



Yakima Campus

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MINUTES

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

September 14, 2023 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

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

Others Present

YVC Staff & Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, read the names of the new employees however there were no new employees present.

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 Arteaga moved to that the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 5, 2023 and Regular Meeting of June 8, 2023 be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee McClure and passed unanimously.

E. Action Items:

1. Adoption of Changes to Board Policy 4.25 Tuition Waiver

Dr. Teresa Rich stated that a review of Board Policy 4.25 and RCW 28B.15.558 Waiver of tuition and fees for state employees and educational employees, identified the need to update Board Policy 4.25 to align with the RCW. An update of Board Policy 4.25 Tuition Waiver was presented at the Board Retreat held on August 14, 2023, that recommended removal and modification of language to ensure alignment with RCW 28B.15.558.

MOTION 23-09-01: Trustee McClure moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the changes to Board Policy 4.25a Tuition Waiver as presented in the Board Retreat held August 14, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Approval of the 2023-24 Operating Budget

Dr. Teresa Rich stated that the proposed operating budget was presented at the June 8, 2023, study session. The proposed budget remains the same as presented.

MOTION 23-09-02: Trustee Arteaga moved that the Board of Trustees adopt a motion to approve the 2023-24 Operating Budget presented on June 8, 2023. The motion was seconded by Trustee Cate. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Communications: There were no communications.

G. Reports

1. **Board of Trustees.** Chair Ortega took some time to thank Cus Arteaga for leading the Board last year and getting us through the ups and downs and thanked him for doing a great job. Cus shared that he enjoyed acting as Chair, he likes everything that is happening at this college and he thanked the staff and faculty. Chair Ortega discussed the small changes to the order of the agenda, so the Board can talk about the things they need to. Other Board have meetings that are half days or full days and she stated that allows the Boards to get to know the staff and faculty better and perhaps that is something that can be looked at in the future. Our main purpose is to ensure that our students graduate from YVC with pride and excellence so they are sought after by employers. She stated that she would like to hear about what the students are excelling in and what programs are doing to support students. Chair Ortega shared that she is a board member for the Association of College Trustees (ACT) she also shared that the Board of Trustees for the State of Washington are appointed to their college board by the Governor and the Board's only employee is Dr. Kaminski. Chair Ortega stated that the Board is fortunate to have such a qualified President. Association of College Trustees is made up of all 34 community and technical colleges and they are always talking about the praises of YVC, YVC higher in enrollment and very stable financially. One missions is that if the college closes, we could operate for a full year, other colleges are not so fortunate, other colleges living pay check to pay check, we are fortunate that we have qualified people who are keeping the college solvent. Chair Ortega also indicated that she is requesting reports for the Board from everybody that is presenting. She said that in the short time that we have here, we listen to what you present but we don't have time to digest it. She said if the Board had it ahead of time the Board could study it ahead of time to study it. She said she doesn't take copious notes because she wants to hear what is being said but she does want a report so she can read it and digest it.

2. **Students:** No Report this month

3. **President**

Community Relations Report – Dustin Wundelich discussed the launch of the new homepage for the college. He indicated that a few goals of the project were, to keep the interests of prospective students in mind, going to the college's homepage is a critical first impression of the college. Also it features more student voices to represent the diversity of our campus community and to put a focus on the story of who we are and what are values are. Dustin presented a brief walk through of the new homepage. A copy of the written report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

Human Resource Activity Report – Written report only. A copy of the written report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

4. **Vice President for Administrative Services** – Dr. Teresa Rich said that working in higher ed is fabulous, across the nation there are resources that we can call on. She discussed the Registry which is made up of retired subject matter experts and that YVC contracted with the Registry for a Chief Human Resource Officer to help stabilize the office after the implementation of ctcLink. Dr. Rich introduced Shenethia Manuel, a retired Human Resource professional who received the title Vice Chancellor Emerita from Missouri University of Sciences and Technology. Shenethia said that this is a gorgeous institution, she is happy to be here and working with the HR staff and meeting with directors and deans the next few weeks to get to know people here. She said her life is of service and she is happy to serve here. Dr. Rich also gave an update on 1.6 million dollar minor work project to remodel the tech complex. Dr. Rich discussed an upcoming French Market and Wine Release Party on September 22nd. Trustee McClure inquired about the latest update on ctcLink. Dr. Rich indicated that she received an updated report on

Monday, it wasn't included but she will provide it later. Dr. Rich indicated that this was the first report where financial aid although they still have challenges they are figuring it out. Dr. Rich introduced Angie Foster, Director of Innovation and ctcLink support. She is the one who prepares the reports on ctcLink. Angie shared that things are working out, we are learning, she said we are finally passed the it's new phase and on to how can I make it better. She said we are using our resources and going out to other colleges and asking how they are doing things. Angie talked about the progress in Campus Solutions, Communications Module, Finance learned from year end close and will use that information to improve things for next year, HR pillars still have issues but payrolls are getting balanced to within under a dollar, entering employees into the system. A copy of the written report is filed with these minutes in the president's office.

