



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

October 12, 2023 3:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D

1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Vice Chair Baldoz called the study session to order at 3:30 p.m. Trustees present were Vice Chair Patrick Baldoz, Trustee Cus Arteaga, Trustee Dr. Sara Cate and Trustee Neil McClure.

A. Annual Accreditation and Strategic Plan Update.

Dr. Ernst introduced provide information on the presentation objectives and speakers. Dr. Rich discussed the accreditation overview and update. She stated accreditation is her favorite because it holds us accountable to our peers. Dr. Rich provided information on the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities and informed the Board that Dr. Delquadri is the accreditation liaison for our college. NWCCU is one of six accrediting agencies in the US, accreditation is voluntary but non-accredited institutions are not eligible for federal financial aid and credits will not transfer to other institutions. Dr. Rich provided information on the standards and the accreditation timeline. Dr. Delquadri discussed the results of the mid-cycle visit and areas we need to pay attention to so in Fall of 2026 we are on track. She said they found we are on track for mission fulfillment because it is tried to our strategic plan, that they could see that it was aligned with diversity, equity and inclusion. Regarding student achievement they were impressed with our navigators, faculty advising model, EAB Navigate system, and caring campus efforts. Dr. Delquadri indicated they did see our academic degrees and certificates have defined program learning outcomes that are systematically assessed. All reports related to the mid-cycle visit can be found on the OIE portal. Dr. Delquadri moved on to the strategic plan 2021-2025 update; mission statement, five strategic directions and the structure for each strategic direction. She shared that the strategic plan can also be found on YVC's website. Dr. Ernst shared some strategic plan progress highlights; that last week closed the applications for the Director of Strategic Initiatives for Equity & Organizational Development position and the hope is to have that position filled in December or January. Dr. Ernst also indicated that an exit survey is being created so we can capture data on why people are leaving the college. She said there is also an equity tool approved that helps us review procedures and policies through an intentional diversity lens to look for equity. Dr. Ernst also discussed a DEI website about YVC Diversity Equity and Inclusion and then discussed the strategic plan in action. She introduced Lynn Hennessey, Coordinator of Financial Literacy, under the UDEAL grant. Lynn discussed the program and the Student Financial Wellness Survey that was administered by the Trellis Company, 265 students responded. Three main topics of the survey included; financial, paying for college and housing, food and mental health. She shared some of the details that were outlined in the handout; 69% of students worry about having enough money, 55% reported being housing insecure and 72% agreed that cos of college is a good investment for their financial future. Lynn also discussed resources we have in place for students; CashCourse, Financial Literacy Events, Links to apply for Aid, Food Pantry and Rodeo Drive free Clothing. Guadalupe Huitron-Lilly, Faculty Counselor, discussed the anxiety numbers in the survey that showed 53% of the students indicted they are experiencing generalized anxiety. She discussed the Counseling and Advising Center who will be meeting to discuss the survey results, the Supporting Students Experiencing Homelessness Program and the new position, Benefits Navigator, aimed at creating one point of contact for students to access resources. A copy of the presentation and handouts are filed with these minutes in the president's office.

The study session adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE
October 12, 2023 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.

A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees

Board of Trustees Present

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

Others Present

YVC Students, Staff & Faculty

Board of Trustee Absent

Bertha Ortega, Excused

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, introduced; Melodie Gutierrez, Secretary Senior; Rosalinda Mendez, Secretary Senior; Malynda Dyer, Program Assistant DSS; and Kyle Ashley, Business Administration Instructor.

- B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda:** At 4:35 p.m. Vice Chair Baldoz called for executive session for 20 minutes to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency matters relating to agency enforcement actions, or to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Invited to join the Board were; James Yockey, Dr. Linda Kaminski and Alma Ramirez.

At 4:55 p.m. Vice Chair Baldoz extended the study session for 5 more minutes.

At 5:00 p.m. the executive session adjourned and the regular meeting was called back to order.

- C. Call to the Public** – No one present expressed a desire to address the Board.

- D. Approval of Minutes:** Trustee Arteaga moved that the minutes of the regular Meeting of September 14, 2023 be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee McClure, there was no discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

E. Action Items:

- 1) Resolution Authorizing Defense and Indemnification.

Dr. Linda Kaminski stated that WHEREAS, a legal action, Jeannette Quintero v. Yakima Valley College, an agency of the State of Washington, and Steven Sloniker, No. 23-2-02260-39, has been commenced naming an officer or employee of this institution of higher education; and

WHEREAS, Steven Sloniker, former Executive Director of Human Resource Services, has requested the Board of Trustees to authorize his defense and indemnification under RCW 28B.10.842; and

WHEREAS, the Board has made a determination that the action arises out of the performance of duties on behalf of this institution and that Mr. Sloniker was acting in the performance of his duties and in good faith; Now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees hereby specifically finds that Steven Sloniker acted within the scope of his authority and in good faith with regard to the conduct alleged by the plaintiff to be wrongful, and the board specifically authorizes his defense and approves his indemnification by the state of Washington pursuant to RCW 28B.10.842.

