



## **Yakima Campus**

S. 16th Avenue & Nob Hill Boulevard, PO Box 22520, Yakima, WA 98907-2520

P: 509.574.6800 • [www.yvcc.edu](http://www.yvcc.edu)

### **MINUTES**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING/STUDY SESSION**

#### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE**

November 9, 2023 3:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D

1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

Chair Bertha Ortega called the study session to order at 3:30 p.m. Trustees present were Chair Ortega, Vice Chair Patrick Baldoz, Trustee Cus Arteaga, Trustee Sara Cate, Trustee Neil McClure, and President Linda Kaminski.

#### **A. Clergy Report**

Mike Lane, Campus Security and Safety Supervisor discussed the clergy report for the Yakima main and Grandview campuses. The statistics were reflected by housing, Title IX, and students' sections and reflected not many changes from the year prior, except for the number of car thefts. There were five car thefts this last year on campus. Mr. Lane expressed how this can be significant statistics if parents are trying to judge if this is somewhere that they would like their student to attend college. Trustee Cus Arteaga asked Mr. Lane about trespassing concerns YVC may be having. He mentioned that on the Grandview Campus, he had seen an area where the cyclone fencing had been cut by the railroad trusses on the Grandview Campus. Mr. Lane stated that they were aware of the fence and had attempted to repair the damage or discussed putting a gate in that area. He expressed that both Yakima and Grandview are open campuses, so unless an individual does something harmful like property damage or harassment it is hard to tell them that they cannot be on campus. He shared with the board that there had been a gentleman recently by the Deccio building that they had to have the Yakima Police Department escort off of campus. Mr. Lane reported that he was happy to of received permission from Dr. Kaminski to relax the paid parking on the Yakima Campus. This allows for the students to park for free in the lots closer to campus and the instructional buildings, which in turn helps keep them safer; especially at night now that it is getting dark sooner. Also, security has had the opportunity to add an additional security officer to the Yakima Campus to help increase the safety of the students as well as staff. Trustee Baldoz referenced the shootings around the country and asked Mr. Lane if the YVC protection plan was in place. Mr. Lane shared with the board that he and his security team are not armed, but that they maintain a healthy relationship with the Yakima Police Department. The YPD has been to campus to discuss an active shooter plan; they train to: RUN, HIDE, and FIGHT. The college campus is an open campus therefore exposed and the threat is very real, but the plan is to keep everyone safe. Mr. Lane also explained that there is a system on campus referred to as RAVE that will allow security to alert everyone if an incident were to occur, but that it is always hard to stay in front of social media. It takes the Yakima Police Department about six to eight minutes to arrive on campus, and in that amount of time something very dangerous could happen, the plan is for everyone to take care of themselves. Chair Ortega questioned if security helps escort students out to their cars. Mr. Lane said "Yes" There is a security after-hours line that connects to a cellphone that allows anyone to get an escort to their vehicle if they are willing to wait for a security officer to arrive.

#### **B. State of Technology**

Brady Mugleston, Director of Technology Services presented the state of technology to the board including the mission, equipment report, and proposal. Mr. Mugleston presented a proposal for a strategic plan to update the

technology for the college. The proposal is to include updates to the software, hardware, and network. The network controls technology processes such as instruction (phones, email, messages), admissions (outreach, applications, and student orientation), communication (phones, email, etc.), facility operations (HVAC, Electrical, Emergency Services), and security (door access, cameras, alarms, cyber security). The mission is to begin replacing the network system and components while the network that we are working on is still up and running, so as not to have any downtime for the college; many of the processes and hardware will be able to be updated or replaced during nights, weekends, or college breaks. His team has been amazing in keeping the college up and running from the equipment that they have had to work with, but some of it is 11-18 years old, and in the Deccio building we are not able to purchase replacement equipment, so that is resulting in closing that classroom. Summary of the proposal for new software, hardware, network, inflation, and installation is \$3,851,442.00. Dr. Kaminski asked Mr. Mugleston that when colleges are replacing equipment if they purchase together at the same time if there is a discount? Mr. Mugleston shared that the college has an A5 license, and they are negotiating prices with other colleges on state contracts, software discounts, and higher education discounts. Mr. Mugleston's plan is to come back to the board in January to ask for permission to proceed with this three-year project that helps the college prepare for technology today and tomorrow. Trustee Baldoz asked Brady if there was a replacement fund in the budget for new technology. Mr. Mugleston let him know that there is a portion of tuition allocated for technology funds, but that most of that money currently goes towards salaries. Technology has been able to receive some technology funds from the UDEAL Grant and pockets of money from the Vice Presidents occasionally. Chair Ortega asked Mr. Mugleston if there were provisions to protect the college in the event of a hack. Mr. Mugleston assured Chair Ortega that the technology team is preparing, monitoring, and defending against a hacker attack daily. Some of our fellow community colleges have already seen an attack, and the new multi-authenticator system that the college started this past summer is supposed to be a good line of defense against hackers according to a conference Mr. Mugleston attending in Portland by the FBI. Mr. Mugleston thanked the executive team here at YVC for being so supportive of the new MFA system and attending the cyber security awareness training this past summer. A copy of the presentation and handouts are filed with the minutes in the President's Office.

