



Yakima Campus

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MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE

June 8, 2023 4:00 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D

1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Chair Arteaga called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Trustees present were Chair Arteaga, Vice Chair Ortega, Trustee Baldoz, Trustee Cate and Trustee McClure.

- A. Proposed Operating Budget, Misael Lopez, Director of Budget Services. Misael went through a prepared slide show presentation. He discussed the 23-24 State and State Board budget cycles, YVC's budget cycle and budget developments. Misael explained the 3% tuition rate increase that is set by the State Board for the entire community college system, the estimated 10% enrollment increase and the 1% innovation fund decrease. Trustee Baldoz inquired about what the innovation fund represents. Dr. Rich explained that it is the funding that we have been sending to the State Board that has been supporting ctcLink but now that ctcLink been fully implemented, we are getting to reduce that budget item. Misael discussed the new staffing developments that have been incorporated into the budget, the changes to salary and benefits, the unfunded mandates and new budget requests. Misael discussed estimated resources for the 23-24 operating budget. Trustee McClure inquired about what the earmarks and provisos were. Misael explained that they are dedicated funds that come to us from the State Board through the legislature that have a specific purpose that they have to be used for; like worker retraining and nurse educator funds. He said these numbers would still change because the State Board has not provided us with our total picture yet on what came to us this year from the legislature. Trustee McClure inquired about one of the new staffing positions for recruitment and retention he asked if that was for faculty or for students. Misael clarified that the position is for student recruitment and retention. Chair Arteaga inquired about the \$80,000 expense set aside for equipment, is that annually budgeted or does it carry over. Dr. Rich explained that it is a line item each year and is used for instructional equipment. Trustee McClure inquired about reserve use, if this will drain our reserves, and if they will be replenished. Dr. Rich explained that reserves are built in a lot of different ways and is built in part by tuition that is not used in the budget and also other sources of revenue like lease income. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

The study session adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE
June 8, 2023 4:30 p.m.
West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D
1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Chair Arteaga 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

Cus Arteaga, Chair
Bertha Ortega, Vice Chair
Patrick Baldoz, Trustee
Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee
Neil McClure, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Students
YVC Staff & Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Dr. Rich, presenter. Dr. Rich introduced Jocelyn Sheehan, Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Administrative Services.

B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda: No changes to the agenda

C. Call to the Public - The public is welcome to make comments on issues 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. If appropriate, they may refer the subject to college staff for research and/or request an item be placed on a subsequent agenda.

Rachel Dorn – Rachel stated that the AFT-Y requests the minutes of the previous meeting May of 2023 reflect the reference to the unions by Dr. Kaminski and her use of the term of torture chamber in reference to retaliation. Rachel also stated there were some Spanish comments that didn't make it into the minutes.

D. Approval of Minutes: Vice Chair Ortega moved that the minutes of the Special and Regular Meeting of May 11, 2023 be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and the motion was opened for discussion. There was no discussion, the motion to approve the minutes as presented passed unanimously.

E. Action Items:

1. Operating Budget Spending Authority.

Dr. Teresa Rich stated that the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges has indicated there are tentative budget numbers for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. However, they are currently, multiple funding streams that have yet to be distributed to individual colleges. Consequently, the State Board has not been able to provide the college with final budget planning numbers.

Further, the college does not have the authority to spend without expressed permission from the YVC Board of Trustees after June 8, 2023.

Therefore, to continue the daily operations of YVC, the administration request Board authority to spend at the 2022-2023 approved operating budget level of \$39,503,709, until there is actual budget data to present for approval by the Board of Trustees.

E. Action Items Continued:

MOTION 23-06-01: Trustee McClure moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve spending at the approved 2022-2023 level of \$39,503,709, until the actual 2023-2024 operating budget can be presented and approved by the Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and opened for discussion. Vice Chair Ortega inquired that approval was for 22-23. Dr. Rich explained that you are telling us that you know we do not have the final budget yet and you are allowing us to spend this year at last year's budget until you approve next year's budget. Trustee McClure indicated that this is always part of the challenge, we don't get this information in advance, it's frustrating that the budget just got put together by the legislature and we are having to use a Band-Aid approach to an important part of our community. Looking forward to voting yes on this but just had to voice his frustration on this. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of 2023-24 Student Residence Center Budget.

