

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2003
5:00 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA

Board Members In Attendance

Ms. Elizabeth Hancock, Chair
Mr. Jess del Bosque
Dr. Barbara Andersen (via telephone)
Mr. Tom Moser
Mr. Mel Takehara

I. Call to Order

The Chair, Ms. Elizabeth Hancock, called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

II. Declaration of a Quorum

The Chair recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. Executive Session

The Chair announced that the Board would convene into Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of applicants for public employment.

**CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 5:10 PM
RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION AT 5:50 PM**

IV. Open Session

The Chair reviewed the presidential search process. She stated that Board members reviewed all of the videotapes of the presidential forums and read all of the forum responses. The Chair stated that there were very clear results from this process: a) Two candidates were clearly favored, Mr. George Smith and Dr. Gary Tollefson; b) Advisory Committee recommendations showed very strong support for Dr. Tollefson; c) Forum responses also showed very strong support for Dr. Tollefson; d) The site visit to Yakima Valley Community College was overwhelmingly positive. She thanked all who participated in the forums and provided their written insights to the Board. The Chair also thanked the members of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee for their dedication to the project and their thoroughness in reviewing the candidates.

It was moved by Mr. Jess del Bosque and seconded by Mr. Mel Takehara to hire Dr. Gary Tollefson, at an annual salary of \$145,000, as President of Skagit Valley College.

Mr. Takehara thanked the college and the community for the hard work put forth during the application process and for the input provided on each of the candidates. He commended Mr. Smith for the job he has done at redirecting the college and stated that he has brought back a strong sense of connection with the community.

Mr. Moser recognized the efforts of the community and the advisory committee during the presidential selection process. He also recognized the expertise and support of Dr. Robert Barringer of Gold Hill Associates for his work with the Board and the advisory committee.

Mr. Moser stated that he supports Dr. Tollefson as the next president and he believes that Dr. Tollefson will be a fine president and gave him his complete support. He stated that in selecting Dr. Tollefson the Board has selected between two candidates who are capable of leading SVC into the future. Mr. Moser said that the Board is united in their belief that Dr. Tollefson will bring vision, integrity, leadership and enthusiasm to SVC.

Mr. Moser stated that he has been impressed with Mr. Smith during his tenure as SVC's interim president. He stated that Mr. Smith has brought the community and the college together and has been an agent of healing within SVC. Mr. Moser said that Mr. Smith has done everything the Board asked him to do as interim president, and more. He stated that the Board is grateful for Mr. Smith's valuable contribution to SVC during his tenure.

Mr. Moser recognized the commitment and industrious work of the Chair, Mrs. Hancock. He stated that Mrs. Hancock deserved special recognition for her work and leadership during the presidential selection process.

Mr. del Bosque stated that the presidential salary was offered at \$145,000 to maintain a salary level in the state system. He stated that the last two presidential hires in the system were brought in at \$155,000 and \$158,000.

The Board then voted on the motion to hire Dr. Tollefson: Dr. Barbara Andersen, yea; Mr. Jess del Bosque, yea; Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock, yea; Mr. Tom Moser, abstained, but stated that he agreed with the salary level; Mr. Mel Takehara, yea.

MOTION PASSED

The Chair stated that the selection of the president was a difficult decision. She stated that Mr. Moser's abstention reflects the Board's appreciation for Mr. Smith's efforts as interim president. The Chair said that Mr. Moser's statement of support for the hiring of Dr. Tollefson, represents the full the Boards' support of Dr. Tollefson. She stated that the Board is excited about Dr. Tollefson's coming tenure and hopes that the college and community will give him full support.

There being no other items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Elizabeth Hancock, Chair

George Smith, Interim President
Executive Secretary to the Board
Lisa Radeleff, Secretary to the President