**District No. 15**

**Wenatchee, Washington**

**WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Board Meeting**

April 17, 2024

Maguire Event Center - Zoom

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustees Present:

Tamra Jackson, Chair

Paula Arno Martinez, Vice Chair

Steve Zimmerman

Wilma Cartagena

Phylicia Hancock Lewis

Also Present:

Cabinet Members

Faculty Members

Students

**BOARD WORK SESSION – 10:00 am**

**Tenure Appeal:** Patricia Maher presented her appeal to the board of trustees to allow her the opportunity to continue in her tenure track. Before the meeting, Ms. Maher provided a written appeal and supporting documents. The board of trustees did not have questions for Ms. Maher.

Waleed Muhammad was provided the opportunity to present his appeal to the board of trustees. Mr. Muhammad was not present to provide a verbal appeal. Mr. Muhammad did provide supporting documents before the meeting. In Mr. Muhammad’s absence AHE President, Sharon Wiest shared that the pre-tenure documents show that there are a lot of strengths and there are a few concerns. His document stated that he is a good instructor. The incident raised with the PERC decision fell after the year-one documents and pre-tenure committee members submitted in writing that they were ignoring any related communications when preparing the second-year documents.

Ms. Wiest thanked the board of trustees for allowing the appeal process and acknowledged the challenging decision ahead of them.

**Board Communication:** Graduation for the Wenatchee Campus will be held on Friday, June 14 at the Town Toyota Center and the Omak Campus graduation will be held on Saturday, June 15. The May board meeting will be held on May 28, 2024, in Nespelem, this is the date that the Colville Tribal Council can meet. Will hold the May 15 date for the board retreat.

**For Review:** Brett Riley presented the 2024-2025 Tuition and Fee Scheduler and Resolution No. 2024-02 Cell Tower Expansion for first read. The cell tower expansion would be a contract with DES to expand the existing contract to include additional infrastructure. Dr. Diana Garza presented the 2025-2026 Student Calendar for the first read.

**Leadership Reports:** Members of the President’s Cabinet team presented their monthly reports to the board of trustees.

**Special Presentations**: Senator Brad Hawkins presented a plaque to President Harrison in appreciation of his work and support with House Bill 5670 – Walking Start Bill to allow incoming 11 graders to take summer credits before the start of their junior year.

**Leadership Development:** Brett Riley provided a Budget 101 presentation. The same presentation was shared during the April 5, 2024, all-district meeting.

Executive Session: The board of trustees entered into executive session at 2:00 pm to discuss personnel matters. The executive session lasted 45 minutes and no action was taken. The board reconvened at 3:00 pm for the regular board meeting.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER: 3:01 P.M.**

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

**REQUEST TO AMEND AGENDA**

Wilma Cartagena moved to amend the meeting agenda to consider tenure appeals. The motion was seconded by Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**March 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes**

Paula Arno Martinez moved that the minutes of the March 20, 2024, Regular Board Meeting be approved. The motion was seconded by Phylicia Hancock Lewis and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2355

**CELEBRATING SUCCESS**

**US Hispanic Leadership Institute**

WVC Sponsored ten students to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute Conference from February 14 – 18. USHLI is designed to fulfill the promises and principles of democracy by promoting education and leadership development, empowering Latinos and similarly disenfranchised groups through civic engagement and research, and by maximizing participation in the electoral process.

This was the first time in conference history that WVC was able to participate in sending students and staff. Based on the impact USHLI has had on attendees, the attendees encourage WVC to continue sending students to this conference moving forward. Many of the participants have not traveled much out of the state and this provided a leadership and professional development opportunity.

**Women in STEM**

The WVC STEM Club hosted a Women in STEM Night on March 6. WVC Chemistry Professor Dr. Awanthi Hewage, Math Professor Dr. Branwen Schaub, and MESA Director Rosana Linarez shared the challenges they overcame, the milestones they achieved, their experiences and insights.  
  
In conjunction with this event, Rosana and Branwen were invited by the NCW Tech Alliance to participate in Networked TV on the NCW Life Channel with David Mabee. They discussed the MESA program--which also supports students on a STEM path--and what it offers, as well as their own STEM education.

Dr. Hewage was born and raised in Sri Lanka. She obtained a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka. She migrated to the U.S. in 2007 for her graduate studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. While there, Dr. Hewage focused her studies on Ag nanoparticles and organic semiconducting materials. After earning her doctorate in 2014, she moved to Wenatchee to join the WVC Chemistry Department. Her current focus, she said, is to inspire, motivate, and guide her students to achieve their dreams and goals in STEM fields.

Dr. Schaub joined the WVC Math Department in 2021 after finishing her doctorate in mathematics from Oregon State University. She was born and raised in Wenatchee and said she is excited to be back in the valley to support the next generation of STEM students.

Rosana was born and raised in Venezuela, where she graduated from Antonio Jose de Sucre Polytechnic University with a degree in mechanical engineering. She moved to the U.S. in 2018, bringing more than 14 years of experience in the hydroelectric and MIDREX industries with her, particularly in the areas of construction, project management, and maintenance engineering. She has experience in the development and execution of rehabilitating and overhauling projects in refractory systems, water, air, and sludge systems.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Keilahni Pelton, ASWVCO President**

Keilahni provided a report on events that took place on the Omak campus as well as upcoming events.

**Lexie Fennell, ASWVC President**

Lexie Fennell provided a report on events that took place on the Wenatchee campus as well as upcoming events.

**Sharon Wiest, AHE President**

AHE President, Sharon Wiest provided a written report.

**Wendy Glenn, Chief Steward WPEA**

Wendy Glenn was not present to provide a report.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**Brett Riley, Vice President of Administrative Services**

Mr. Riley’s did not add to his written report shared during the work session.

**Dr. Tod Treat, Vice President of Instruction**

Dr. Treat did not add to his written report shared during the work session.

**Dr. Diana Garza, Vice President of Student Affairs**

Dr. Garza did not add to her written report shared during the work session.

**Dr. Faimous Harrison, President**

Dr. Harrison did not add to his written report shared during the work session.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments

**ACTION**

**Resolution No. 2024-01 Stormwater Remediation Project**

Presented to the board during the March 20, 2024, meeting, the City of Wenatchee is planning the construction of an underground stormwater retention system, water quality vault, new stormwater pipes and new asphalt paving over the disturbed surface of the Lower Wells Parking Lot and in therewith, Wenatchee Valley College has requested that the City perform certain work to address inadequate stormwater remediation to redistribute stormwater on campus.

Trustee Phylicia Hancock Lewis moved to approve Resolution No. 2024-01 Stormwater Remediation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2356

**Tenure Denial Appeal for Patricia Maher**

Patricia Maher, Transitional Studies Instructor, presented her appeal of tenure denial during the board of trustees work session. The board of trustees considered the appeal of advancement and reviewed the material provided to them.

Trustee Steve Zimmerman moved to allow the board’s decision denying advancement for Patricia Maher to stand. The motion was seconded by Trustee Paula Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2357

**Tenure Denial Appeal for Waleed Muhammad**

Waleed Muhammad, Economics Instructor, was not present to appeal the tenure denial during the board of trustees work session. The board of trustees considered the appeal of advancement and reviewed the material provided to them.

Trustee Steve Zimmerman moved to allow the board’s decision denying advancement for Waleed Muhammad to stand. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wilma Cartagena and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2357

**ADJOURNMENT – 3:18 P.M.**

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Secretary Chair