

The Board of Trustees of Everett Community College met on January 21, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. in the Olympus Board Room at Everett Community College.

President's Update

Opportunity Grant Program Report

Faculty member John Meyer presented to the Board that the EvCC Opportunity Grant (OG) program began operations in late September 2007. During the first year (2007-08), we developed a program that provided financial, counseling, tutoring and academic advising support services to students meeting low-income guidelines and enrolled in an approved high-wage, high-demand academic track including: Accounting and Bookkeeping, Business Administration, Tribal Enterprise Management, Medical Assistant, Phlebotomy Tech, Nursing Assistant, Welding, Precision Machining, and Computer Aided Design. Over 200 prospective program participants applied within the first nine months. We were able to serve 153 of these students.

According to a Washington SBCTC Research Report, the Opportunity Grant Program showed outstanding outcomes. Statewide, eighty-one percent (81%) of Opportunity Grant students who enrolled in fall 2007 were still enrolled in the spring or left having reached the completion threshold. Here at EvCC, our retention rate was 88.2%. The report also identified "Student Achievement Points," similar to the Student Achievement Initiative, as another measure of OG Program outcomes. Again, the results are impressive.

The report also identifies the average age of OG students as 32 years, of whom more than 60% are parents. Forty-three percent (43%) were people of color. Median income for independent Opportunity Grant students age 24 and older was \$13,726. The outcomes examined in the SBCTC report tell one side of the very compelling story about the success of the Opportunity Grant Program, both statewide and here at EvCC.

Student comments on the OG Program in exit interviews tell another side of the story: "My starting wage was \$18.00 per hour after getting my certificate. I am now making \$23.00 per hour," wrote a formerly unemployed father of two children." Another student reported making \$15.00 per hour with benefits. "If it wasn't for the Opportunity Grant, I would have been required to quit school." A mother of three earned her Medical Assistant degree and wrote, "I was driving from Whatcom County to Snohomish County 5 times a week. I couldn't afford to keep gas in my car...[The Opportunity Grant] was the only way I was able to complete my last quarter at EvCC. I am forever grateful for this grant opportunity."

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In these increasingly difficult times, the Opportunity Grant provides a critical lifeline to those seeking education and training in high-wage, high-demand careers. In addition to providing up to \$5,000 for tuition and books (for up to 45 credits), the Opportunity Grant Program offers students a wide range of counseling, support, and tutoring assistance that is equally important to their success. During our second year (2008-09) of the OG Program, we will have served approximately 110 students. For this year we have received about 150 inquiries and currently maintain a waiting list of 60 students.

Roll Call

Present for the meeting were trustees Tom Gaffney, Gene Chase, James Shipman, Carlos Veliz, and Chair Nancy Truitt Pierce. Also present were President David Beyer, Assistant Attorney General Scott Majors Recording Secretary Cheryl Blackburn, Faculty Representative Tom Gaskin, Classified Representative Manja Schultz, Student Representative Sarah Sandford and 15 faculty, staff, administrators and students.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Nancy Truitt Pierce asked if there were any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes from the December 17, 2008 Board meeting.

MOTION 01-01-2009 Tom Gaffney moved for approval of the minutes from the December 17, 2008 Board meeting. Carlos Veliz seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Student Representation

Sarah Sandford reported that they have finalized the Student Senate Goals and will be presenting them to the President. Four student senators will be attending the Board of Trustee/Legislative dinner in Olympia. The next senate meeting will be on January 30th. They are planning for their Twisted Valentine day which will be held on February 13th. Womens basketball is currently at 4-12 and Mens basketball is currently at 5-10. Alfred Cain, Vice President of Budget reported that they have had three financial requests submitted which were the Theater Club for their spring production, Drama Club to attend a festival in Idaho and the Engineering Club for the submarine to go to Maryland. Alfred also let the Board know that he will be deploying to Iraq in March.

Classified Representative

Manja Schultz reported that it looks like Governor Gregoire will not be honoring their newly negotiated contract due to budget cutbacks which is disappointing since many sacrifices and compromises were reached during negotiations. The Union did take into consideration the budget outlook and thus settled for only small pay increases. She asked the Board if they would be willing to encourage the Governor to honor the contract and put it in the hands of the legislators to get their input and support. Manja also reported that all temporary employees who now work over 350 hours per year will be joining their union.

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Faculty Representative

Tom Gaskin reported to he was not aware that there was a special study session prior to the Board meeting. There currently is an open grievance regarding a counselor in the TRIO program. He also feels that the state should not be able to call for a state of emergency and hopes that our Board will not participate and instead work with the AFT. Trustee James Shipman stated that he hopes everyone will step up to the plate and work together.

