MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2002
5:30 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA  98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. Jess del Bosque, Chair
Ms. Elizabeth Hancock
Dr. Barbara Andersen
Mr. Tom Moser
Mr. Mel Takehara
Dr. Lydia Ledesma-Reese, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:
Ms. Lisa Radeleff, Administrative Assistant/Executive Secretary to the President

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair, Mr. Jess del Bosque, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:

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

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 10, 2001 Board meeting were approved as presented.

The minutes of the December 21, 2001 Board special meeting were approved as presented.

The minutes of the January 7, 2002 Board special meeting were approved as presented.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Public Comment

The Chair stated that three people had asked to speak during Public Comment.
Ms. Dorothea Tencante stated that she signed up for classes upon her retirement in 1993. She spoke of the importance of SVC to her and to the community. She stated that she feels the College is at a stalemate and as it continues it will create more problems.

The Chair thanked Ms. Tencante for her comments.

Mr. Josef Kunzler, a student at SVC, thanked faculty for their work. He stated that he believes in the College.

The Chair thanked Mr. Kunzler for his comments.

Dr. David Muga, a faculty member at SVC, stated that he wanted to say a few words as an individual faculty member. He stated that he was unhappy with the process to date in the matter of the vote of no confidence. Dr. Muga said that SVCFT collected information from diverse faculty. He stated that SVCFT worked diligently, consistently, and with an open-mind. Dr. Muga said that SVCFT generated a lot of information from the grass roots and presented this to the Board of Trustees. He said that the faculty were told, in public, that their findings were without merit. Dr. Muga stated the faculty received a letter from the Board of Trustees Chair that said little except that faculty’s communication has given the Board more explanation into the current situation. Dr. Muga asked how this movement occurred, that the Board now recognizes the information from SVCFT. He stated that he wanted the Board to let everyone know where they are in this process. Dr. Muga said he is asking for clarification on the situation. He said that the silence of the Board frustrates faculty, and he hopes this will be addressed very soon.

The Chair thanked Dr. Muga for his comments.

V. RECOGNITION OF NEWLY TENURED FACULTY:

Dr. Ledesma-Reese introduced Mr. Abel Gage, Math Instructor, who was awarded tenure at the December 10, 2001 Board meeting. The Chair congratulated Mr. Gage on behalf of the Trustees.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese introduced Dr. Diane Johnson, Music Instructor, who was awarded tenure at the December 10, 2001 Board meeting. The Chair congratulated Dr. Johnson on behalf of the Trustees.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. Correspondence

Dr. Ledesma-Reese distributed the following items to the Trustees:
• Annual Public Disclosure Statement;
• Minutes of the December 19, 2001 Skagit Regional Public Facilities District Meeting;
• January 2, 2002, email update on Governor Locke’s 2002 Supplemental Budget Proposals;

Dr. Ledesma-Reese reported that she will be attending the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project Legislative Seminar February 7-9. She stated that Governor Locke and Senator Maria Cantwell will be presenting at the seminar.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese requested that Mr. Dick Geier, Vice President of Administrative Services, update the Trustees on the latest faculty salary information from the State Board.

Mr. Geier stated that SVC has risen to almost the middle of statewide faculty salaries—just $1400 short of the average salary. He said that SVC has the third highest starting salary, which means that over time our average salary will go up. Mr. Geier stated that SVC is third from the bottom for highest salaries. He said that we still have a way to go to get faculty salaries up to the median, however, we are making progress.

Dr. Barbara Andersen stated that she, Dr. Ledesma-Reese, and Mr. Geier made four presentations regarding faculty salaries last year, and they worked very hard on this issue.

Dr. Andersen asked a question regarding the 2000-2001 audit summary that was sent to the Trustees. She said that she noted that there was an issue that was communicated to the College’s management.

Mr. Geier said the issue was the point of sale system instituted in the bookstore that uses a barcode system for sales and inventory. He said that the bookstore has had trouble with the inventory system and the auditor pointed out this area. Mr. Geier said that part of the problem is that the vendor has not been forthcoming in training on this system. Mr. Geier said that there had been problems with balancing the computer inventory and the physical inventory as often as auditor would like. He said that the bookstore has hired a full time accountant to resolve this issue.

