

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF EDUCATION

650 College Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914

Laura Moore Cunningham Science Center, Hanigan Board Room (115A)

Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board of Education members in attendance (quorum present): Chair Ken Hart, Vice Chair Dr. Lindsay Norman, Dirk DeBoer, Stephen Crow, Roger Findley, Betty Carter, and Torie Ramirez

Staff, representatives, and guests in attendance in person or via zoom: Dr. Dana Young, Vice President Sandy Porter, Vice President Darin Bell, Vice President Travis McFetridge, Jessica Breidinger, Kilee Saldivar, Gary Gray, Suzanne Bolyard, Stephanie Oester, Adyson Bridgewater, Anne Marie Kelso, Cathy Yasuda, Bernie Weldon, Jeretta Shoemaker, Arwyn Larson, Kerby Winters, Noe Gonzalez, Tanya Crawford, Hope Spaugh, Mara Poynter, Molly Lightfield, and Steven Mitchell, Argus Observer

1. **CALL TO ORDER (Pledge of Allegiance) and WELCOME**

Chair Ken Hart led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance and a reading of the College's mission and vision statements.

2. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

a. Men's & Women's Basketball

Men's Basketball Coach Eric Holbrook expressed his gratitude to everyone for their support throughout the season and took a moment to reflect on the team's accomplishments. Each player then had the opportunity to introduce themselves, sharing their hometowns, their majors, and the reasons why they chose TVCC.

Women's Basketball Coach Riley Helmick thanked everyone for supporting the team and took a moment to reflect on the team's accomplishments. According to Coach Helmick the women's team has won the most games in the history of TVCC (21-8) and it was the fifth time a women's team made it to the NWAC championships. Also present for introductions were Assistant Coaches Jeff Young and Scott Helmick.

b. Men's & Women's Wrestling

Coach Luis Cisneros shared this was the first competitive year for the teams in Ontario, and he was pleased with what the teams accomplished. He noted that 10 athletes qualified to compete in the national tournament. Also of worthy note was that the women's team placed 3rd in the region and the men's team place 4th.

c. New Employee Introductions

The new employee introduced was Saira Ramirez, HEP Outreach and Engagement Specialist. Ramirez was a 2021 TVCC graduate and was also a part of the CAMP cohort. Ramirez has a bachelor's degree in agriculture science.

3. **WORK SESSION**

a. Tenured Faculty Recognition

Dr. Young recognized Jeretta Shoemaker, Science, and Devon Van Essen, English, for reaching tenure.

b. 2025-2030 Strategic Plan Update

Stephanie Oester, Strategic Plan Steering Committee Co-chair, provided a summary of the exciting work of the five workgroups which was to identify measures and targets for the strategic goal objectives. Oester reported on the great cross collaboration among college staff, faculty, and students.

Additionally, Vice President McFetridge, Vice President Porter, and Vice President Bell, who are leads under the five strategic goals, provided an overview of the objectives for each of the five goals. Each team created three overarching objectives that will help guide the work of the strategic plan for the next five years. The teams are also working to identify the metrics. It was noted that the 15 objectives were also shared during the College's Winter Town Hall on March 13.

The next step after identifying the objectives is to create measurements that will last us over the span of the strategic plan. There are 15 objectives total which amount to 3 objectives per goal.

Vice Chair Dr. Lindsay Norman inquired whether board members could attend the work group meetings, to which it was noted that they are typically attended by faculty and staff and selected students. However, on occasion the work groups have reached out to community members for specific input.

Chair Hart remarked that he was struck by the composition of the sports teams, observing that, with the exception of a few local players, the majority of students come from outside the area. However, he noted that half of the wrestling team was local. He raised the question of what attracts athletes to TVCC — what is the "secret sauce" that draws them in, and why do they choose TVCC? He pointed out that athletes make up a significant portion of the student body, and TVCC has become a destination place for athletics. This was just an observation he wanted to share.