Dr. Teresa Rich stated that the proposed 2023-24 SRC budget was presented at the May 11, 2023 study session. The proposed budget remains the same as presented.

MOTION 23-06-02: Vice Chair Ortega moved that the Board adopt a motion to approve the proposed 2023-24 SRC budget as presented during the May study session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and passed unanimously.

3. Approval of 2023-24 Student Services & Activities Fee Budget.

Stacy Wahl stated that the college president appointed a 2023-24 S&A Fee Budget Committee as outlined in the ASYVC Financial Code for Associated Students. Five advisors and six students served on the 2023-24 committee.

The administration provided the S&A allocation using a 2023-24 projected distribution less a 5% estimation factor. The total allocation of \$1,281,121 with an additional provision of \$25,000 for championship travel from the reserve if needed, was approved by the administration and allocated by category by the S&A Fee Budget Committee.

The committee met spring quarter, carrying out its duties in keeping with the ASYVC Financial Code. The ASYVC Senate approved the distribution on April 24, 2023. The administration concurs with the committee's recommendation. The proposed 2023-24 S&A budget was presented at the Board of Trustees' Study Session on May 11, 2023.

MOTION 23-06-03: Trustee Baldoz moved that the Board of Trustees adopts a motion to approve the proposed 2023-24 Services and Activities Fee budget as presented at the May Study Session. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ortega and passed unanimously.

E. Action Items Continued

4. Student Tuition Increase.

Dr. Teresa 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 of the tuition and fee rates established by the legislature and approved by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges on May 12, 2023. In order to implement this tuition and fee schedule for the 2023-24 academic year, the Board of Trustees must authorize the collection of these fees.

MOTION 23-06-04: Vice Chair Ortega moved that the Board of Trustees approves use of the tuition rate for 2023-24 as set by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and passed unanimously.

5. Modification of President's Contract to Provide Salary Increases.

Dr. Teresa Rich stated that the 2023 Legislature authorized salary increases of four percent (4%) for Administrative and Non-Represented Exempt employees effective July 1, 2023, and four percent (4%) on July 1, 2024. Article IV of the President's contract provides that the Board may provide increases to the President's salary during the term of agreement. This action item would extend the same percentage increase to the President's salary as that provided to other Administrative & Non-Represented employees.

MOTION 23-06-05: Vice Chair Ortega moved that the Board of Trustees adopts a motion to amend the President's contract to provide the legislatively authorized salary increases of four percent (4%) effective July 1, 2023, and four percent (4%) effective July 1, 2024. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate and passed unanimously.

6. Election of Vice Chair for 2023-24.

Chair Cus Arteaga. Article IV of the Board of Trustees' Constitution governs officers of the Board of Trustees. As provided in Section B of Article IV, Vice Chair Bertha Ortega will assume the chair position on July 1, 2023. The Board needs to elect a new vice chair to assume that office and, subsequently, the chair position on July 1, 2024.

The two remaining board offices are ex officio positions. Article IV states, "The Secretary and Treasurer will be the President and Vice President for Administrative Services of the college, respectively, as ex officio with no voting privileges."

MOTION 23-06-06: Chair Arteaga moved that the Board of Trustees nominate Patrick Baldoz and elect him as vice chair to assume office July 1, 2023. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Ortega and passed unanimously with Trustee Baldoz abstaining from the vote.

