

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Board of Education members in attendance (quorum present):

Chair Stephen Crow, Vice Chair Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, Suzi Ireland and for part of the meeting - Ken Hart (via Zoom).

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

President Dr. Dana Young, Vice President Travis McFetridge, Vice President Darin Bell, Vice President Sandy Porter, Arwyn Larson, Marc Wilson, Jeretta Shoemaker, Rennie Neider, Hope Spaugh, Emily Christopherson, Kerby Winters, Kathleen Thayer, and Anne Marie Kelso

1. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chair Stephen Crow led the group in the reading of the College's mission and vision statements and the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. WORK SESSION

a. ASG and Student Programs Leadership

During the meeting with the Board, students shared their areas of studies and gave various reasons for attending TVCC, including closeness to home, athletics, cost, a welcoming environment, good reputation, good programs, and GED.

When asked about their experience at TVCC, students responded in various ways:

- The College was very encouraging and pushed the student "in a good way."
- The staff and faculty are supportive and helpful.
- The ability to get one-on-one time.
- Hands-on classes offered in Natural Resources.
- Faculty assistance in finding seasonal work and internships.
- The ability to serve on ASG is positive.
- The CAMP program.
- The ability to mix with traditional and non-traditional students.

The students were asked about their plans after TVCC and the answers included entering the workforce, transferring to a university (with majors in range ecology, range and wildlife management, engineering, human resource management and ultrasound), and obtaining a real estate license.

Board member Roger Findley asked if the students felt safe and secure on campus and all stated they did. He also asked for tips on recruiting parenting students. One student response was that flyers welcoming nontraditional students would be helpful. In addition, more bathrooms with changing tables would be helpful, as would childcare.

Board member Ken Hart asked if housing was an issue. One student indicated that although he could not get into the residence halls, he was able to find a private situation. A parenting student noted the lack of affordable housing even with Section 8 assistance.

Board member Torie Ramirez asked how easy it was to enroll and what changes would be beneficial. While most agreed the application process was easy, suggestions for changes included adding an orientation for non-traditional students and improving the general advising at Student Services. Board member Hart asked if the class schedule meets the students' needs. The traditional students indicated the schedule was sufficient; however, the non-traditional students felt the current schedule was difficult with students with families and their work. Another student noted that it would be nice for certain classes to be offered all year and not just start in the fall.

Board member Dr. Norman asked about the difficulty in obtaining financial aid. Students indicated that the FAFSA process is difficult. They did note that the Foundation scholarships and sports waivers are helpful with reducing costs. One student noted that the CTE faculty helped her to obtain jobs and grants. Another student stated that his financial situation changed due to a parent's illness and no one at the financial aid office/business office could help him with options.

3. AGENDA REVIEW/CHANGES

MOTION: Board member Betty Carter moved to approve the agenda as presented and the motion was seconded by board member Torie Ramirez. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, and Stephen Crow. The motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

a. **New Employee Introductions** – there were no new employee introductions this month.

b. **Ontario Chamber Educator of the Year (Jeretta Shoemaker)**

Dr. Young introduced Jeretta Shoemaker and spoke of her path to becoming a faculty member at TVCC. Faculty member Arwyn Larson spoke about what makes a great instructor and spoke of Jeretta's service to the College. Larson stated that Shoemaker is a "beautiful example of why community colleges are so important."

c. **Faculty Sabbatical (Marc Wilson)**

Marc Wilson spoke about how he will be obtaining a master's degree in library and information science at the University of Illinois. He noted his interest in information literacy and digital scholarship and research which has changed dramatically. Wilson hopes it will help him teach students with research-based writing.

d. 2026 National Legislative Summit Highlight

Board member Dr. Norman presented a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted her recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the ACCT conference. Dr. Norman also spoke of legislation that may affect community colleges.

e. National CTE Month

In recognition of National CTE Month, Vice President Travis McFetridge presented a PowerPoint presentation that highlighted TVCC's CTE programs. Throughout the month, the College will promote CTE via social media. Additionally, the social media posts reference specific hashtags which the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) will pick up and share. Oregon community colleges will also search for the hashtags in order to share each other's content.

Vice President Sandra Porter spoke about the TVCC program which will be held during CTE Day at the state capitol. Dr. Young noted she will be present at the Capitol and will have an opportunity to share TVCC updates with legislators.

6. COLLEGE BUSINESS

a. 2025-30 Strategic Plan (Update)

Dr. Young provided the board members with an updated list of the 2025-2026 department goals.

b. 2026-27 Tuition Increase (1st reading)

Vice President Darin Bell shared the 2026-2027 budget process is underway; noting that TVCC has been following the same model since 2019, which contains small yearly tuition increases. Of the seventeen community colleges, six colleges have reported on their proposed tuition increases. Most will request more than \$4 increases, and one is reporting it may be going up an additional \$10 per credit.