4. **AGENDA REVIEW/CHANGES**

There were no changes to the agenda.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Betty Carter. The motion carried unanimously.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public.

6. **COLLEGE BUSINESS**

a. 2025-26 Tuition Increase (2nd reading/action)

Vice President Darin Bell shared the proposed changes in tuition and fees for the 2025-26 budget. The proposal is to increase tuition by \$3.00 per credit (2.6% increase), noting there is no proposal to increase the universal fee or student activity fee. Vice President Bell also shared how other Oregon community colleges are proposing an increase ranging from \$2 to \$7. Additionally, Idaho's HB 79 passed which would allow Idaho junior colleges to increase their tuition up to 10%. Moreover, the University of Oregon is looking at an increase of 3% while Oregon State University is looking at a 4.6% increase.

Vice President Bell reiterated that the \$3 per credit increase will generate approximately \$120k in revenue for the 2025-26 budget. Furthermore, Vice President Bell stated an increase would not make or break the budget, the College is following the philosophy to propose smaller \$3.00 per credit incremental increases in tuition over the next few years. Furthermore, the ASG leadership is in support of the smaller incremental increases.

Board member Torie Ramirez inquired if there were schools who aren't increasing tuition to which at this time, according to Vice President Bell, three schools haven't reported yet what they will be doing. However, the remaining 13 community colleges are proposing some increase.

Dr. Norman asked about the difference between fees and course fees. According to Vice President Bell, the universal fees are charged to every student who takes a course. Course fees are specific to certain programs such as nursing, for example.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the \$3 per credit increase and the motion was seconded by Betty Carter.

Discussion – Board member Dirk DeBoer proposed a \$1 per credit increase because there are more students enrolled and he felt the College is in a good position. Board member Roger Findley stated he agreed with DeBoer noting he could not support a \$3 per credit increase. Findley's reasons were 1) in December the College's Institutional Researcher presentation showed that the number one reason students drop out of school is due to financial reasons; 2) our audit report shows we had an increase in accounts receivables for tuition and fees, and the allowance for our uncollected debt went up approximately \$300k; 3) the financial report shows an ending fund balance for June 30, 2024, as being the largest fund balance to date; and 4) we need to be aware of what it costs to attend TVCC in comparison to what our competitors are charging. Board member Findley stated he also believes the College is in a good financial position. He expressed his concern that we will lose students if we continue to increase our tuition. He also noted one of TVCC's strategic plan goals is focused on the nontraditional student and these students might not have the same ability financially to attend school.

Motion: Roger Findley moved to amend the motion to a \$1 per credit increase and the motion was seconded by Dirk DeBoer.

Discussion - Board member DeBoer noted how CWI's welding program is full from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. while TVCC's is not; noting we can either focus on increasing wages or focus on increasing the number of students. Board member Ramirez also noted Vice President Bell's comment that the \$120k generated by the \$3 per credit increase will not make or break the College.

Vice President Bell reiterated the philosophy to increase tuition by small increments rather than a year with a large increase. Economically we may be doing good right now but we won't know what will happen next month or next year. Board member Carter reiterated that the small incremental increases have always been agreed upon by the student body and they have agreed again this year that it is cost-effective for them. Dr. Young also reminded the Board of the five-year projection budget model that notes the \$3 per credit tuition increase to keep us above the \$1.25m ending fund balance in year five. If a \$1 per credit tuition increase is proposed now then there is the possibility we might be looking at a \$5 increase next year.

Board member Findley highlighted that this is a legislative year, and in recent years, the state has allocated more funding to us. TVCC is experiencing enrollment growth and is securing a larger share of the CCSF funding pie. We can offset some of the \$120k deficit through an enrollment increase. Board member Findley believes it's a good opportunity to raise tuition by \$1 this year.

The administration was asked if a decision was required to be made tonight. Chair Hart also commented on the importance of making the right decision which might take delaying action another month.

