

TREASURE VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF EDUCATION
650 College Blvd., Ontario, OR 97914
Laura Moore Cunningham Science Center, Hanigan Board Room (115A)
Tuesday, April 15, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board of Education members in attendance (quorum present):

Chair Ken Hart, Vice Chair Dr. Lindsay Norman (via Zoom), Torie Ramirez, Roger Findley, Dirk DeBoer, Stephen Crow (via Zoom) and Betty Carter

Staff, representatives, and guests in attendance in person or via zoom:

President Dana Young, Vice President Travis McFetridge, Vice President Sandy Porter, Vice President Darin Bell, Jackie Koehler, Vern Davis, and Anne Marie Kelso

The open session was called to order by Chair Ken Hart.

1. AGENDA REVIEW/CHANGES

Motion: Dirk DeBoer moved to approve the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by Betty Carter. A roll call vote showed ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, and Ken Hart. Because of technical issues there was no vote from Dr. Lindsay Norman or Stephen Crow who both joined the meeting via Zoom. The motion carried.

2. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting went into Executive Session at 5:06 p.m. under ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions.

Those present under ORS 192.660(2)(e) were:

Chair Ken Hart, Vice Chair Dr. Lindsay Norman (via Zoom), Torie Ramirez, Roger Findley, Dirk DeBoer, Stephen Crow (via Zoom) and Betty Carter

Others present were President Dana Young, Vice President Travis McFetridge, Vice President Darin Bell, Vice President Sandy Porter, Cathy Yasuda, Vern Davis, Jackie Koehler, Bernie Weldon, Steven Mitchell (Malheur Enterprise), Anne Marie Kelso, and AJ Sunseri (Argus Observer)

The discussion under ORS 192.660(2)(e) ended at 5:43 p.m. and the Executive Session resumed under ORS 192.660(2)(i) to review and evaluate the employment-related performance of the chief executive officer of any public body, a public officer, employee, or staff member who does not request an open hearing.

Those present under ORS 192.660(2)(i) were:

Chair Ken Hart, Vice Chair Dr. Lindsay Norman (via Zoom), Torie Ramirez, Roger Findley, Dirk DeBoer, Stephen Crow (via Zoom) and Betty Carter. Also present was President Dana M. Young, Steven Mitchell (Malheur Enterprise), and AJ Sunsei (Argus Observer)

3. **OPEN SESSION**

The Executive Session ended at 6:28 p.m. and the meeting went into Open Session at 6:34 p.m. Additional attendees included Arwyn Larson, Ady Bridgewater, Jeretta Shoemaker, and Hope Spaugh.

Action if any from Executive Session:

Dr. Young shared how the College has the opportunity to purchase a facility with renewable energy grant dollars from the State of Oregon. She requested a motion from the Board authorizing the purchase of the facility contingent upon zoning approval and an inspection.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the new building with the amendments for zoning approval and inspection. The motion was seconded by Torie Ramirez. Board member Findley shared his relief to know we have programs for the building. Chair Hart stated the grants funds will allow us to purchase the facility and make improvements and use some of the funds for start-up and operations. Board member Torie Ramirez stated there is an opportunity to also grow in the space and this is a good opportunity we don't want to pass up. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

a. New Employee Introductions

There were no new employees introduced this month.

b. Science Department

Instructor Jeretta Shoemaker shared the strategic goals for Science which included 1) community outreach, 2) inviting Col Cred science students to campus to experience lab space, and 3) getting the environmental science course approved. Shoemaker also updated the Board on the April 7 STEM Day where 28 students from Nyssa, Vale, and Adrian attended the event.

5. **WORK SESSION**

a. Annual Evaluations and Timeline

Chair Ken Hart reviewed the timeline with the Board, reminding everyone of the important dates.

b. 2025-26 Tuition Presentation

Vice President Darin Bell reiterated the proposed \$3 per credit tuition increase for the 2025-26 budget. In his presentation, VP Bell shared five important points and expanded on

- 1) TVCC's current and future financial position (2025-26 to 2029-30 trends for the ending fund balance, budget assumptions, one-time COVID funds, revenues and expenditures, and a conservative financial management plan, etc.),
- 2) Student Financial Considerations - The \$3 per credit increase results in an additional \$135 per year for full-time students taking 45 credits or \$15 a month (9 mos.) Noting TVCC is committed to supporting students experiencing financial challenges. Dr. Young commented that 80% of our students receive some type of aid or scholarship.
- 3) Accounts receivable and bad debt - this is something we are getting a handle on and we are back on track from the COVID era.
- 4) Deciding factors for students – some of the reasons students choose to attend a particular college are because of the institution's location, physical spaces, programs and offerings, and financial investment decisions.