- 5. Vice President for Instruction and Student Services** – Dr. Jennifer Ernst said it is a pleasure to welcome everyone back to a new academic year. She indicated that the agenda for this year is to be a more student friendly college. Dr. Ernst discussed some of the preparations for the year, the express enrollment efforts resulting in another year of growth. She indicated that number of students served have more than doubled. She thanked all the staff and faculty who helped make these events so successful. Dr. Ernst discussed the continuing partnership with the WPEA to extend and enhance professional development opportunities. She thanked Sybil Miller for re-organizing the professional development team and discussed the employee appreciation BBQs in August. Dr. Ernst discussed tenure as the greatest professional development opportunity for faculty. She recognized the new tenure-track probationary faculty members for the 23-24; Mike Follansbee, English; Anna Pascoe, Math; Amanda Gall, Biology; Tony Schmidt, Communications; Renee DiMeo, Nursing; E'Raina Hatch, Nursing; Joanna Fischer, Vet Tech; and Teana Robbins, Criminal Justice. Dr. Ernst shared that the NSF approved our NEST grant for \$830,000 with \$600,000 going directly to student scholarships. Dr. Ernst recognize and thank Pedro Navarrette for stepping into the roll Interim Dean of the Grandview campus, she said with heavy heart that he will be leaving us for an Associate Vice Presidency at Wenatchee Valley College. She wished him all the best in his new role. Also Dr. Ernst shared that Dean Marc Coomer will be retiring effective January 5th. Trustee Arteaga also thanked Pedro for his leadership. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the President's office.

President Kaminski – Shared that there was a wonderful start to the year at convocation. Dr. Kaminski talked about the employee recognitions, remembrances for employees lost and the paver ceremony for Jeannette Petty. Dr. Kaminski also shared a report on those who worked all summer long so that we could be ready for students on Monday. The president discussed the enrollment numbers, we were up over last year, that doesn't mean we are up over our pre-covid numbers but it's improving. She said the BAS FTE for Fall 2023 is 140, we have 10 international students, seven returning and three new international students. Dr. Kaminski thanked Dr. Ernst and all those involved that made convocation such a success. President Kaminski shared that YVC was invited to present on our Agriculture Programs at a YCDA legislative event. Dr. Kaminski stated that Holly Ferguson, Agriculture Instructor, did a phenomenal presentation on YVC's Agricultural programs. Dr. Kaminski got an email from the WA State Tree Fruit Association who want to host a convention on the Grandview Campus and tour our winery on October 5th. Dr. Kaminski shared that we had a dental hygiene accreditation and we got a phenomenal report and we don't have another review until 2030. A copy of the report is filed with these minutes in the President's office.

- 6. Classified Staff** – No Report
- 7. Professional Staff** – No Report

8. **Faculty** – Ms. Rachel Dorn, AFT-Y Yakima President, said at the start of the year hoping that things start out well and have a fresh spin on last year. Faculty returned Monday for convocation, had three busy days of meetings, workshops and activities. Ms. Dorn said they appreciated the thank yous for summer work that folks did and also appreciated the hybrid attendance options. She welcomed Ms. Manuel from the Registry. Rachel mentioned that she appreciated the approval of the request to plant flowers in Jeannette Petty’s name. Rachel shared that faculty are getting ready for their classes including new full-time faculty, one hired on Monday and one ongoing. Rachel indicated she was concerned about three recent vacancies. Ms. Dorn discussed the unions general member meeting and a recent letter that was delivered to Dr. Kaminski asking that she direct the bargaining team to bargain in good faith. She stated that they have bargained all summer, faculty are working outside a contract. Hoping that progress could be made over the summer. Ms. Dorn stated there are concerns about the 6 week gap between meetings, lack of professionalism and less engagement in the issues and based on that members voted and authorize action up to a strike if the bargaining process does not improve. She said the bargaining teams goal is to have in place as soon as possible, an equitable CBA that will allow them to focus energies on students. Ms. Dorn said they want to make it clear that they feel frustration that they are not being listened to. She said what they have seen in the bargaining is a lack of professionalism in the room and its been difficult to have a functional conversation. She said we’ve done it before, we didn’t agree on everything, but were able to engage and discuss the issues. She listed some examples... ctcLink leave is calculated in hours not days, needs to be in the next CBA; union has an obligation to represent members and can’t give that right away; and CBA needs to include the state authorized COLA. Need to see those things taken seriously. Ms. Dorn asked that the YVC Board and President direct the negotiation team to speak respectfully to the whole bargaining team, to come prepared and demonstrate understanding of the issues. Ms. Dorn said they want to invite the Board to join a bargaining session to get a picture of the dynamics that are leading to frustrations. Ms. Dorn said that for years faculty have asked for transparency in college policies, procedures and decision making on issues that impact them. She stated that her understanding was that this month Dr. Kaminski’s contract was due for renewal and normally renewed at this meeting. Said she doesn’t know if that means Dr. Kaminski is working without a contract like faculty are; or if the renewal occurs at a different time; or if it was voted on in a private meeting. She told the Board she doesn’t know if they would tell her the answer but that is the transparency they are looking for. A copy of the report and the letter are filed with these minutes in the President’s Office.

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, October 12, 2023.

J. Executive Session – No executive session was called.

K. Action Items – N/A

L. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

BERTHA ORTEGA
Bertha Ortega, Chair

LINDA KAMINSKI
Attest: Linda Kaminski, Secretary