The study session adjourned at 4:26 pm.



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**MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
YAKIMA VALLEY COLLEGE**

November 9, 2023 4:30 p.m.

West Campus Conference Center 038-122, Meeting Room D  
1704 W. Nob Hill Blvd, Yakima WA

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

**A. Roll Call and Introduction of Guests and New Employees**

Board of Trustees Present

Bertha Ortega, Chair  
Patrick Baldoz, Vice Chair  
Dr. Sara Cate, Trustee  
Neil McClure, Trustee  
Cus Arteaga, Trustee

Others Present

YVC Students, Staff and Faculty

Introduction of Guests and New Employees, Alma Ramirez, Interim Executive Director HR, introduced Janet Engle, Program Coordinator; and Meghan Gilbert, Data Analyst.

**B. Proposed Changes to the Agenda:** Vice Chair Baldoz mentioned that he had another appointment this evening at 6:00 pm and would need to be excused at 5:40 pm, Chair Ortega said he would be excused if he needed to leave the meeting before it was adjourned.

**C. Call to the Public-** No one present expressed the desire to address the board.

**D. Approval of Minutes:** Trustee McClure moved that the minutes from the previous regular Meeting of October 12, 2023, be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Trustee, Cate, there was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**E. Action Items:**

**1) Exceptional Faculty Awards-Fall 2023**

Dr. Ernst stated that under the Washington State Legislature, RCW 28B.50.835 authorized an exceptional faculty award program; and RCW 28B.50.843, the college negotiated a MOU with the faculty union regarding the process for determining local awards from the Exceptional Faculty Awards funds invested by the YVC foundation. The faculty union executive board and the college have agreed on a Faculty Development Committee, that is composed of one Arts & Sciences faculty member, one Workforce Education faculty member, one College and Career Readiness faculty member, one faculty Counselor, and one librarian. The committee proposed five faculty proposals for fall 2023 for the board's approval.

The Exceptional Faculty Award Committee recommendations are to:

- \*Emeka Udenze, Physical Science in the amount of \$1,500.00
- \*Jamie Treat, College, and Career Readiness in the amount of \$1,500.00
- \*Monika Lemmon, Arts, and Humanities in the amount of \$1,500.00
- \*Sarah Panarello, Life Sciences in the amount of \$1,500.00
- \*Tanya Knickerbocker, Physical Science in the amount of \$1,300.00

Totaling: \$5,800.00 to be awarded this fall \$4,200.00 will carry to Winter 2024 for full-time faculty and \$5,000.00 will carry to Winter 2024 for part-time faculty.

**Motion 23-11-01:** Trustee Cate moved that the Board of Trustees approve the exceptional faculty fall awards decided upon by the Faculty Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee McClure, there was no discussion the motion passed unanimously.

## 2) Use of S& A Project Reserve Funds to refurbish the HUB

Ray Funk stated that the Hopf Union Building (HUB) needs major updates. During the ASYC Senate meeting, students voted to approve the use of Student Project Reserve funds to complete these updates. Laura Yolo originally proposed the HUB Refurbishment project to the board on October 12, 2023. RCW 28B.15.045 shows that the Revenues from the Services and Activities Fee, are appropriate funding sources for student union spaces. The recommendation is to approve an amount not to exceed \$650,000.00 from the Student Project Reserve to complete the HUB refurbishment and purchase of replacement furnishings and technology, in accordance with Article 10 in the ASYVC Financial Code.