Board member Roger Findley withdrew his motion. Board member Dirk DeBoer withdrew his second to the motion.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to go ahead with the \$3 per credit increase in tuition. Chair Hart asked for a roll call vote which resulted in the following: Torie Ramirez - no, Dirk DeBoer – no, Betty Carter – aye, Stephen Crow – aye, Roger Findley – no, Lindsay Norman – no, and Ken Hart – no. The motion failed.

Motion: Torie Ramirez moved to postpone any action until the April board meeting, and the motion was seconded by Dirk DeBoer. Ramirez urged the Board to do their research so they are comfortable with a decision. The roll call vote resulted in the following: Torie Ramirez - aye, Dirk DeBoer – aye, Betty Carter – aye, Stephen Crow – no, Roger Findley – aye, Lindsay Norman – aye, and Ken Hart – aye. The motion carried.

b. 2025-26 Course Fees Increase (1st reading)

The Board was provided with a list of course fees that were either new or that have been amended. Vice President Bell reported he worked with Vice President Porter to determine the course fees based on an analysis of the expenses incurred by programs while taking in real time costs. It was noted that departments are mindful when making these decisions and really do a good job keeping fees as reasonable as possible to be able to cover costs.

c. Board Policies (1st reading)

Each of the board policies have been reviewed by the Board Policy Committee. The policies are being brought as a first reading. Dr. Young shared that there was one addition to the policies that was not in the board packet. The addition was current board policy FEF Construction Contracts – Bidding and Awards which would be rescinded when BP 6340 Bids & Contracts is approved. The policies for a first reading were:

- i. BP 4020 Program, Curriculum, and Course Development (Replaces IF Curriculum Development and IM Instruction and Curriculum Evaluation)
- ii. BP 4030 Academic Freedom (Replaces IB Freedom of Expression /Academic Freedom)
- iii. BP 6500 Property Management (New)
- iv. BP 6340 Bids & Contracts (Replaces FEF Construction Contracts – Bidding and Awards)
- v. BP 7250 Administrators & AP 7250 Administrators (Replaces CCC Terms and Conditions of Employment for Administrators)

d. Surgical Technologist Program

Vice President Porter provided the Board with a recommendation to approve the Surgical Technologist AAS. Additionally, Coordinator Courtney Gilkison was recognized for her tremendous work in developing the program, with the need for skilled workers becoming increasingly evident. Also recognized for their work was Kilee Saldivar who assisted in getting the NACCEP accreditation. Director Mara Poynter shared they are excited about the next steps for the program and where it will lead.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the surgical technologist program and the motion was seconded by Torie Ramirez. The roll call vote resulted in the following: Torie Ramirez - aye, Dirk DeBoer – aye, Betty Carter – aye, Stephen Crow – aye, Roger Findley – aye, Lindsay Norman – aye, and Ken Hart – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Board Minutes – February 18, 2025 Regular Meeting
- b. Financial Report

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Torie Ramirez. The roll call vote resulted in the following: Torie Ramirez - aye, Dirk DeBoer – aye, Betty Carter – aye, Stephen Crow – aye, Roger Findley – aye, Lindsay Norman – aye, and Ken Hart – aye. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **COLLEGE REPORTS & STATEMENTS**

- a. Statements from ASG/Student Programs
ASG President Adyson Bridgewater summarized her written report.

- b. Statements from Foundation
Executive Director Cathy Yasuda highlighted the grant requests that are being submitted that will help support the surgical technologist program.

In other news:

- There has been a significant increase in Foundation scholarships applications as a result of expanded efforts in marketing. Tomorrow, 45 volunteers will be reviewing and scoring the scholarships for the 2025-26 academic year.
- April 17 at 7:00 pm – Annual Donor Reception at FRCC.
- May 30 at 7:30 pm - Annual Pops Concert at FRCC.

