and a voting workshop. Trustee Ortega expressed gratitude to the students for their introductions and presentations. She also encouraged the student officers to inform the Board of Trustees about any events they would like them to attend.

3. **Vice President for Administrative Services:** There is no written report; however, a fiscal report from Budget Services and a ctcLink report from Innovative Services and Occupational Change are included in today's packet.
4. **Interim Vice President for Instruction:** Kerrie Cavaness introduced Leslie Potter-Henderson, the Director of Library Services, who emphasized the library's vital role at Yakima Valley College as a hub for research, learning, and support for both students and faculty. Leslie Potter-Henderson presented a slide deck discussing the significance of RCW 28B.50.020, highlighting the library's open-door policy for all community members, not just students. She underscored YVC's commitment to excellence in academic and transfer courses and shared the library's mission, functions, and programs aimed at fulfilling this mission for students and the broader community. Ms. Potter-Henderson explained the various services provided by the library, including teaching resources, databases, podcasts, and innovative learning tools such as "Big-Boned Bob" (a skeleton) and "Fred" (a muscular anatomy model). She also detailed the library's history, naming it after Jean Raymond, and the symbolic design of its structure featuring lamps of learning. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the library's operations, with this year's theme focusing on Latina women. This initiative aims to foster sisterhood and provide vital information on health (such as Planned Parenthood presentation on birth control), as well as social and financial resources to support future success (such as opening a bank account). Ms. Potter-Henderson described the library as a shared space on the Yakima Campus, working in conjunction with the tutoring center, study groups, CAMP, and TRIO. Additionally, the Grandview library collaborates with the City of Grandview, under the direction of Wendy Poteet, to serve both students and the community. In response to a question from Trustee Ortega about the future of libraries, Ms. Potter-Henderson indicated that while libraries may shift largely online, the need for shared spaces to facilitate student engagement will persist. She also discussed three clubs hosted within the library, including an investment club, and shared video testimonials from students on both campuses, highlighting the positive impact the library has had on their experiences at YVC. VP Cavaness then provided an update on Fall Quarter data, noting increasing enrollment figures. She mentioned that there are currently 677 classes across 69 disciplines taught by 134 full-time and 116 part-time faculty, resulting in 47 degrees and 52 certificates offered by YVC. Additionally, she shared an update on the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), including funding, fall enrollment, outreach efforts, new student orientation, and a forthcoming grant application being developed by Marivy Vasquez and Wilma Dulin, due November 13th. VP Cavaness also announced a new USDA agreement to host an Agriculture Liaison position on the Grandview campus, thanking Dr. Skye Field and Assistant Dean Ramon Cardenas for their contributions to this initiative. Lastly, she acknowledged the Yakima Campus for hosting an upcoming conference for CCR Deans throughout the state on the 24th and 25th in the Kaminski Conference Center.
5. **Interim Vice President of Student Services:** Pedro Navarrete greeted the Board and introduced Hilary Emerson, the Director of the Running Start Program, who was previously mentioned in the meeting. Ms. Emerson expressed her gratitude to Karla Rabadan, the Director of Student Life, and the

student government officers for their assistance with the welcome event for incoming Running Start students. This program enrolls students in a manner that differs from traditional pathways at YVC, making the event particularly beneficial for helping them navigate essential resources such as the bookstore, parking, library access, and Canvas. Ms. Emerson then presented a slide deck, also included in the board packet, detailing demographic information and enrollment figures for Fall Quarter, which showed a 10% growth and continued upward trends. She highlighted partnerships with local high schools, specifically the recent collaboration with Zillah High School, which allows students to earn credits through both College in the High School courses and YVC classes. Additionally, she discussed a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed among Yakima School District, CWU, and YVC. The Running Start status report revealed that 66% of Running Start students are female, and the fee waiver participation increased from 5% to 44%. The Hispanic student population in the Running Start program has also seen a 3% rise since last Fall. Ms. Emerson shared a bar graph illustrating enrollment trends over the years by school district. VP Navarrete also was happy to report that the college recently held the annual High School Symposium, and received an impressive turnout, with nearly 40 high school counselors, support staff, and non-profit staff members in attendance. 39 clock hours were awarded through our partnership with ESD-105. Special congratulations to Al Garcia who helped lead the enrollment that stood at 3,261. VP Navarrete followed with an update on Financial Aid data for this year's enrolled students, comparing the refunds deposited into student accounts with those from the previous year. He provided a slide for the board to review and mentioned that Oscar Verduzco, the Director of Financial Aid, will present a more detailed report at an upcoming Board of Trustees meeting.