TVCC is requesting a \$3/credit increase. VP Darin Bell noted that the total fees are currently \$24 per credit. Additionally, in 2016 TVCC was the second highest in tuition and fees in Oregon and has now fallen to the 4th lowest. This move to make TVCC one of the most affordable community colleges in Oregon was intentional.

c. 2026-27 Course Fees Increase (1st reading)

Vice President Sandra Porter noted that the Medical Assisting Program increase is due to the cost of additional materials.

VP Porter shared that Nat 199 is a first-time course offering. She explained that the "199" designation indicates a pilot or one-time course. Nat 199 is a wilderness first aid course with a maximum enrollment of 18 students, and 15 seats are already filled.

She also discussed Nat 252 (Wildlife Management) and requested a fee reduction. The proposed decrease is due to sponsorship from Pheasants Forever, which is sponsoring some of the costs for students.

Additionally, VP Porter requested an increase to welding fees by \$85 due to metal costs, an increase to electrical and plumbing apprenticeships, flight labs in aviation and fees for a new course in facilities maintenance.

d. Capital Construction Project (1st reading)

Vice President Darin Bell presented information on Barber Hall and the process to obtain state funding to assist with a comprehensive remodel. The deadline for submission of the capital construction project is April 6th.

Board member Roger Findley asked if the remodel would create any new income streams. In response, VP Bell stated that it would help with overall student retention and recruiting efforts. There would be some energy savings as well.

VP Porter also noted that Barber Hall is home to many classrooms and the lack of accessibility is an issue. The upgrade will make the spaces more usable and would be a commitment to asset preservation. Moreover, it would be cheaper to remodel the building now than try to build a new building later.

e. Appoint Public Budget Committee Members

Vice President Bell shared the names of the budget committee; noting new member Siera Watson who is the legislative aid to Senator McLane and long-time Ontario resident.

MOTION: Board member Torie Ramirez moved to appoint the budget committee members as presented. The motion was seconded by board member Betty Carter. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, and Stephen Crow. The motion passed unanimously.

f. Updated 2026-27 Academic Calendar (action)

Vice President Travis McFetridge requested modification to the academic calendar in order to provide employees 10 Fridays off this summer, as has been done in the past.

MOTION: Board member Torie Ramirez moved to approve the updated academic calendar as presented. The motion was seconded by board member Roger Findley. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, and Stephen Crow. The motion carried unanimously.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Board member Torie Ramirez moved to approve the board minutes from January 14, 2026 (Audit Committee), January 20, 2026 (regular meeting), and February 3, 2026 (Policy Committee), and to approve the financial report. The motion was seconded by board member Betty Carter. The roll call vote indicated ayes from Suzi Ireland, Ken Hart, Betty Carter, Roger Findley, Torie Ramirez, Dr. Lindsay Norman, and Stephen Crow. The motion passed unanimously.

8. COLLEGE REPORTS & STATEMENTS

a. STATEMENTS FROM ASG/STUDENT PROGRAMS

ASG President Emily Christopherson highlighted the Hot Vegas Nights, which was attended by 70 students, a successful blood drive, intramurals basketball with 9 teams participating, and A Cupid Night in which Dr. Young won a contest for best dressed.

In other updates, ASG assisted with Advising Day and hosted a “Stuff-a-Plush” event, featuring plush toys dressed in TVCC t-shirts showcasing the new logo. During Chukar Spirit Night, ASG organized games, awarded prizes, and presented scholarships. Pink Night for basketball is tomorrow, where ASG will distribute free t-shirts. Laser tag, one of the most anticipated events of the year, is also coming up soon.

Lastly, ASG received a quote from Hummel Architects for the sidewalk project and the TVCC marketing department is assisting ASG with their new logo.

b. STATEMENTS FROM FOUNDATION

In addition to her written report, Executive Director Cathy Yasuda noted that the Foundation is working on the community-initiated projects for grant funds for the next fiscal year. Projects for this grant could include program development for areas such as renewable energy.

In other highlights, the scholarship application is open for the 2026-27 academic year, the Pops Concert will be held May 29th, and the Foundation purchased new software for donor management, the Foundation’s investment portfolio did very well this past year and the Foundation is considering opening another round of scholarships that would begin after the current round. The hope is to pick up those students who decided to attend school later in the normal college process.

Board member Findley asked about the Barber campaign to which Yasuda noted it will be a heavy lift but the College has done a great job of looking at different funding options. It gets harder and harder to fundraise as there are so many needs in the community, but she believes it is possible.

c. STATEMENTS FROM FACULTY

Rennie Neider from the Agriculture Department shared several highlights from the past year. Last winter, he and Instructor Kelly Duggan used grant funding to take students on an industry field trip to Beef Northwest and to a high-tech, state-of-the-art dairy in Boardman, Oregon—the top producer for Tillamook.