2. Naming of Facilities

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that she had received requests for the naming of facilities at both the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island Campuses. She then stated that Mr. Alan Muia and Dr. Mick Donahue would speak about the processes and procedures used at the Mount Vernon and Whidbey Island campuses.
respectively. She said that each campus is given the opportunity to bring names forward for facilities and that she assumed more than one name for each facility would be forwarded to the committees, however, only one name for each facility was forwarded.

Mr. Muia and Dr. Donahue then reviewed the process and procedures used for the recommendations for naming facilities on each campus.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that the recommended names will be brought forward as action items at the February Board meeting.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese said that each campus conducts the naming process a little differently but stays within the guidelines. She asked the Trustees for clarification on a past discussion about a two name minimum recommendation, however, no action was taken to have this as a requirement.

Following discussion, it was agreed to change the naming of facilities guidelines to reflect a final recommendation of a minimum of two names, if possible, for a final decision by the Board of Trustees.

VII. COLLEGE ASSOCIATION REPORTS

1. SVCFT Report – Ms. Trish Barnes

Ms. Barnes read the following report:

“The SVCFT report tonight has three parts:

Part One: Business as usual; The second seminar in the Jill Fugate Seminar Series will be Wednesday, January 16, on the Whidbey campus. Candace Lower will give a presentation entitled "Along the Old Silk Road: Three Weeks in Central Asia." We encourage you to join us for this presentation.

Monday, January 21, is Lobby Day for WFT and WEA. Faculty will be making appointments to talk to the legislators from our districts.

Part Two: Response to Mr. Geier's report on salaries
The numbers presented by Mr. Geier are based on a new calculation scheme from the State Board. The "progress" that these numbers seem to reflect is largely an artifact of this new computation, rather than a significant increase or any extra money added to faculty salaries.

Part Three: Regarding our on-going dialogue about the no confidence vote:
On January 8, I forwarded to all faculty the letter you sent to SVCFT, in which you stated that the Board of Trustees "appreciates the time and effort that past and
present SVCFT officers have given to the Board” in providing additional insights into faculty concerns and reasons behind the vote of no confidence.

We do appreciate the letter. However, we are disappointed that one or two of you were not able to join us for our SVCFT meeting today. One forum for continuing dialogue with faculty is the SVCFT meetings. We again invite two of you to join us at our next meeting, February 11, at 3:30. We will be happy to put you on the agenda so that you can talk to and hear from faculty.

In your letter, you said that you are working on the issues connected to the vote of no confidence and hope to have further information by February 1. Without specific, substantive information, as Dr. Muga has stated, faculty continue to feel frustration. We ask what specifically we might expect by February 1: information in e-mail, a meeting, a public statement?

We also ask for your involvement in the hiring of the new vice president of finance. As you know, we are facing many difficult decisions regarding budget. Given the vote of no confidence, we ask that the Board of Trustees take a very active role in the selection of the vice president of finance.”

2. WPEA Report – Mr. Geoff MacCombe

Mr. MacCombe reported that negotiations had gone very smoothly. He stated that the contract will be sent to main office in Olympia, and that the classified staff will hold the ratification vote in the near future.

Mr. MacCombe reported that a recent issue had arisen, but that WPEA was using their process and he believes the issue will be able to be addressed.

3. ASSVC Report

Mr. Muia stated that the new ASSVC President will attend the February Board meeting. He reported that the only issue that he knows will be addressed this quarter by ASSVC is smoking on campuses.

VIII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT:

Dr. Andersen read the following resolution in support of campus equity week and adjunct and part-time faculty in higher education:
“RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4 (SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE) RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CAMPUS EQUITY WEEK AND ADJUNCT AND PART-TIME FACULTY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

A resolution in support of Campus Equity Week and in support of Adjunct and Part-time Faculty in Higher Education

Whereas, over 40 percent of all faculty in U.S. higher education, and over 60 percent at community colleges, are part-time and non-tenure track according to the U.S. Department of Education, and

Whereas, part-time and non-tenure track faculty receive fewer benefits, less employment security, less opportunities for professional development, and are compensated at a rate that is less than that paid to their tenured colleagues, and

Whereas, the welfare and professionalism of all faculty depend upon their being accorded respect and dignity, and

Whereas, the reliance on part-time and non-tenured faculty is not the most desirable, and

Whereas, Campus Equity Week, October 28 through November 3, 2001, will entail a series of locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally organized events in communities throughout the United States and Canada to call attention to the academy's increasing personnel crisis;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that, the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees join with the Skagit Valley College Federation of Teachers, the American Federation of Teachers, the Washington Federation of Teachers, and other professional and labor organizations to endorse U.S.-Canada Campus Equity Week, and

Be It Further Resolved that the Skagit Valley College Board of Trustees will continue to work for equity of pay, benefits, and working conditions for all employees of Skagit Valley College.”