- 5) The history of tuition changes at TVCC. Moreover, when comparing TVCC in-district tuition and fees with other Oregon community colleges, we are still very affordable.

Chair Hart stated he appreciated the work to bring more information to the Board as they consider the proposed tuition increase.

VP Bell reiterated the administrative team, with input from the students, are proposing a \$3 per credit tuition increase. ASG President Adyson Bridgewater shared they spoke with their team and the students believe it would be better long term to raise tuition in smaller increments than larger and to not increase by \$3 today could mean an increase of \$6 per credit next year.

Board member Findley reiterated that he could not support a \$3 increase but was open to a \$1 increase. He reviewed the arguments and data and still considered the data he presented last month valid. Referring to the July 2024 board report, he noted an 8% increase in RFTE, which would result in more state funding. He believes the institution is financially stable but expressed concern about rising accounts receivable and bad debt. He emphasized the need to provide more relief for students.

Other board members included: Vice Chair Norman stating she appreciated the discussion and found it informative, particularly in understanding how funds are allocated. What solidified her decision was the cost of programs shared by VP Porter and the introduction of new programs. Dr. Norman believes it's important to remain competitive by offering relevant programs that lead to jobs. Board member Crow stated that he believes the Board should remain with last month's motion to increase tuition by \$3 per credit.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

7. COLLEGE BUSINESS

a. 2025-26 Tuition Increase

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to increase tuition by \$3 per credit and the motion was seconded by Betty Carter. Board member Torie Rameriz shared she was torn on this decision; however, her experience serving on another school board where they didn't have the projected funding from the state or feds and they had to reduce staff and having been through that it is always a difficult decision. Chair Hart stated he was glad the Board took the time to learn more and he appreciates the work of the staff, and he would vote for the \$3 increase from hearing what we will do with the increase; noting he appreciates board member Findley's comments. The roll call indicated the following votes: Torie Ramirez -aye, Dirk DeBoer – aye, Roger Findley – no, Betty Carter – aye, Ken Hart – aye, Stephen Crow – aye, Dr. Lindsay Norman – aye. The motion passed.

b. 2025-26 Course Fees Increase

Vice President Darin Bell presented the 2nd reading of the course fees which received no changes since presented last month.

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the increase in course fees and the motion was seconded by Torie Ramirez. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

c. **Board Policies**

- i. BP 4020 Program, Curriculum and Course Development (rescind IF Curriculum Development and IM Instruction and Curriculum Evaluation)

Motion: Torie Ramirez moved to approve board policy BP 4020 Program, Curriculum, and Course Development, and to rescind board policies IF Curriculum Development and IM Instruction and Curriculum Evaluation. The motion was seconded by Betty Carter. Board member Findley recommended changing the word “education” to “educational” in the third paragraph. Torie moved to amend her motion to include the recommended revision. Betty moved to amend her second. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

- ii. BP 4030 Academic Freedom (rescind IB Freedom of Expression (Academic Freedom))

Motion: Torie Ramirez moved to approve BP 4030 Academic Freedom and rescind IB Freedom of Expression (Academic Freedom). The motion was seconded by Dirk DeBoer. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

- iii. BP 6500 Property Management (new)

Board member Findley asked to amend the policy to include the words “purchase.”

Motion: Torie Ramirez moved to approve BP 6500 Property Management with the revision. The motion was seconded by Dirk DeBoer. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

- iv. BP 6340 Bids and Contracts (rescind FEF Construction Contracts – Bidding and Awards)

Motion: Torie Rameriz moved to approve BP 6340 Bids and Contracts and rescind FEF Construction Contracts – Bidding and Awards. The motion was seconded by Betty Carter. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

- v. BP 7250 Administrators & AP 7250 Administrators (rescind CCC Terms and Conditions of Employment for Administrators)

Motion: Torie Ramirez moved to approve BP 7250 Administrators and rescind CCC Terms and Conditions of Employment for Administrators. The motion was seconded by Dirk DeBoer. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Stephen Crow and Dr. Lindsay Norman. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Board Minutes – March 13, 2025 and March 18, 2025
b. Financial Report

Motion: Stephen Crow moved to approve the consent agenda and the motion was seconded by Betty Carter. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Torie Ramirez, Dirk DeBoer, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Ken Hart, Dr. Lindsay Norman, and Stephen Crow. The motion carried unanimously.