Update on Student Fitness and Health Center

Pat Sisneros, Associate Vice President of Administrative Services presented an update to the Board on the Student Fitness and Health Center. The Student Fitness and Health Center will be a two-story building of approximately 49,819 gross square feet, located just east of the College Station Transit Center.

The building includes a gymnasium with retractable bleacher seating for 2,250 persons, a cardio and free weight training room, a climbing wall, a running track, a juice/sandwich bar, a multi-purpose small gymnasium, faculty/staff offices and support spaces.

The facility will provide classrooms for physical education and health programs and space for intercollegiate athletics and intramural/extracurricular activities. The new energy efficient building will incorporate significant sustainable design features.

The total project budget is \$24 million. The construction start date is July 7, 2009 and the project will be completed for a fall quarter 2010 opening.

Review the General Fund Operating Budget Report for Fiscal Year 2008-09

Tom Harker, Interim VP of Administrative Services gave the Board an update on the 2008-09 general operating fund budget-to-actual as of December 31, 2008. Revenue is running ahead of this time last year and the year-to-date expenditures show a significant reduction in spending.

Approve Resolution 2009-01-01 to amend the current General Fund Operating Budget

Tom Harker, Interim VP of Administrative Services asked the Board to take action on an amendment to the 2008-09 General Fund operating budget. The General Fund is proposed to increase by \$617,263. The increase includes revenue received from the State Board for M & O funding for Gray Wolf Hall, a new account - CE Welding, additional expenditures as a result of additional revenues and additional cost recoveries. The increase also includes start up costs for Continuing Education corporate training initiative as approved at the November 19, 2008 Board meeting.

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Board action on the proposed budget amendment will increase total revenue and expenditures. The budget will continue to be in balance if the amendments are approved.

MOTION 02-01-2009 Tom Gaffney moved for approval Resolution 2009-01-01 Amendment of 2008-09 Fiscal Year General Fund Operating Budget. Gene Chase seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Discussion/Response to State Budget Reductions and Review Board Priorities in light of forecasted State Budget

The State Board for Community and Technical Colleges took formal action at their December 4, 2008 meeting directing community colleges to begin the reduction of current year (FY09) budgets (state dollars) as outlined by the Office of Financial Management at a 4.3% level. This action is an initial step in the actual reduction of the current year budgets based on state revenue forecasts from OFM. Legislative action is required on the Governor's supplemental budget that was presented during the week of December 15th.

These revenue forecasts for the current year budget estimate shortfall in excess of \$500 million through June 30, 2009. This forecast is only addressing current year and does not include the next biennium (2009 – 11).

The College began these reductions this past summer at 1% with actions to restrict out-of-state travel, and to contain costs in energy savings and salary savings. The reduction increased to 2.8% with the fall forecasts and, most recently, increased to the 4.3% level. All of these projected budget reductions are due to revenue forecasts that project continued decline in the various sources of state dollars through sales, B&O, and property taxes. These declines are due to similar decreases in the national economy.

The projected budget reduction total is in excess of \$ 1 million for EVCC in the current budget year. This reduction occurs in the state dollars (approx. \$25 million). The College has initiated the above noted actions to generate savings and is considering other options such as a hiring moratorium, administrative restructuring, reduction of course sections, and consolidation of different activities/programs. The implementation of a four-day work week is being analyzed but would probably not be implemented until the next school year.

Regarding the forecast for the next biennium state budget, the most recent information sets the shortfall at \$5.1 billion, although others are stating it as closer to \$6 billion. The CTC system share of this is estimated at approximately \$148 million. Preliminary calculations have identified an amount of reduction per institution based on allocation. EVCC's total projected state budget reduction for 2009 – 2011 would be in excess of \$5 million. There is not yet any final determination of this amount and legislative action in the next session is necessary. Likewise, there is not clarity on whether this amount is in addition to the 4.3% for the current year or

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inclusive of the initial reduction. Regardless, the forecasted state budget picture obviously will require significant reduction and/modification of current operations.

There are numerous discussions and some limited actions that are ongoing both statewide and at each campus. Some of these include but are not limited to:

- 1) Elimination or reduction of state government procedures/regulations that cost state agencies and colleges money.
- 2) Reduce state enrollment targets for colleges.
- 3) Exam reduction/consolidation of course sections and/or programs. Locate duplicate programs at fewer colleges. Reduce evening and weekend programs.
- 4) Increase distance education.
- 5) Grow self-support programs.
- 6) Freeze vacancies and reduce positions.
- 7) Increase general tuition rates and add surcharges to tuition free programs.
- 8) Reduce work week to four days and/or eliminate summer programs.
- 9) Increase non-state revenue programs.

Executive Session

At 7:20 Chair Nancy Truitt Pierce adjourned into executive session to discuss property and personnel issues. She stated that no action would be taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Nancy Truitt Pierce, Chair
Board of Trustees

David N. Beyer, Secretary
Board of Trustees