It was moved by Mr. Tom Moser and seconded by Mr. Mel Takehara to approve Resolution 02-01, In Support of Campus Equity Week and Adjunct and Part-Time Faculty in Higher Education.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.
IX. OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT:

Dr. Ledesma-Reese highlighted the following items during her report:

- SVC’s annual Legislative Breakfast was held on December 12. She thanked Culinary Arts for serving an excellent breakfast;
- She attended the Commission on Colleges accreditation annual conference on December 15 in Portland, Oregon;
- She has recently joined the Washington Education Foundation as a board member. She stated that there are potential scholarship opportunities for students in community colleges through this organization;
- She recently met with City University President, Mr. Steve Stargardtner, to discuss the possibility of 2+2 programs in technical programs, where SVC would provide lower level courses and City University would provide the junior and senior years and the Bachelor’s degree;
- She attended the Champions of Diversity event that SVC co-sponsored with Western Washington University on January 17;
- She said that on January 24 the Whidbey Island Campus will host the Oak Harbor Chamber of Commerce After Hours event and Art Show. Ms. Hancock stated that she would attend this event;
- She stated that the Robert Burns Dinner will be held on January 26 in the Dave DuVall Pavilion;
- She reported that on January 31 she will be presenting on gender, ethnicity, and equity at a leadership conference in California;
- Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that she and the Trustees will be attending the TACTC Conference, February 3-5, and the Legislative Dinner that SVC co-hosts with Bellingham Technical and Whatcom Community Colleges will be held on February 4;
- She stated that she will be attending the Latino/a Educational Achievement Project Congressional Conference February 7-9 in Olympia;
- Dr. Ledesma-Reese reported that she has requested that two of the Trustees attend the final interviews and be actively involved in the selection of the Vice President Administrative Services.

Master Plan

Mr. Geier distributed copies of the Master Plan and the annual capital submission document to the Trustees.

Mr. Geier reported that SVC’s capital request this year is to take down the small houses and small buildings on the Mount Vernon Campus and to take that square footage and build a new science building. He stated that we urgently need a new science building and science lab, the current labs are 1950’s vintage.
Mr. Geier stated that the first meeting to vote on these projects started today, and that we hope to know by the end of this week if we made the cut. He stated that it is a very competitive process. Mr. Geier stated that a large amount of data was received from faculty on the need for these changes and has been incorporated into the capital submission packet.

X. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A. 2000-2001 Educational Services Annual Report

Ms. Susan Tinker, Vice President of Educational Services, presented the 2000-2001 annual report for Educational Services. She reviewed the accomplishments and challenges of the Educational Services area for 2000-2001.

Dr. Ledesma-Reese stated that the Board of Trustees have provided leadership for the college to achieve the goals highlighted in Ms. Tinker’s report.

B. 2000-2001 Student Services and Student Success Annual Report

Ms. Linda Fossen, Vice President of Student Services and Student Success, presented the 2000-2001 annual report for Student Services and Student Success. She reviewed the accomplishments and challenges of the Student Services and Student Success area for 2000-2001.

XI. NEXT MEETING:

Monday, February 11, 2002, 5:30 p.m. – Board Room, Mount Vernon Campus

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Chair stated that the Trustees would need to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. They would adjourn for approximately one hour.

CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:45 P.M.
RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION AT 8:45 P.M.

No action taken during executive session. The meeting reconvened into open session at 8:45 p.m. for general discussion.

The Chair stated that the Trustees would need to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. They would adjourn for approximately 30 minutes.

CONVENED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:00 P.M.
RECONVENED INTO OPEN SESSION AT 9:40 P.M.
No action was taken during executive session.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business this meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

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Jess del Bosque, Chair     Lydia Ledesma-Reese, President
Executive Secretary to the Board
Lisa Radeleff, Secretary to the President