9. COLLEGE REPORTS & STATEMENTS

a. Statements from ASG/Student Programs

ASG President Ady Bridgewater provided a summary of her written report.

b. Statements from Foundation

Executive Director Cathy Yasuda provided an update on the Donor and Scholarship Dessert Reception on April 17. The keynote will be former TVCC student Jazzy Jenkins, and two special guest speakers Rachel Simerlink and Artem Rozhko. Also, during the event, the Foundation will be announcing five new endowed scholarships and a special presentation for Volunteer of the Year.

In other news, the Foundation has been busy working on scholarship endowments and applying for grants. Additionally, the Foundation received a donation of five poplar trees by the Knott family that will be planted on campus. Executive Director Yasuda noted that all gifts, whether large or small, really make a difference.

c. Statements from Faculty

There was no report from faculty.

d. OCCA Board Rep. Report

Board member Crow reported on the April 21 and 22 scheduled testimony dates for the community college support fund (CCSF). Public testimony has been moved to April 28. Crow stated the Board should have received information on how to prepare to testify as well as the Ways and Means “call to action” template. Crow shared that as OCCA rep. he has submitted written testimony on bills that are being supported and those that are being opposed.

e. President’s Reports

i. Academic Affairs

Vice President Sandy Porter thanked the Board for their support of the tuition increase, expressing her hope that both she, as an administrator, and the Board are recognized as strong advocates for students.

ii. Student Services

Vice President Travis McFetridge provided the Board with a copy and summary of the winter and spring Q2Q report. In other updates,

- The College has kicked off its graduation gift campaign with billboards, social media ads, and mailings. The campaign offers high school graduates one free course this summer.
- We have launched a parenting student initiative, with Gayle VanWeerdhuizen working closely with four students to identify their needs, support services, gather relevant data, and develop action plans. Additionally, we are working with three other Oregon community colleges to collect this information and create action plans. Noting colleges across the nation are also participating in this initiative. This aligns with strategic plan team one’s focus on attracting non-traditional student populations. Gayle, along with Dr. Nino Kalatozi, Yumiyo Okuda, and Caroline Bell, is doing an outstanding job in advancing this important work. This initiative was a result of a senate bill requiring us to begin collecting data on parenting students.

- iii. **Administrative Services**
Board member Roger Findley referenced the VPAS report noting revenues were higher for March compared to March 2024 by over \$1.4m; noting The largest increase was due to funds received from local property taxes, followed closely by state funds. Findley asked for a breakdown between the two as to which was which. According to VP Bell the reports does show an increase of \$682k in local funds and he would have to look back at what happened last year and report back to the Board.
- iv. **President's Report**
Dr. Young attended Senator Merkley's Ontario town hall on Sunday, where he acknowledged the current uncertainty but expressed hope and determination to influence key decisions moving forward. Senator Merkley discussed ongoing efforts to address what he views as unconstitutional actions aimed at dismantling the United States Department of Education. As the ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, he emphasized his commitment to protecting students—particularly through support for Pell Grants and other essential funding.

There was also concern expressed at the town hall regarding limited access to local Social Security offices, which many found frustrating. Despite these issues, Dr. Young described the town hall as positive overall. She appreciated the Senator's responsiveness to constituents and his advocacy for funding mental and physical health services, including Medicaid.

In addition, Dr. Young had the honor of attending the Ways and Means Roadshow at Eastern Oregon University (EOU), which was very well-attended. Approximately 150 individuals signed up to provide testimony, though only 50 were able to speak. Dr. Young was among those called upon and she took the opportunity to highlight the work of TVCC, advocating for \$920 million in funding for Oregon's community colleges to support the more than 200,000 students they serve. There was a strong turnout from Malheur County, underscoring regional engagement in the process.

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

- a. Dr. Lindsay Norman reiterated her appreciation to the staff and board members for the discussion on the increase in tuition; noting that although it was a difficult decision it was rewarding to hear everyone's input.
- b. Betty Carter shared she is making African peanut butter candies during the April 22 TVCC Earth Day event.
- c. Dirk DeBoer stated tonight was a good meeting and there will be challenging times.
- d. Roger Findley shared he has heard a lot recently about the Department of Education; noting it was not formed until 1973. He shared he received his education in 1972 and turned out fine and that the department may not be necessarily needed.

11. **ADJOURN AND NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. The meeting adjourned. The next scheduled meetings are May 1, 2025 & May 20, 2025.

Mr. Ken Hart, Board Chairman

Dr. Dana M. Young, President