**Motion 23-11-02:** Trustee Baldoz approves the S & A Project reserves to be used to refurbish and update the HUB. The motion was seconded by Trustee Arteaga. There was a discussion with Mr. Funk about how neat it will be for this year's students to be able to utilize the newly refurbished HUB this spring if the construction timeline goes as expected; the motion passed unanimously.

## F. Communications: NA

## G. Reports:

### 1. Board of Trustees:

Chair Ortega discussed that there is a Fall Conference next week in Seattle, the Association of College Trustees, on November 16<sup>th</sup> and & 17<sup>th</sup> that is worth attending. Trustee Baldoz confirmed that he would be attending the conference.

2. **Students:** Yadira Chavez, Yakima Student President, spoke and gave a written report to the board sharing all of the student activities that occurred in the month of October, including the La Chola Conference that was held at the YVC Conference Center. Trustee McClure asked how the Conference went. Chavez shared that the speakers were really inspiring and reported on "gangs" and how you can always get out and that nothing is impossible. At the La Chola Event, there was a dance, and even though it was raining a car show. Also, Chavez shared that there was a Halloween Club Fest event on October 30<sup>th</sup> on both campuses to try and help students be involved in college during their time of enrollment. Chair Ortega asked if they had a costume contest and if they received candy. Stacy Wahl spoke and shared that they had to go to each club to learn about the different clubs and received a letter to unscramble a festive phrase such as, "Pumpkin Patch" If they put the letters together correctly they received a full-sized candy bar. They are happy to report there are 18 clubs on campus more than pre-covid. The Students are excited about an event coming up in the month of November on the 21<sup>st</sup> to get the students together and celebrate prior to Thanksgiving break.

3. **Community Relations Report:** Dustin Wunderlich, shared that on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, the new Fall 2023 Edition of the YVC Voice was going to be released, which includes an in-depth look at YVC's Radiology Program and how it has positively impacted the Yakima's Radiology Community. There are several highlights in his written report that he shared with the board including, the new art programs returning

to the Grandview Campus and The American Buffalo Film and Yakama Speaker Panel that will be being held in the YVC Conference Center on Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Meeting Room C. Trustee Cate asked if the documentary is virtual, and Dustin reported that there is a full documentary on The American Buffalo on the PBS website online, but that there will be speakers present on campus from the Yakama Nation, including Emily Washines, to discuss this documentary further sponsored by the Diversity Faculty Staff.

4. **Human Resource Activity Report:** Written Report supplied to the board.
5. **Vice President for Administrative Services:** Written Report by Dr. Rich, not present for today's meeting; that included a Minor Project update and CTC Link Statistics update, as well as a fiscal report.
6. **Vice President of Instruction and Student Services:** Dr. Ernst deferred her time to Oscar Verduzco to discuss financial aid changes and updates.

Mr. Verduzco, the Director of Financial Aid, shared with the board the changes that will be made to the FAFSA for the 2024-2025 school year, that will affect students next fall. The IRS and the FAFSA website will be linked directly, allowing the family size and income to come directly from the IRS website. This may be an obstacle for some students. Especially families that have parents who may be undocumented. Mr. Verduzco shared that there are about 250-350 families that have undocumented status, and for the families that cannot supply an electronic signature for FAFSA applications the financial aid office currently lets them provide a written signature that they can add them electronically this currently is accurate for about 150 signatures, the written signatures will no longer be an option next year. He shared the pros and cons with the board about the new process and changes. Emergency Financial Assistance will no longer be considered as part of the student's financial aid awards. Students who are considered dependents may have up to 3 applications if they have parents who live in a split household, each application will have to have its own unique account. Chair Ortega asked Mr. Verduzco if there is an age limit for a dependent, and he shared that if they are seen as a dependent by the IRS on taxes then they will require both parent's tax information to apply for financial aid. Parents with no social security numbers or mismatch of marital status on FAFSA vs. Tax Filing Status could prompt manual entry which would be a likelihood of being selected for verification. Trustee McClure agrees that this could be a hindrance to the parents of students being hesitant to enter fake or accurate social security numbers into the system. Also, the number of students in college in one household is no longer considered a factor for students' eligibility for receiving financial aid. The question, as to whether or not the student living on campus, off campus, or with parents is no longer a part of establishing the cost of attendance for the student, will result in creating a new process. All of these factors will increase work for the financial aid office to come up with new formulas to try and help accomplish receiving financial federal aid for the students attending Yakima Valley College. The new FAFSA application is a simpler application for students, but with less information to work from the approach will need to be revised. Chair Ortega asked if the students could get emancipated in order to receive financial aid. Mr. Verduzco replied that yes that could help, but can be a lengthy legal process. Chair Ortega inquired if the college with make provisions for scholarships for students with undocumented parents who may no longer be able to receive financial aid. Dr. Kaminski shared that the scholarships go through the YVC foundation, and it does include students with undocumented family members. Trustee McClure asked if the social security numbers are invalid or will not go through if people could file with a TIN (Tax ID Number), and Mr. Verduzco confirmed that they could. Mr. Verduzco referred to the written portion of his report which shows the projected changes to Pell Grant distribution which are estimated at a national level. Dr. Kaminski questioned if this new regulation was a

