

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2009
4:30 p.m. – Multipurpose Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. Don Piercy, Chair
Ms. Debra Lisser
Ms. Margaret Rojas
Mr. John Stephens
Dr. Gary Tollefson, President & Executive Secretary to the Board

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:

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

III. FLAG SALUTE

IV. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

Carl Young introduced Kelli Tolf who was recently hired as the Assistant Director for the Foundation.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

1. Board Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2009.

It was moved by Debra Lisser and seconded by Margaret Rojas to approve the October 13, 2009 minutes as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. ACTION ITEM:

1. Recommendation of 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 Academic Calendars

Dr. Mick Donahue reported that last spring college administration and SVCFT representatives developed the proposed academic calendars for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. The Instruction Committee reviewed and approved the proposed calendars at their recent meeting.

It was moved by John Stephens and seconded by Margaret Rojas to approve the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 academic calendars as presented.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. PROGRAM PROFILE – Open Source Materials

Dr. Mick Donahue stated that the Washington State Student Completion Initiative is a partnership between the Washington State Community and Technical College System and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. One part of this initiative is online course access and success. The goal for the project is to redesign 80 high enrollment, gatekeeper and pre-college courses for online and blended delivery to improve course completion rates, lower textbook, time, and travel costs for students, and increase content sharing across colleges. This redesign will be accomplished using open source materials that will reduce textbook costs for students. He reported that the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) has conducted two town hall style meetings for faculty feedback on the project.

Mick then introduced Dr. Brad Smith, Division Chair for Sciences and Mathematics and instructor for Geology and the Physical Sciences, and Sally Dixon, currently Department Chair and instructor for Business Management (BMT). She spent many years as an instructor for Computer Information Systems (CIS). Brad and Sally provided a presentation that shared SVC's current activities in regards to open source materials.

Brad shared a PowerPoint presentation on the student completion initiative and course redesign. He also distributed a recent article from *Scientific American News* entitled "Open-Source Textbooks a Mixed Bag in California," by Brendan Borrell.

Brad stated the group Faculty of Washington Community and Technical Colleges (FACTC) is concerned that the list distributed by the SBCTC of current open source texts is sadly lacking in math/sciences. For example there are no open sources for the earth sciences and there are only two for physics and they are high school level.

Other issues from FACTC are:

- Online science lab courses – no hands-on with lab technology
- Are underprepared, low-income, first generation students best group for exclusively online instruction?
- Is state-wide sharing of content an invitation to plagiarism and cheating?
- Online support services – not adequate now, and this initiative proposes a big expansion of online delivery.
- Too few resources and short timetable for a quality result.
- Very little to no faculty input in developing this initiative.

FACTC's ideas for other approaches:

- Locally produced, low cost texts
- Licensed software with various editions of older, used (lower cost) text (e.g., MyMathLab in developmental math)
- Working with publishers: text rental, online texts, custom texts

Sally then reviewed her online experience in BMT. Last year Sally found Flat World Knowledge, a publisher of free and open college textbooks. This year she adopted Exploring Business by Karen Collins, an open source textbook from Flat World Knowledge that is free for students. Authors are not paid a royalty per book but on the value added, for example students can download each chapter for \$1.99, or for \$40 they can download the entire book to their MP3 player, however so far this year her students have only been using the book online. They are able to take notes online in the book.

Sally said that as of this time Flat World Knowledge is the only open source publisher where she has found great instruction materials. The majority of their current books are business texts. She said that she and her students have been happy using it this fall.

Mick stated that Brad and Sally's presentations give an idea of where some of our faculty are on this issue. He believes this movement will grow and improve. There are some great resources available, but the balance is that some things work well and others do not. He said that Sally may navigate better in this area than other faculty because of her background in CIS.

Discussion followed the presentation.

VIII. COLLEGE REPORTS

1. ASSVC

Tyler Murphy reported the following:

- New representatives have been elected through an online voting process, this was the first time using an online method and it was successful;
- At the last district meeting they approved assisting in the purchase of one grand and two upright pianos. Also purchased a new microwave for the cafeteria;
- Looking forward to a fun and productive year with the newly elected representatives;
- Working on a student survey on expectations of student government, he plans on it being sent out next week.

2. SVCFT

No report.

3. WPEA

No report.

4. Administrative Services

Mary Alice Grobins reported the following:

- The State Auditors are wrapping up their visit; results will be provided to us by the end of the year;
- SBCTC staff will conduct our annual operations review December 8-10;
- Distributed and reviewed the October 2009 budget report.

5. Instruction & Student Services

Mick reported that a H1N1 vaccine clinic will be held on November 12 at the Mount Vernon Campus for all students age 24 and under.

Mick introduced Gail Bruce, Director of Counseling. Gail provided a presentation on SVC's participation as one of four colleges that are piloting AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) in higher education. AVID is a system that provides a learning methodology for students so that they will be better able to succeed in a rigorous curriculum and increase their rate of transfer to four-year colleges.