- 6. Interim President Rich:** Dr. Teresa Rich was unable to attend this month's meeting due to her participation in an accreditation visit at Ilisagvik College in Barrow, Alaska, the northernmost tribal college in the United States. VP Cavaness, serving as Dr. Rich's designee, presented her written report included in the board packet. VP Cavaness reported that on September 26th, Yakima School District, Central Washington University, and YVC entered into a historic partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) aimed at developing strategies for a seamless pathway for high school students to earn postsecondary credentials. This initiative aligns with this year's theme of growth and partnership among educational institutions. Additionally, VP Cavaness noted that Dr. Rich and the leadership team attended the PNWU Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Scholarship Dinner on September 28th, providing an excellent opportunity to tour the new facility, support their staff, and engage with students. Cristy Rasmussen, the STEM Director for YVC, also attended. VP Cavaness addressed the Office of Financial Management (OFM) budget error previously discussed by Dr. Rich, indicating that the SBCTC has met and taken action to submit a second supplemental budget request to protect colleges from financial harm due to overpayments. This is positive news for YVC, although potential reductions may still arise in the upcoming 25-27 biennial budget. VP Cavaness shared two handouts with the Board members outlining the Operating Budget and Capital Budget requests for Washington State's community college system. The proposed budget includes \$90 million to support operational costs, which may impact tuition caps and funding limitations in the next biennium. Regarding the Capital Budget, VP Cavaness mentioned 20 lines of capital requests, highlighting YVC's intention to rebuild Kendall/Prior Hall. While it is not included in the current biennium budget, YVC hopes it will be prioritized in the 2027-2029 budget, where it ranks #6. Trustee Ortega inquired about the building's status at the state level and whether Requests for Proposals (RFPs) have been issued. VP Cavaness responded that RFPs will not be sent out until the capital project receives funding, although plans have already been submitted to the state. Trustee Ortega emphasized the importance of the Trustees being familiar with this capital project, especially when meeting with legislators to seek their support for funding. She suggested that including students attend the Hill Climb and this would provide valuable insights into their needs. This approach is particularly crucial for the upcoming Hill Climb in

January and February and for their visit to Washington, D.C. Trustee Ortega encouraged all Trustees to attend these events if possible.

Community Relations Report: Dustin Wunderlich provided a written report in the board packet of materials and asked if any of the board members had additional questions for community relations, they did not.

Human Resource Activity Report: Alma Ramirez addressed the Board of Trustees again to share additional insights from the Activity Report included in the meeting materials. She noted that 62% of new hires over the past month were on the Yakima Campus, while the Grandview Campus welcomed six new hires, including three students and three hourly employees. Ms. Ramirez announced that the Kaminski Conference Center will host a Health Care Authority Benefits Fair, marking the first time in a long while that such an event has been held at YVC. Additionally, she provided a brief update on the college's relationship with the unions, indicating that the institution has been diligently working with the YPS and AFT-Y unions to negotiate new contracts. She also reported that the WPEA contract has been ratified for the 2025-2027 biennium.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Report: No Written Report

Office of Institutional Effectiveness Report: Dr. Sheila Delquadri provided a follow-up from last month's meeting regarding gainful employment and financial value transparency. She reported that the Department of Education extended the impending deadline from October 1, 2024, to January 15, 2025, which is excellent news. In addition to the deadline extension, the State Board is assisting in creating queries that can be run in ctcLink to help gather the necessary cost and financial aid data for this report, reducing the burden on the involved departments. While the new deadline falls shortly after the holidays, Dr. Delquadri expressed confidence that it can be met. She then provided the Board members with a brief update on the status of the files collected at YVC, noting that a written report is included in the board packet filed with the President's Office.

7. **Classified Staff :** Written Report supplied in board packet of materials

8. **Professional Staff :** No Report

9. **Faculty:** Ms. Dorn, AFT-Y President, addressed the Board of Trustees, expressing her gratitude for the microphone provided for this evening's meeting, which allowed her to hear all speakers clearly. She reflected on her attendance at Lobby Days last year, noting the presence of students with the Communities for Our Colleges group, and she hopes to see similar student participation this year. Ms. Dorn was pleased to share positive news with the Board, highlighting that this marks the end of week three in the 11-week quarter. Faculty have been back for four weeks, including the Convocation. Since then, the AFT and the management team have met three times, with another meeting scheduled for the upcoming Monday to discuss several unresolved issues related to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). She noted that these meetings have been refreshing, with both sides actively listening—an experience that contrasts with the previous year. Ms. Dorn reported significant progress toward resolving the CBA, pointing out that as of July 2023, it had been 467 days since the previous



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agreement expired. She expressed concern about the challenges faced by the bargaining team, who are balancing their teaching responsibilities with negotiations. Ms. Dorn appreciated the hard work of both teams and the efforts being made toward a resolution. Faculty members are encouraged to see the administration taking actions that align with the school's goals, as discussed during Convocation. She remains hopeful and realistic that a tentative agreement on the CBA may be reached by the end of the Fall quarter.

H. Call to the Public: No one present expressed a desire to address the Board.

I. Date of Next Meeting : The next meeting will be Thursday, November 7th, 2024.

J. Executive Session: No executive session was called.

K. Action Items: N/A

L. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.