- c. Statements from Faculty
TVEA President Arwyn Larson shared her excitement about the two faculty members receiving tenure. Some of the other highlights included:

- The Strategic Plan process has been exciting and everyone has been included in the process.
- Wrestling is alive and well. Everyone who knows Coach Cisneros says he is a respected coach. It's great we are offering wrestling for our students.
- On Monday, approximately twenty-six Adrian high school students came to participate in a science experiment. It was a great opportunity to have the students come to campus.

- d. OCCA Board Rep. Report

Board members Crow and Norman attended the OCCA Legislative Summit with Dr. Young and SBDC Director Tom Vialpando. A memorable moment was when they were introduced on the house floor by Representative Bobby Levy.

In other news, OCCA received a clean audit, SB 478 (Board Governance) will either die this week or be revised with significant amendments. If the bill dies then it will most likely come back next legislative session. OCCA is opposing this bill and has requested several amendments. An upcoming event is the All-Oregon Academic Team luncheon on April 18 at Chemeketa Eola Center in Salem. TVCC will have two students attending the luncheon and this will be the third consecutive year that one of our students has been selected to be a guest speaker at the luncheon.

e. President's Reports

i. Academic Affairs

Vice President Sandy Porter appreciated the Board's approval of the surgical technologist program. On another note, board member Crow stated CTE Dean Bernie Weldon did a great job at the OCCA Legislative Summit showcasing our aviation program. Vice President Porter shared having both Dean Bernie Weldon and Interim Dean Tanya Crawford on board is moving the College forward.

There was an inquiry about the status of the renewable energy grant. Vice President Porter stated that we are fortunate to have Coordinator Jackie Koehler on board to take charge of building the program. The program has been renamed to Advanced Energy Systems. It was noted the grant funding must all be spent by June 2026.

Other news included:

- April 4-5 Chukar Rodeo at the Malheur County Fairgrounds
- May 27 Dr. Temple Grandin will be on campus for a special presentation for students and the community.

ii. Student Services

Vice President McFetridge commended the strategic plan work groups which have been both engaging and collaborative. In regard to marketing, they are finishing phase one. The marketing committee met last Friday to develop new concepts which will be shared with the administrative team.

iii. Administrative Services

Vice President Bell shared an exciting update: by the end of next week, we should see some activity at the nursing and allied health professions center site. Progress is being made and fencing will be up. The value engineering process is underway, and we have identified a few key areas where we can reduce or delay costs. Meetings with Kirby Naglehout Construction and our architects have allowed us to walk through these value engineering components. As a result, we have a tentative value engineered reduction of \$260K.

iv. President's Report

Dr. Young shared that she has submitted a capital construction request to Senator McLane and Representative Owens, seeking assistance for the remaining balance projected for the facility.

An update on the college branding work, we are anticipating rolling things out this summer. The work has been a five-phase process, and we are currently completing phase one. In phase two, we will be reviewing some concepts. Phase three will mark the beginning of the rollouts. The College is on track for the rebranding, and in the coming months, we will be refining concepts and making some key decisions.

9. **STATEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING TVCC**

- Torie Ramirez stated the point she was making when commenting on the NCLEX scoring is how great it is that everyone is passing because she knows the instructors are working hard.
- Betty Carter invited the board members to participate in the ACCT public policy meeting.
- Stephen Crow stated it was nice to be able to attend the OCCA Legislative Summit. Our public image and ranking across the state is very positive.

- Roger Findley stated he appreciates VP Porter getting Dr. Temple Grandin to come to TVCC. He encouraged everyone to attend the event to hear Dr. Grandin.
- Lindsay Norman thanked the College for the opportunity to attend the OCCA Legislative Summit.
- Ken Hart stated he appreciated the good discussion. Although the Board may not always agree, he hopes board members will always state their views and be heard.

11. **ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETING**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m. The next meeting of the TVCC Board of Education is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



Mr. Ken Hart, Board Chairman



Dr. Dana M. Young, President