



2000 Tower Street – Everett – Washington – 98201-1390

Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees of Everett Community College held a regular meeting on January 18, 2022 virtually via zoom

Board Chair Toraya Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

### **Executive Session**

At 5:03 p.m., Board Chair Toraya Miller thanked everyone for coming and shared the Board will convene into an Executive Session to discuss personnel items. She shared the regular meeting will reconvene at 6:03 and action will be taken during the regular meeting. The regular meeting reconvened at 6:03.

### **Briefing by the President**

Acting President Joseph Whalen thanked the board for the opportunity to give a briefing at the first regular meeting of 2022. Students had just started the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of instruction for the winter quarter. Also, a big thank you was given to the board for all the work they are doing to serve our students and the future of the college. He shared they will hear from members of our leadership team who will share student success that focuses on the CARES Act, IBEST, and Student Employee Profile.

### **Roll call**

Present for the meeting were Trustees, Toraya Miller, Bob Bolerjack, Jerry Martin, Dr. Betty Cobbs and Kelly Shepherd. Also present were Acting President Joseph Whalen, Executive Assistant to the President Rita Belvill, Assistant Attorney General Leanne Foster, staff, administrators, and community members

### **Reports from the Board**

Trustee Dr. Betty Cobbs reminded the board about the ACT winter conference.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **MOTION 01-01-2022**

Trustee Bob Bolerjack moved for approval of the minutes from the November 30, 2021 Regular Meeting, December 6, 2021 Special Meeting, and December 14, 2021 Special Meeting as presented. Trustee Jerry Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Action Items**

#### **A. Review and take action on Interim President**

Trustee Bob Bolerjack gave background information for the search for the Interim President. After Dr. Willis left, Joseph Whalen has been the Acting President. There were 32 applicants, and 3 finalists were interviewed by the trustees. One finalist, Dr. Darrell Cain has equity at the center of everything and shared he will help to move EvCC forward with the Strategic Plan and Guided Pathways. He is an innovative and sharp leader. Trustee Kelly Shepherd echoed that Dr. Cain is an outstanding candidate and stood out with his personal story and inspiring perseverance. He has served in progressive roles. Trustee Betty Cobbs said he is a product of community college and it

grounded him and took him all the way to getting his PhD and he has experience in the university system. Trustee Jerry Martin Shared that Dr. Cain has a good balanced approach to the educational process. He is energetic and good fit overall. Board Chair Toraya Miller stated that Dr. Cain focused on student life, government relations, and also to grow equity in our college. He wants to fully support moving us forward.

**MOTION 02-01-2022**

Trustee Betty Cobbs moved that the Board of Trustees approve the Interim President. Trustee Jerry Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

**General Public Comments**

There were no general public comments.

**Reports to the Board**

**Exempt Union Representative**

Kelsey Lindstrom shared that Covid numbers are rising and that consideration should be given for the academic needs of students and the mental health of staff.

**Classified Union Representative**

Stephanie Doyle wanted to address morale due to vacant positions and uncertainty for management. Since January 2020 there have been vacant positions and people have worked overtime and they request updated org charts.

**Faculty Representative**

Nina Benedetti shared there is a request for more transparency and clear message. She has requested budget audit and mentioned specifics regarding house bill 5194. She shared that she had gotten Covid and there are reports from faculty that students have gotten it and are still coming to class. She stated 300 cases have been reported and 92 positive and the IRT hasn't met. She is disappointed that leadership is not involving the union.

**Faculty Senate Representative**

Mike Nevins stated consistency for the college would be good.

**Student Senate Representative**

Baydaa Alshatee shared an update about student activities and current focus areas.

**Student Success**

**A. CARES Act**

Laurie Franklin, Interim VP for Student Service shared the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law in March 2020. It provided federal funding to support people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. That funding was largely exhausted by the end of 2020. In December 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) was passed by Congress and signed into law to extend that support.

Both CARES and CRRSAA provided federal funds specifically designated for higher education, disbursed through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

Students must demonstrate a financial need based on the loss of income due to COVID and must be currently enrolled at EvCC. Between Spring 2020 and Fall 2021, over 6000 students have applied for this funding. Over 3600 students have been awarded.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Betty Cobbs said it was a great way to spend the financial resources.

**B. IBEST**

Katie Jensen, Dean of Transitional Studies shared an overview summarizing the history and current status of IBEST programming at EvCC. The presentation included comparative data showing the significant impact of IBEST on student success rates for nontraditional and pre-college students. Katie stated every year that the program has expanded, FTE has grown.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Bob Bolerjack said this was awesome and congratulations with all you do with breaking down barriers. The data and numbers are representative of lives that are impacted.

**C. Student Employee Profile**

Erica Dias, Executive Director of Facilities & Operations introduced Muhammad “Mak”-Ali Khdair. She highlighted all that he does as a student and staff person at EvCC. She shared with the board that students who engage with EvCC in ways other than academics such as being a staff members, helps prepare them for the workplace. This aligns with the strategic plan – reinforcing a sense of belonging, even outside of the classroom.

**Board Comments**

Trustee Toraya Miller said she loved seeing this presentation which is highlighting students. Trustee Betty Cobbs wished the student good luck.

**Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by Board Chair Toraya Miller at 7:09 p.m.

*Toraya Miller*

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Toraya Miller, Chair  
Board of Trustees

*Joseph Whalen III*

Joseph Whalen III (Mar 21, 2022 16:56 PDT)

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Joseph Whalen, Secretary  
Board of Trustees