MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 4
SKAGIT VALLEY COLLEGE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2004
4:30 p.m. – Board Room
2405 E. College Way
Mount Vernon, WA  98273

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Mr. Mel Takehara, Vice Chair
Mr. Jess del Bosque
Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock
Mrs. Debra Lisser
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 Vice Chair, Mr. Mel Takehara, called the meeting to order at 5:00 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:

Ms. Ainley, Director of Public Information, introduced Ms. Sarah Nownan,
ASSVC Whidbey Island Campus – Vice President.

V. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Board Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2004

The consent agenda item was approved as presented.
VI. COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:

1. Higher Education Access for Latino/a Students

Dr. Tollefson introduced and welcomed Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, state director for GEAR UP and the founder of the Latino Educational Achievement Project (LEAP).

Mr. Sanchez stated that he is currently working for the Higher Education Coordinating Board as the director of the GEAR UP program. He reported that GEAR UP is a federally funded program, formed during the Clinton administration, to help low-income and disadvantaged youth prepare for and complete higher education. Mr. Sanchez stated that he was motivated to establish LEAP because Latino/a students consistently scored the lowest on state assessment tests. He stated the Latino population continues to grow at a rapid rate and that alternatives like GEAR UP are needed to help Latino/a students through high school and into higher education.

Mr. Sanchez reported that House Bill 1079 was passed in May of 2003 and that LEAP was at the forefront of this effort. He stated that House Bill 1079 enables undocumented students who have lived in the state of Washington for three years or more to be considered “residents” for the purpose of paying tuition fees at Washington colleges and universities, however, it does not change a student’s legal immigration status. Mr. Sanchez reported that House Bill 2708 was passed this year and it will provide conditional loans with payback by teaching in Washington schools with priority given to bi-lingual students.

Mr. Sanchez reported that the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is being considered in the United States Congress. He stated that if it is approved by Congress and signed by the President, the DREAM Act would permit undocumented students to live, work, attend college legally, and could lead to permanent legal residency and citizenship. Mr. Sanchez stated he would like a resolution from the SVC Board of Trustees and the Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges supporting the passage of the DREAM Act.

Dr. Tollefson stated that Skagit Valley College is a LEAP member and wants to be a part of solving the issue of low test scores for Latino/a students. He asked Mr. Sanchez what is the next step for this issue. Mr. Sanchez replied that the goal is to get more Latino/a students into higher education. Discussion followed.
Dr. Tollefson thanked Mr. Sanchez for presenting and stated that it was a good introduction to the higher education access issues of Latino/a students. The Vice Chair also thanked Mr. Sanchez for his presentation.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM:

1. Introduction of Zhou Wei, Beijing Foreign Studies University Exchange Faculty

Ms. Susan Tinker, Vice President – Educational Services, introduced Ms. Zhou Wei, the exchange faculty member from Beijing Foreign Studies University for the 2004-05 academic year.

Dr. Tollefson and the Trustees welcomed Ms. Zhou Wei to SVC.

VII. COLLEGE REPORTS:

1. ASSVC

Ms. Stith reported that election of officers has been completed and there will be a meeting this Friday to get the committees started. She stated that she will soon be distributing a district wide survey to gather information on student likes and dislikes.

2. SVCFT

Ms. Barnes stated that in this welcome back talk to the college, Dr Tollefson discussed the financial crises in education both nationally and in Washington State and suggested ways to respond. She said that he also stated that he has given Mr. Klewer, Vice President – Administrative Services, the charge to develop, with the entire college community, an open budget process. Ms. Barnes reported that Dr. Tollefson stated that the budget process needs to be transparent and the budget information open to and understandable by all college employees. She stated that the faculty appreciate Dr. Tollefson’s commitment to an open budget process and they look forward to working with the college community, including the Trustees, on budget processes.

Ms. Barnes reported that faculty are also looking forward to working toward the goal of deepening the experience as a learning college here at SVC, an idea that Dr. Tollefson also introduced in his welcome back speech. She stated that in order for us to explore what it means to be a learning college, there will be discussion on the ideas in the book *Democracy Matters: Winning the Fight Against Imperialism* by Cornel West. Ms. Barnes reported that copies of the book are available in the library and also in the college bookstore. She stated
that all employees are encouraged to read the book and to participate in discussion groups later in the quarter. Ms. Barnes said that SVCFT strongly and enthusiastically supports these discussions and hopes that the Trustees too will read the book and participate.

Ms. Barnes reported that this year’s members of SVCFT’s Executive Council will be taking turns presenting the monthly report. She stated that this is one way in which the faculty and trustees can get to know each other better. Ms. Barnes stated that another way to get to know each other is through SVCFT meetings. She stated that SVCFT meetings are held on the same day as the Board meetings and that SVCFT hopes that the Trustees will be able to come to some of the meetings, as they did a few years ago, to discuss how all can work together.

3. WPEA

Ms. Batchelor reported that the WPEA master contract was ratified by members on September 25. She stated that costs associated with the contract will be included in the Governor’s budget. Ms. Batchelor stated that the contract includes Cost of Living Allowances—3.2% the first year and 1.6% the second year as well as pay upgrades for classifications more than 25% below the private sector in 2002. She reported that SVC positions which will be impacted include: maintenance mechanics, security and Head Start/ECEAP. Ms. Batchelor said that the contract will also include an additional personal holiday during the life of the agreement.