F. Communications: There were no communications.

G. Reports

1. **Board of Trustees.** No reports

G. Reports Continued

2. **Students:** Jessica Rodriguez, GSC President and Victoria Cardenas, YSC President. Victoria shared that they were sad to report that this would be their last report. Victoria shared some information on past events; May 9th a Rodeo Drive Fashion Show on Yakima campus to advertise clothing for students through Rodeo Drive. The students who volunteered were allowed to keep the clothes they modeled. On May 19th had a collaboration event, invited a Latina author, Reyna Grande to speak. Those who participated in the event were able to receive a free copy of one of her books. They had an amazing opportunity to meet her in person and ask questions. Student were inspired to hear her experiences. Jessica shared that on May 24th they held Spring Flings on both the Yakima and Grandview campuses, it was like a carnival; had stations, music, dunk tanks, board games and club tables. Thanked Pedro Navarrete and Abraham Lopez for volunteering in the dunk tank. June 6th-8th held DE stress for Success, had donuts and coffee where students could go and have some quiet time during finals. Chair Arteaga thanked Jessica and Victoria for coming to the Board meetings and sharing information. Vice Chair Ortega inquired how often they meet, they shared that they have programmers and the meet regularly.
3. **Classified Staff** - No Report
4. **Professional Staff** - No Report
5. **Faculty** – Rachel Dorn, AFT-Y Yakima President read a prepared statement to the Board. Rachel discussed the last day of class on Monday, faculty participation in new student advising and registration on Tuesday, finals scheduled for yesterday, today and tomorrow and grades are due Monday. Rachel discussed faculty meeting with students to discuss grades, graduation, financial aid, and next quarter classes. She stated that the library faculty have kept the library open and accessible so students can work on their reports, papers and study for finals. That they brought in some furry friends so students could take a needed break with therapy dogs. She stated the coaching faculty have different schedules about recruitment, training and games but across campus faculty are helping students prepare for and be successful in their finals. She said faculty are joined by hard working professional and classified staff who are answering last minute calls for help with technology, preparation for summer quarter, forms, fees and FAFSAs. Rachel stated; I want you to consider the complications and tensions of this time of year for faculty and staff. She said she wants to celebrate our achievements, faculty and staff worked hard to bring up enrollment and YVC faculty, staff and students made themselves known to the state legislature and brought some funding back to Yakima and Grandview. She stated, we have an amazing team of faculty and staff and we work with some amazing students. Rachel said she needed to respond to Dr. Kaminski's report at the last board meeting in May and the Board's press release. She said at last month's meeting the union presented a vote of no confidence in Dr. Kaminski, that they had been bringing concerns about lack of transparency, culture of fear and retaliation and lack of communication to the board for months. Rachel stated; Dr. Kaminski's response was to call us names, refer to our reports as fake news and to equate retaliation with a torture chamber. Rachel said Dr. Kaminski asked Ms. Ramirez if we had a torture chamber on campus and she noticed that was missing from the minutes of the May meeting. Rachel said she was shocked the president would talk to and about her employees in this way in a public meeting and her behavior at the meeting appeared to be confirmation that AFT-Y were right to vote no confidence. Rachel said they were disappointed that the Board chose to unequivocally support the president and disappointed that the President misrepresented their arguments and concerns. She stated some of their major concerns were; we did not accuse the college of financial mismanagement and despite years of requests, YVC has not given faculty a clear and accurate written policy or explanation of how faculty move to tenure track positions. She stated the BASTE program was closed for one year without implementing the CBA process for program re-evaluation. Rachel said inaccurate information was cited by Administration in both the justification for closing the program and laying off one full-time

faculty and AFT-Y was not allowed to respond to inaccurate information before the board voted to close the program. She stated inaccurate information in job placement and the quality of the program have potentially damages job prospects for this year's graduating class. Rachel said that faculty are disappointed that the Board chose to say in their statement that they see no evidence of lack of transparency and no evidence of retaliation. She said we need to take concerns seriously, investigate them and work together to improve the situation. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