Neider also attended the Oregon FFA State Convention. In the spring, he took a class to Burns to tour Buermann’s Ranch Meats and collaborated with a BSU professor to guide students through soil research and field practice. Additionally, he took a soils class to the experiment station, where samples collected by students were later sent to Western Laboratories. The class then visited Western Labs in person to learn about the testing process.

Finally, his class completed a comparative soil sample project on campus, evaluating results alongside data from a previous soil survey.

d. OCCA BOARD REP. REPORT

Board Chair Crow stated that the OCCA elected new officers and executive team members. OCCA is offering web training for board development on civil discourse for board members. He will provide the link to the Board. There is an upcoming lunch and learn on February 26 that will discuss the BSN program. CTE day is tomorrow and Dr.

Young plans to attend the CTE presentations at the Capitol as well as the April All-Oregon Academic Team luncheon in Salem. Per John Wycoff, OCCA, there will be no cuts to Oregon Promise or to the Opportunity grant. Board Chair Crow directed the Board to the OCCA website for the advocacy campaign and Voter Voice.

Dr. Young gave an update on the work being done toward the state's goal of shared services.

e. **PRESIDENT'S REPORTS**

i. Academic Affairs

Vice President Porter reported there is a new system in place to find potential nursing students. This new system gets broadcasted to a broader range of students. Currently, there are 34 nursing applications in process and 7 completed.

Today is the official opening of the art show at the art department. Porter shared that the owners of Frosty Badger are offering TVCC employees a buy-one get-one for free concert tickets this weekend.

The community college baccalaureate meetings were held last week. Heather Bohr presented as part of the nursing collaborative. A Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) representative was present, and he was in the nursing collaborative session. Porter visited with him on expectations for accreditation.

Dr. Young noted that there is also a collaborative put together for the Bachelor of Applied Science in Education (BASE) degree.

VP Porter noted that a TVCC HEP graduate was awarded the HEP Student Champion award.

Board Member Findley noted that the simulators are coming at the right time with the new mine opening. They will need heavy equipment operators.

ii. Student Services

In addition to the written report, VP McFetridge provided the Q2Q report for Spring noting there is still a net positive in reimbursable FTE. Additionally, advising day had 11% higher enrollment than last year.

VP McFetridge went to the Northwest Athletic Conference (NWAC). He stated that an individual is selected for each region for an award and Mary Anne Verigan from TVCC was awarded for the east region. The last few days have seen Chukar sports undefeated. Athletic Director Tyler Gaston has invited schools to use the tennis courts and will use these high school tennis matches as a recruiting opportunity for TVCC.

Financial aid resolved the issues with the students that were identified in the single audit.

Thirteen student service employees attended a conference last week and Daniel Liera, along with VP McFetridge, provided a breakout session. In addition, several TVCC employees were recognized with an innovation award during the conference.

In marketing, the new logos are beginning to appear across the college, and the recruiters are receiving updated recruiting gear. Lastly, TVCC will host the first day of the Chamber Leadership Conference this week.

iii. Administrative Services

In addition to the written report, VP Bell stated that the gift card situation highlighted in the audit is under control and a new security procedure has been implemented.

Additionally, the advanced energy and trades center and nursing building projects are on track. The revenue collection for tuition and fees is also on track. The college-wide employee survey is in draft form and will be reviewed by the Institutional Effectiveness Committee.

iv. President's Comments

Dr. Young commended the HR department for their work to coordinate search committees. She also thanked Faith Salinas for her professional manner and noted she handled the PIO interviews exceptionally well. Faculty negotiations will restart on February 27.

The Institutional Planning and Effectiveness Department is collecting Lighthouse/EMSI Economic Impact data and once the data is summarized, we will report to the Board.

The IT department has many projects underway, including supporting new buildings, nursing software, foundation software, and short-term courses in anticipation of Workforce Pell, which may require a different application process. In addition, the department is rewriting all IT board policies.

Board member Roger Findley asked about the surgical tech position to which VP Porter noted that it was reposted as a full-time faculty position.

9. STATEMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS & FOLLOW UP

- Suzi Ireland thanked VP Bell and Vern Davis for the Barber Hall tour. She noted that she attended the spirit basketball game and it was fabulous. Her granddaughter loved it and it was nice to see young kids enthused. She congratulated the College on being selected as a best place to work and said that speaks to the leadership and administration.
- Dr. Norman thanked the College for allowing her to attend the ACCT conference. She also thanked the staff for the panel with students.
- Torie Ramirez commended the College on the student panel. She noted it was great to see students from all different walks of life.
- Roger Findley noted we are in historic times. February is a perfect rectangle and that only happens every 358 years.

- Betty Carter congratulated the College on being selected as a best place to work. She stated she also enjoyed the students who spoke on the panel.
- Stephen Crow asked for support of the Eastern Oregon Economic Summit in August by way of attendance.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Mr. Stephen Crow, Board Chairman

Dr. Dana M. Young, President