MOTION 23-10-01: Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the above resolution to authorize the defense and approve indemnification of Mr. Steven Sloniker in the case of Jeannette Quintero v. Yakima Valley College, an agency of the State of Washington, and Steven Sloniker, No. 23-2-02260-39. Further, that the board authorize the board chair to sign the resolution on its behalf. The motion was seconded by Trustee McClure, there was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Communications: There were no communications.

G. Reports

1. **Board of Trustees.** Vice Chair discussed his attendance at the ACT Legislative Conference.

2. **Students:** Jessica Rodriguez, returning GSC President student government from Grandview campus provided updates on past events; Running Start Welcome, September 18th a Popular Welcome to YVC events, Coffee with the Navigators on September 21st and October 11th a Coming Out Day. Jessica also discussed some upcoming events; October 13th-15th La Chola Conference, October 26th the Coffee with the Navigators and on October 30th a Halloween Club Fest. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

3. **President**

Community Relations Report – Dustin Wunderlich Director of Community Relations shared that last week announced a Developing Hispanic Serving Institutions Grant and a new National Science Foundation Grant. Has some nice coverage in local media. Dustin also discussed the partnership with Univision that highlights some of our outstanding Hispanic students. A copy of the report is 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.

4. **Vice President for Administrative Services** – Dr. Teresa Rich shared that the ctcLink report is included in the board packet. Dr. Rich shared that she attended a president's meeting on behalf of Dr. Kaminski last week and ctcLink was a key topic. Dr. Rich said we were highlighted as one of the few colleges that is getting it figured out, she said this is due to the 'can do' attitude of our staff. There was a lot of conversations about ctcLink peer training. Dr. Rich also discussed one way integration, our data goes from ctcLink to Navigate but does not come back. There is a discussion around Guided Pathways and the tool used to facilitate Guided Pathways, several options EAB and Starfish, Highpoint and ctcLink... so conversation is, should the system do an RFP and then pick the best one but then everyone has to do it. There will be continued system wide discussion regarding this topic.

5. **Vice President for Instruction and Student Services** – Dr. Jennifer Ernst introduced Laura Yolo, who served for several years as the Student Life Manager, she was recently hired as the newest Instructor for Communications in Grandview, Laura was a previously a student of YVC. Laura is presenting on the

HUB refurbishing project. Laura stated that the HUB has not been updated for about 25 years. Student project reserve fund has the funding available for the project. Laura discussed the project objectives; updating flooring, updating furniture, and new audio-visual systems. Laura also discussed the anticipated timelines and that an action item to approve the spending would be presented at the November board meeting. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

Dr. Ernst shared that we were awarded a Title V grant of \$2.9 million to use over the next five years to support students; first focus is career relevance with a career center, job fairs, transfer fairs and internships. Second focus is leadership, create opportunities to develop leadership skills, creating and sustaining an inclusive HSI college environment. Third goal is in wellness, attend to Latinx and low-income students social and emotional learning needs through wellness programming and peer support programs that enable persistence. She thanked the people that were key in making this happen; Wilma Dulin, Matthew Loeser, Julie Swedin, Keith Reyes, Dr. Sheila Delquadri and instruction council who provided feedback on the grant. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

President Kaminski – provided the board with the new legislative brochure with requests for the supplemental budget. YVC is not one of the capital projects this go around. Dr. Kaminski discussed the NW Pastel Society Member Show that runs until October 21st. Dr. Kaminski met with David Lynx Director of the Larson Gallery and a representative of the American Alliance of Museums to discuss accreditation for the Larson Gallery. Dr. Kaminski discussed the La Chola Conference, a three day program with over 250 attendees that was 'sold out', the event kind of fell through the cracks a bit, normally an event of this size on the weekend would have come to her attention early on, as she started looking at it there were some hidden costs that weren't being covered so she has to intervene to make sure that the costs were all covered. Great event, done in collaboration with our students, corrected all the mistakes, staff overtime for security, custodian, technology costs taken care of. Dr. Kaminski indicated she got two very nice thank you emails from Mark Fuzie and Maria Cuevas for her assistance. Dr. Kaminski mentioned that she is on the operating budget committee for the WACTC presidents. Coming up is another re-vamp of our SAI performance measures which impact funding. Dr. Rich will also be sitting on the SAI committee. Dr. Kaminski discussed the weighted points for CCR and how changes could impact YVC. Dr. Kaminski shared updated FTE information. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

6. **Classified Staff** – Sarah Frazier, WPEA Representative, she said there isn't much going on right now because it is fall quarter and everyone is getting settled. Still waiting on a finalized contract, there is an LMCC meeting schedule for the week of October 25th and getting ready to schedule a membership meeting. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.
7. **Professional Staff** – *No Report*
8. **Faculty** – Libby McRae, Vice President for WED Division Faculty for AFT-Y union, she introduced herself. She indicated that there is a written report submitted by Rachel and she wanted to highlight a few items. For bargaining have agreed to move to mediation and believe this is a positive forward step. The La Chola conference is a huge positive for our community, recognized the large group of faculty, community members, and staff including technology services, diversity series and student government that helped organize this event. Very excited about this important event. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.



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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 9, 2023.

J. Executive Session - No additional executive sessions were called.

K. Action Items - N/A

L. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.