Ms. Batchelor reported that the next Labor/Management meeting will occur on October 13. She said that agenda items will include several health and safety issues such as chemical sensitivities, and power outages as well as summer work schedule, classification conversion and telecommuting policy. Ms. Batchelor reported that the first Labor/Management meeting for Head Start/ECEAP non-supervisors is tentatively scheduled for October 21.

Ms. Batchelor reported that she and Mr. Larry Cook will meet with Dr. Tollefson on October 14. She stated that there is no set agenda but they plan to meet regularly to touch base on common interests.

Ms. Batchelor reported that the fall quarter chapter meeting was held on October 8. She stated that after a poll of members eligible to retire in 2005, a majority of members voted against participation in the Voluntary Employee Benefit Account (VEBA) for 2005.

Ms. Batchelor stated that each and every student in each and every classroom is there, in part, because of the hard work of Admissions and Registration staff. She said staff members welcome students either in person, by phone or email, register them for classes, answer questions about how to register on-line and
maintain wait lists, notifying students of openings in a timely manner. Ms. Batchelor said that the Admissions and Registration offices are often the first point of contract for students entering SVC and that staff in those areas are to be commended for doing an excellent job.

4. Administrative Services

Mr. Klewer distributed and reviewed the September budget report. He stated that the book *Democracy Matters* is available in the bookstore.

5. Educational Services

Ms. Tinker stated that SVC and La Conner High School are in the first year of working together on a grant received to improve low student test scores among the Native American population.

Ms. Tinker reported that the Early Childhood Center is now open and is working in conjunction with Head Start.

Ms. Tinker reported that a Manufacturing Trade Summit will be held on October 22.

6. Student Services

Ms. Woiwod reported that SVC is third in the state in regards to the numbers of students enrolled under House Bill 1079.

Ms. Woiwod stated that discussion has begun regarding the Campus Center remodel.

Ms. Woiwod reported that Student Services staff are looking at ways they can assist in promoting the success of math students.

7. Whidbey Island Campus

Dr. Donahue reported that trustees, Mrs. Elizabeth Hancock and Mrs. Debra Lisser took a tour of the Whidbey Island Campus including Marine Tech earlier today. Mrs. Hancock and Mrs. Lisser both thanked Dr. Donahue for the tour and said they enjoyed their visit.

Dr. Donahue distributed and reviewed a handout on the Whidbey Island Campus offerings of on-line/hybrid classes.
Dr. Donahue reported that both the city library district vote and the bond vote failed during the September election. He stated that the City of Oak Harbor is now reviewing their strategy as to the future of the library.

Dr. Donahue stated that he, Mr. Klewer and others will soon do a walk through of Building 12 and its two acre parcel. He said that if the college is interested in acquiring Building 12, a letter of interest will need to be sent to the NAS Whidbey Commanding Officer. Dr. Donahue reported that a new Commanding Officer has just arrived at the base and that he will arrange a meeting with him in the near future.

Dr. Donahue reported that the child care center that the Whidbey Island Campus contracts with probably soon end. He stated that it is open to SVC employee and students as well as to the community at large. Dr. Donahue stated that at this time there are only eight children of SVC students attending the child care center.

8. President

Dr. Tollefson stated that a list of his activities for the past month has been distributed to the Trustees.

Dr. Tollefson thanked the Trustees for attending the Hall of Fame Induction Banquet on October 5. He stated that it was an excellent event that was very meaningful to the inductees and their families as well as to all who attended.

Dr. Tollefson stated that on October 15 the college will be hosting the President and four administrators from Beijing Foreign Studies University and that the Advisory Committee Dinner is scheduled for October 19.

Dr. Tollefson distributed correspondence regarding the Head Start grant, and correspondence from the State Board regarding the Center of Excellence award for Marine Manufacturing and Technology, the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training Demonstration Project, the Northwest Regional Nursing Family Expansion, and information on an $11,694 increase in the Perkins grant for fiscal year 2005.

Dr. Tollefson also distributed a Head Start program update prepared by Interim Head Start Director Joan Youngquist.

9. Board of Trustees

Mrs. Hancock reviewed the information of the TACTC Legislative Steering Committee’s recommendations for the 2005 Legislative Session. The six issues recommended are:
• 2005-07 Operating Budget: Access, ABE/ESL Enhanced Funding, Job Skills Program, Compensation and Facilities
• 2005-07 Capital Budget: $470 million request
• Interest Earnings on the Tuition Building Fee Account
• Building fees for Technical Colleges
• Student Progress Policy
• Presidential Compensation

Mrs. Hancock stated that the next meeting of the TACTC Legislative Steering/Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for November 5 at Renton Technical College. She said that she will attend as the legislative representative and asked if another trustee could attend as the representative to the Board of Directors. Mr. Takehara stated that he may be able to attend if Mr. Moser is not available.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT:

No requests for Public Comment were submitted.

IX. NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, November 9, 2004, 4:00 p.m., Mount Vernon Campus – Annex Conference Room

X. ADJOURNMENT:

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

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