done deal, and Mr. Verduzco confirmed that yes, this new process had been passed through Congress. Chair Ortega asked when this new FAFSA would be in place and Mr. Verduzco stated that it would affect students in the Fall of 2024'. Trustee McClure stated that YVC is a Hispanic-serving institution and hoped that similar institutions were represented in Washington DC. Dr. Kaminski conferred that they should address this at their state meeting. Mr. Verduzco shared that this is a concern for many people, with lots of changes and challenges throughout the PeopleSoft system that this could result in a negative impact for students. Dr. Kaminski asked if other colleges across Eastern Washington were also concerned with the impact on their students. Have we reached out to our colleagues to see how they are feeling? We need to look for resources and institutional funding. We will be in Washington DC in February and it would be beneficial to have sound bites to share. Chair Ortega agreed and wondered if this was known to a lot of people. Mr. Verduzco stated that Congress was focused on the positive instead of the negative impacts for students. Currently, the college has lost three productive months on getting students set up for financial aid due to the newest FAFSA application not being released for students to complete yet. In previous years it was released on October 1<sup>st</sup>, which allowed more time to work with the local High Schools to set up financial aid application events. Chair Ortega asked if this bill was just passed recently. Mr. Verduzco stated that the bill was passed in 2021-2022, but isn't going to take effect until year 2024-2025. Dr. Kaminski repeated that she would like some sound bites to take with her to Washington DC to light a fire or shine a bright light on the new FAFSA process. Chair Ortega shared that the ACCT is not represented at a federal level. Trustee McClure agreed that they should bring the senators up to speed on what was happening with the federal financial aid. Dr. Kaminski asked Mr. Verduzco if Choi was his contact at the state level, or if not if he could please provide her with the name of the appropriate person for her to contact. Mr. Verduzco agreed to get the name to Dr. Kaminski and shared that this will take additional time and effort to help students fill out financial aid they may need to hire additional personnel to do so. Chair Ortega asked if the students who apply for scholarships are required to fill out a FAFSA application. Mr. Verduzco answered that not always but some scholarship applications do want to see that the student has attempted to receive federal financial funds first prior to scholarships. The board thanked Mr. Verduzco for all of the information. He shared that once the FAFSA simplification is online the college plans to offer events on both the Yakima and Grandview campuses in January, February, and March, as well as continue to work with the local high schools to help with the new process.

### **Student Services Report-Leslie Blackaby Humanities report-written report**

Dr. Ernst shared that there Yakima Symphony Chorus and Orchestra performance at the Capitol Theatre on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 called Holiday Pops that the YVC Choir will get to perform with, thank you to Steven Slusher. Also, there is a new full-time Art faculty in Grandview, Monika Lemmon, and she has 18 students enrolled currently in Drawing 1, happy to be able to offer Art classes on the Grandview Campus. Dr. Jennifer Ernst handed Avenue Q brochures to Jocelyn to share with the board, a drama production being put on by the YVC students, on November 9-11 and November 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. in Kendall Hall.