6. **Vice President for Administrative Services** – No Report
7. **Vice President for Instruction and Student Services** – Dr. Jennifer Ernst introduced Dean Kerrie Cavaness to present the Arts and Sciences division report. Kerrie provided the Board with a copy of her written report and said she considers it an honor to share the great work that is happening in Arts & Sciences. Kerrie stated that Arts & Sciences enrollment has steadily been increasing; fall quarter a 26%, winter quarter a 28% and spring was the highest ever at 36.5% increase from the previous academic year. She said the 2023 graduation data shows that 74% of the total degrees awarded by YVC this year were earned in the Arts & Sciences division. She said two new faculty in sociology and arts have been added to the Grandview campus, thrilled to add that curriculum for the students at that campus. She shared some highlights of the report, Dr. Mazhari lead the development of a Biochemistry course in hopes to get an articulation with WSU pharmacy at PNWU. We currently have three student who have been accepted and will be starting that program in the fall. She said we also have pre-med students who graduated from YVC and went on to medical school who came back and talked about the importance of the biochemistry course. She said she is proud to see where the partnership with WSU at PNWU and for our pre-med students goes. She also shared that Steven Slusher does a spring tour each year, this year he visited over 500 students in our service district. He goes in with the YVC choir and they join the high school choirs and sing. She said this is a great outreach that serves Arts & Sciences, the Music Department and the College very well. Vice Chair Ortega asked, how many of the 74% transfer on to a four year. Kerrie said that data could be available through Office of Institutional Effectiveness.

Dr. Ernst provided an update on the implementation of EAB or Yak Connect. She said that about two years ago her predecessor, Tomas Ybarra, came to the board to discuss a major purchase and we have come a long way since then. VP Ybarra made a good decision to move forward with the technology. She said the entire college has risen to the occasion because this tool will support our commitment to Guided Pathways and provide the best possible services for students. Dr. Ernst said she wants to thank the entire college for embracing the technology despite the challenges. The technology team under Brady's leadership, along with Mark Fuzie and the pathway leads have been invaluable and we are close to implementing single sign-on for all staff and faculty. She highlighted some important priorities; communication, targeted emails and text communications; organize students by pathways, sort reports by pathways; and adopt a Care Team Approach, we can support students with their own care team. She said currently we are only using about a quarter of the functionality, but feedback is that the system is much more user friendly than ctcLink. She said we are looking forward to using Yak Connect for data gathering to refine our services to students. She will share more good news about the project next year. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

8. **Community Relations Report** – Written report only. Filed with these minutes in the president's office.

Human Resource Activity Report – Written report only. Filed with these minutes in the president's office.

President's Report – Dr. Kaminski stated that within the last 15 minutes she heard someone say that the Board voted to close the teacher education program. She said she didn't believe there was an action item and that we've only closed one program in her 28 years and that was occupational therapy and that was 15-20 years ago. She stated, we have no plans to close a program, there has been no vote to close a program and we have no program being closed. She said what we are doing is not accepting one class of students to give us time to improve and raise the standards of the program. She said she just wanted to clarify that, just another example of fake news.

Audience interruption... Chair Arteaga gaveled to restore order.

