MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005
3:30 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. Mel Takehara, Chair
Ms. Debra Lisser, Vice Chair
Mr. Jess del Bosque
Mr. Tom Moser
Ms. Margaret Rojas
Dr. Gary Tollefson, 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. Mel Takehara, called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m.

II. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM:
The Chair recognized that a quorum of Board members were present.

III. STUDY SESSION:
Dr. Tollefson stated that this study session was being held to provide information on the two assessment projects being conducted on higher education needs for Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties. He then introduced Mr. Ken Dahlstedt, Skagit County Commissioner; Ms. Sharon Hart, Director of the Island County Economic Development Association; and Mr. Don Wick, Director of the Economic Development Association of Skagit County, all members of the Higher Education Coordinating Board’s Snohomish, Island, Skagit’s (SIS) Community Advisory Group. Dr. Tollefson also introduced Dr. Christine Kerlin, Interim Executive Director of the North Snohomish, Island, Skagit County Higher Education Consortium (NSIS).

Dr. Kerlin explained that NSIS was established in 1999 as a consortium of eight state colleges (Eastern Washington University, Edmonds Community College, Everett Community College, Central Washington University, Skagit Valley College, Washington State University, Western Washington University, and University of Washington) offering classes via satellite and the Internet. It was heralded as the college of the future and hoped that it would bring higher education to one of the state's most underserved areas—North Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties, in a cheaper and more flexible way than building a campus.
But since classes were first offered in 2002, not a single degree has been granted. The students have mostly been from Everett Community College. Although the project receives about $1 million in state funding annually, more than half of that goes to pay rent in Everett transit station.

Management and leadership for the NSIS Consortium was assigned to Everett Community College through Washington State Legislature’s House Bill 1794, which was signed into law May 4, 2005 by Governor Gregoire. HB 1794 outlines future directions for baccalaureate and graduate degree options in Washington and includes a measure that speaks directly to the status of the existing North Snohomish, Island and Skagit Counties Higher Education Consortium (NSIS). The bill assigns the management and leadership responsibility for consortium operations to Everett Community College. Dr. Kerlin was appointed as the Interim Executive Director.

HB 1794 directs Everett Community College to collaborate with community and business leaders, other local community colleges, public four-year institutions and the Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB) to develop an education plan for the NSIS based on the university center model. Preliminary recommendations must be submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2005.

Dr. Kerlin explained that the 2005-2007 state capital budget directs the Higher Education Coordinating Board to evaluate higher education and workforce training needs in Snohomish, Island, and Skagit counties and recommend solutions to the legislature and governor. The board is charged with delivering an interim report of preliminary findings by January 15, 2006, and a final report by December 1, 2006.

Specifically, the law as enacted calls for the board to do the following:

- Assess the higher education needs in Snohomish, Island and Skagit counties
- Recommend the type of institution or institutions to be created or expanded to address those needs
- Assess potential sites for an institution
- Identify costs and a process for completing a master plan for higher education expansion in the study area.

The budget directs the board to form a 13-member local advisory committee, including six state legislators, the Snohomish County executive, and two business or education leaders from each of the three counties.

Dr. Kerlin listed the NSIS’s goals of the university center concept— getting education out into the region:

- Begin now as a university center concept—ask for funding;
• Propose a range of programs: business, education, nursing, some technology, interdisciplinary, communication areas, and social work;

• Prove the concept ties in with the SIS project—this could potentially influence the SIS outcome.

Discussion followed Dr. Kerlin’s presentation.

Dr. Tollefson thanked everyone for their participation and said he would be happy to facilitate any questions or pass on information.

IV. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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Mel Takehara, Chair   Gary Tollefson, President
Executive Secretary to the Board
Lisa Radeleff, Secretary to the President