- 7. President's Office:** Dr. Kaminski shared an enrollment update for the fall of 2023, enrollment is up 9.8% from a year ago. There was a Center of Excellence site visit on November 6, 2023, that she and Dr. Ernst got to attend which gave Dan Ferguson glowing reviews between partnerships and colleagues. Discussed the South-Central Workforce Board Meetings. The Yakima County Development Association Board, on October 18, 2023, was at the Police station in Union Gap, where they got to see the new crime lab which was really interesting. Dr. Kaminski passed out information about the new MultiCare of Yakima Hospital that she was able to learn about via Rotary. Online Courses that she was able to attend were: NWCCU-Sea Change: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Higher ED after Supreme Court Strikes Down Affirmative Action on

October 13, 2023, and 9 Types of Shooters on Campus, October 25, 2023. Rosalinda Mendoza, a previous board member has a new business that is doing phenomenal and she is getting to do a special tasting of her new Mescal with Rotary. Rosalinda's business which she owns with her sister is getting national recognition. The Larson Gallery is having an art show from November 4<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Sara Cate has something displayed in the gallery. Also, Dr. Kaminski was very pleased to announce there was a good event that occurred today in the Parker Room with the STEM club that included five legislators and the summer research program students, it was a packed house. Lastly, she was very happy to announce that twenty-seven YVC students helped the Rotary with Operation Harvest this year which was amazing seeing students give back to the community.

**8. Classified Staff-** WPEA written report only

- 9. Faculty-** Rachel Dorn stated that it was great to see Trustee Cate in the Larson Gallery. Also, she stated that her colleagues and faculty have been working with an expired contract since June. She has been working with the bargaining committee since March or April, and feels that they are not making progress, nor is the bargaining process being respected. The contract bargaining is moving toward mediation. She asked the board to be aware that her end result is better working conditions for her and her colleagues. The faculty are here for their students and teaching. She also made the board aware of grievances that have been filed and concerns about operations and violations. She stated that the union faculty needs to see commitment and compromise and that the expired contract that they are currently working under is not to be violated. She wants the board to have a conversation with the bargaining team to work towards a resolution and wants her friends to get back to work.

## **H. Call to The Public**

- 1. Dan Shapiro, Mathematics Instructor:** Expressed that he was feeling frustrated with the faculty contract. Mr. Shapiro stated that he was not happy to be speaking to the board tonight, but was simply in respect for fair negotiations, and that he had found out information about Tony, the labor lawyer for negotiations. He stated that in 2008-2009' Tony was the lead negotiator in Lynnwood, WA and that negotiation took two and half years for the contract to be complete. He stated that the Lynnwood President said that it took too long and also had to go through an outside mediator. They had to deal with an outside attorney for the union to settle an unfair labor complaint. The Union President in Lynnwood felt that they were being stonewalled and that Tony was brought in to, break the union, per Mr. Shapiro. Mr. Shapiro stated that the board has the authority to fire Tony and suggested they do so. Then, Mr. Shapiro addressed Dr. Kaminski and referred to her as Linda. He reminisced about how she used to enter the lunchroom in the HUB and have lunch with the faculty and it was under pleasant conditions, now it is not and he is unsure how they ended up in this situation. He shared that Dr. Kaminski has accomplished great things at this college and for this community, but that the conflict of these negotiations is not how she wants to be remembered.
- 2. Mary DeWitt:** Signed up but did not wish to speak.
- 3. Edith Segundo-Quintana:** Signed up but did not wish to speak.
- 4. Guadalupe Huitron-Lily, Faculty Counselor:** Stated that she was upset about the way the board acknowledged the financial aid concerns earlier in the meeting. She felt that this was a good learning opportunity. This should have been more of a discussion about financial aid and not correct social security numbers. She stated that what is more concerning is that Yakima Valley College is a Hispanic-serving institution and 250-350 students are affected by undocumented status, with about 150 of the students having

to have written signatures from their parents for financial aid; the college serves 6,000 students. The portion of students that are affected by an undocumented status is small. We are not acting as a Hispanic serving institution when we offer feedback for generalized comments. She thanked the board for letting her speak as a special faculty.

- I. Date of Next Meeting-** Will be Thursday, January 11, 2024, with no public meeting for the month of December 2023.
- J. Executive Session:** There was no executive session.
- K. Adjournment:** Session Adjourned at 5:52 p.m.