Dr. Kaminski shared information on comparison of course modality over time. She said what is interesting is the comparison of 2010-11 to 2022-23 online, hybrid, other distance Ed and Face-to-Face. In 2010-11 YVC had 84% of classes face to face compared to the rest of the system had 83%. Over the years we got less, in 2019-20 we were at 64% then the next two years due to COVID we were at 3% in 20-21 and 6% in 21-22 and this year we are up to 35%. The rest of the system is now at 30%, we are a little bit more face to face than the rest of the system. Dr. Kaminski shared a handout of graduation statistics. Dr. Kaminski shared that this is the last board meeting of the academic year and there are a lot of good things that happened this year. Dr. Kaminski said she made a list to recap of some of the great things that happened this year. Some of the items were; a 25% overall increase in student enrollment, in spring a 29% and a 91% increase in enrollment CCR. She shared that we had a positive state financial audit report, a positive state accountability audit report and a positive accreditation report with the removal of all recommendations from the previous visit. Dr. Kaminski shared that we granted tenure to ten former special faculty, completed the 2nd year of our new practical nursing program resulting in ten additional PN graduates, we hired 104 new employees, provided \$700,000 in student scholarships to 180 students through the YVC Foundation. She shared that we collaborated with Senator Cantwell in diversifying the STEM workforce. She shared that we negotiated and distributed one-time stipends of \$30,500 for nurse faculty, \$8,000 for workforce faculty and \$3,000 for STEM faculty and one-time increments to part-time faculty in each of those groups and successfully negotiated additional salary increments for employees in the exempt union. She shared that our students of color outcomes showed an 11% increase in fall to fall, our Yakima Valley Vintners received 9 awards and on Friday we celebrated certificates for 41 English language learners high school plus learners and GED completers. Next Friday we will graduate 912 degree and certificate completers including 92 BAS degrees and 675 Associate Degrees. She shared that we have made available eight tenure positions for special faculty for next fall. She said there was probably much more and that we should be proud of all of our employees and students. This was a really great year for this college.

- 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 and/or request an item be placed on a subsequent agenda.

John Menard – stated that he wanted to add to Dr. Ernst report about Yak Connect, he was part of the implementation team, said it was great technology that the single sign-on issue has been difficult to solve but it was resolved today. John encourage the Board to adopt a practice of having these meetings open to the public on zoom or recoding them or live stream them so people not able to attend are able to view the meeting later. He said he understands the Board can adopt a student trustee and he encouraged the Board to add a student trustee position.

Shannon Hopkins – said she would like to respectfully say that the person you accused of spreading fake news is Rachel Dorn and that she did not say the program was closed, she said it was closed for a year to new student applicants and a pool of student who were expecting to get into the program were not able to. Shannon said, as a teacher of English she would argue that those are two different statements and accusing her of spreading fake news is something she had concerns about. Dr. Kaminski responded that she wrote down her exact words... that the Board voted to close the program. Shannon responded that she said it was for a year.

Audience interruption... we are recording this so this can be look at.

Kamila Rubio – She said at the last meeting she came and spoke in Spanish because her English is not perfect and she wanted to say that she drove from Grandview to here today to support her mom. Her mom is not a student but she is part of YVC, she is learning English. Kamila said she is really concerned about what is happening in these meetings and she wants to know and invite everyone to think about what is happening and review everything. She said that the way Dr. Kaminski talks made her think she is not serious about Latinos or Indigenous. She said she wants someone to care about her mom, someone that will care about racial equity.

Rachel Dorn – stated, I have my comments here, we are recording, I said that the BAS-TE program was closed for one year, hurting students. I said that the Board had voted on non-renewals. I've got that information here. She said she wanted to mention that, we are happy to have eight special faculty moving to tenure track positions. Rachel said I think that's what you meant to say when you said 7 or 10 moved last year, they haven't been granted tenure, they moved to tenure track. Rachel said, we are still wondering what the criteria is for choosing who moves, we have a seniority list for special faculty that wasn't used, it wasn't based on percentages of department, in talking with people who were offered tenure, unless people are still being offered tenure, right now it doesn't look like those criteria were used. Rachel said as faculty we are asking for the criteria, she said she understands how the positions are funded, asking for the decision about who moves to those positions how that is determined and we haven't gotten that and have been asking for it for over a year. Rachel said at the bottom of the agenda it says, interpreters for deaf individuals and taped information for blind individuals will be provided, she was curious if that was available for Spanish speaking. Rachel said we are a Hispanic serving institution and the fact that her comments weren't translated for the minutes made her wonder if we do provide that or if we could begin to provide that.

- I. Date of Next Meeting** - The next meeting will be Thursday, September 14, 2023.
- J. Executive Session** – No executive session was called.
- K. Action Items.** N/A
- L. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

BERTHA ORTEGA

Bertha Ortega, Chair

LINDA KAMINSKI

Attest: Linda Kaminski, Secretary