Until this pilot project AVID has only been used in K-12. When the opportunity arose for Skagit Valley College to join it was a natural fit as all of the K-12 schools in Skagit County are AVID schools. This pilot project allows us to reinforce the things many of our new students had learned prior to college. As our development of AVID matures, we see additional opportunities to use the same strategies and skills to benefit all of our students and to assist them toward the successful completion of their higher education goals.

Gail reported that SVC was awarded a \$94,000 grant from SPARK and this allowed 12 of our faculty to attend AVID training this past summer.

Dr. Brad Smith, one of the instructors who attended the training provided a presentation on infusing the AVID methodology into the sciences and mathematics.

Deborah Van Etta, instructor in Nursing also attended the training and presented information on how they have integrated AVID strategies into the Nursing program.

Gail concluded the presentation by stating that AVID strategies create a community in the classroom—people who are working toward and achieving

common goals. At this point there is only anecdotal information which has been very positive and noting improvement.

The Chair requested that Gail come back to the Board in six to 12 months and provide an update.

6. College & Community

Carl Young talked about importance of communication and the SVC “brand” in the community—the quality programs that take place. He highlighted the recent front page feature article in the Skagit Valley Herald on the Life Transitions program and the recent article in the Whidbey Examiner on Jim Bricker’s establishment of the military community fund. The article seems to have solidified fund raising, more contributions are being forwarded.

Continuing to work on building our capacity for communication to the community, Arden Ainley is now focusing more on interactions with the press and public in our district. She will also increase her outreach to college employees to solicit suggestions for compelling student stories, class activities or events. James Walters will take a lead role in coordinating the college website, publications, and electronic marketing.

The college is running a message on KUOW—a thank you to the four year universities for their contributions to Champions of Diversity.

Doug Scott, local professional photographer, will take photographs later this week of the new Angst Hall. This is a photo project that is being done in cooperation with architects Schreiber Starling & Lane and Yost Grube Hall Architecture—they will be paying for the architecture shots for their portfolios and then SVC will acquire some of the photos for our use in marketing.

Foundation – Kelli Tolf coming on board has made a positive impact in the work for the Foundation. A reminder that the annual December event will occur on the 16th. The Foundation is working on the annual appeal campaign and, with Don Piercy’s assistance, working on completing the annual report.

7. President

Dr. Tollefson stated that a copy of his recent activities has been distributed to the Trustees and highlighted the following events:

- November 3 met with Western Washington University’s Vice President of University Relations, Steve Swan and Sherry Burkey, Director of Government Relations. WWU is interested in developing a Northwest Washington higher education collaboration for area issues such as legislative aspirations, math initiatives with area high schools and other regional issues;

- November 13, there will be a retirement farewell for Angelica Hernandez. Angelica has been an important voice and connection with our Hispanic/Latino community;
- Champions of Diversity will be held December 1 at McIntyre Hall.

Due to the fact that the ACCT Legislative Conference is scheduled to occur the same date as the February 2010 regular Board meeting, the February meeting date will need to be rescheduled. The March regular Board meeting date will also need to be rescheduled due to vacation schedules.

It was moved by John Stephens and seconded by Margaret Rojas to change the date of the March 2010 Board of Trustees' meeting to March 16 from March 9.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was moved by Debra Lisser and seconded by Margaret Rojas to change the date of the February Board of Trustees' meeting to February 16 from February 9.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Tollefson reported that yesterday he was contacted by Justice Tom Chambers of the Washington Supreme Court confirming that the Court will be able to visit SVC February 22-23, 2010. The college has invited the Supreme Court to meet in session at SVC as part of their program to create a higher profile and provide opportunities for more community interaction with the Supreme Court. They have recently held a similar session at Peninsula. Their focus the first day will be interacting with students and classes, taking a campus tour and then we will host a reception and dinner. On the second day they will hear oral arguments on two cases, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Following oral arguments they will take questions from students, faculty, and community members.

8. TACTC

Dr. Tollefson distributed copies of the DVD "I Am Washington" a joint production between our Center of Excellence for Marine Manufacturing and Edmonds Community College. The DVD is being sent to high school counselor offices. Primary spokespersons on the DVD are students and the message is geared toward students. Debra Lisser stated that she believes the DVD would be excellent for service club presentations.

Debra thanked Mindy Coslor for the Adult Literacy week book of essays; one of our students read her essay to the Skagit County Commissioners and Senator Ranker at the recent literacy celebration.

Debra thanked college staff for hosting the State Board in October. She has heard from many people that it was a great meeting and dinner, and that they really enjoyed having an opportunity to interact with our faculty.

Debra reminded the Trustees that the TACTC Legislative Action Committee is scheduled for November 20; the Mount Vernon Campus is a host site. One of the topics will be proposed legislation for student representation on the boards of the community and technical colleges. She distributed a handout with information on the topic.

9. Board of Trustees

No report.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No requests were submitted.

X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, December 8, 2009, 4:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus – Multipurpose Room

XI. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business this meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Gordon C. Piercy, Chair

Gary Tollefson, President
Executive Secretary to the Board