WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE

District No. 15
Wenatchee, Washington

WENATCHEE VALLEY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Board Meeting
September 17, 2025
Wenatchee Campus - Zoom

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE
Trustees Present:
- Paula Arno Martinez, Chair
- Wilma Cartagena
- Phylicia Hancock Lewis
- Steve Zimmerman
- Tamra Jackson (virtual)

Also Present:
- Cabinet Members
- Faculty and Staff

TRUSTEE STUDY SESSION– 11:00 am

BOARD OF TRUSTEE COMMUNICATION
There continues to be strong interest among trustees in attending the ACCT National Conference in New Orleans. Trustee Cartagena will be presenting at the summit as part of the ACT Board, and Trustee Arno Martinez will also be in attendance. As the Chair-Elect for ACT, her expenses will be covered by the organization. President Harrison is advocating for the trustees to attend.

FINANCIAL AUDIT UPDATE
Work continues on the 2021 financial audit. CLA has reviewed the data and continues to note a variance, which has been reduced from $5 million to approximately $600,000. The variance is primarily related to audit testing following the conversion to ctcLink, including issues with data mapping and implementation errors. The finance team has been diligently addressing these challenges over the past two years.

The college faces two options to resolve the remaining variance:
1. Contract with a third-party vendor to continue the reconciliation process and identify the source of the variance; or
2. Proceed with issuing a disclaimer of opinion on the 2021 financial statements.

Based on the college's sixth-year accreditation expectations, the institution should, at a minimum, be auditing the fiscal year 2024. Currently, the college is five years behind, with the most recent completed audit covering fiscal year 2019–2020.

President Harrison has expressed concern regarding the accuracy of the college's financial statements and reserve balances, emphasizing that maintaining accreditation remains a top priority. If the college receives a disclaimer of opinion, the accrediting body will be notified. Additionally, once a disclaimer of opinion is issued, it is not possible to move from a disclaimer to a full (unqualified) opinion within a single fiscal year.

President Harrison and Dr. Robin Angotti remain in regular communication with Dr. Teresa Rivenes of NWCCU regarding the college's accreditation status and progress.

Trustee Cartagena noted that the Board was not informed or made aware of the audit issues in a timely manner when the annual budget was presented. The trustees expressed their desire to move forward and have granted President Harrison the authority and charge to take the necessary actions to advance the college.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
The college has not yet received a definitive budget for state revenue. Adjustments will be necessary to account for the $2.2 million that has already been repaid. While there is no intention to initiate reductions in force (RIFs), uncertainty remains regarding the college's overall financial obligations. The college's funding structure includes both hard money and soft money (temporary or grant-based funding). Ideally, staff positions should be supported through tuition and other recurring revenue sources; however, a significant portion of the college's current portfolio is supported by soft funding.

There has also been positive news: the CAMP program funding has been reinstated, and the nursing program received a substantial grant of more than $900,000. Moving forward, the college will focus its soft funding efforts on supporting campus climate initiatives and professional training.

ENROLLMENT UPDATE
Current new enrollment stands at 806 students. The college is down by 127 state FTEs but has seen an increase in Running Start enrollment. Following the recent drop for nonpayment, enrollment trends have been moving upward.

STRATEGIC PLAN/ACCREDITATION
Continued work on year 6 and 7 accreditation review processes, which are typically completed over a three-year period, however, due to the college's current state the process is being accelerated and finalized within six months.

The college has established key performance indicators (KPIs) and committees to assess institutional effectiveness and monitor progress. Regular meetings are being held with NWCCU Liaison Dr. Teresa Rivenes to ensure alignment and compliance. Efforts are also underway to align degrees and programs with current offerings as part of ongoing institutional "housekeeping."

To support this work, trustees are encouraged to review NWCCU Standards 1 and 2 to better understand the expectations and contribute to the college's accreditation efforts.

BOARD ENGAGEMENT
Rich Peters provided the trustees with an update on the CTEI building project, including discussion of the potential to reintegrate the welding program into the facility plan. Final confirmation of cost estimates will be needed before proceeding.

Erin Williams presented an overview of the Clean Buildings Act, with which the college is required to comply. This represents an unfunded state mandate that will require careful planning and resource allocation.

POLICY FIRST READ
Policy 400.450 was presented for first read.

ACTION
Action items were reviewed in detail to be presented for action during the regular meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION
The Board entered an Executive Session at 2:10 to discuss issues related to potential litigation. The Executive Session lasted 35 minutes and ended at 2:45.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 P.M.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

CONCENT AGENDA

June 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 13, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes

Trustee Phylicia Hancock Lewis moved that the consent agenda be approved, The motion was seconded by Steve Zimmerman and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2403

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEES
The following new employees were introduced: Nelson Rojas, TRiO Director: Cesar Castaneda, Financial Aid Director; Rhema Chatiya Nantham, First Year Executive Director; Jordan Highland, Men's Basketball Coach; Cynthia Wright, Foundation Office Manager; Samantha Vedders, Foundation Communication Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

SPECIAL REPORTS
Micky Jennings, AHE President and former AHE Grievance Chair, has been working over the summer with leadership teams to prepare for the upcoming school year. He expressed enthusiasm about contributing and helping advance the college's goals. Based on the study session, he acknowledged that there is significant work ahead, and he is committed to being part of the solution.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATES
Dr. Diana Garza reported that CAMP funding was reinstated. In Athletics, Acting Director Levi Vega Sanchez and Aaron Vaughn have focused on student-athlete training and the development of the Athletics Handbook.

Dr. Tod Treat reported that launch week was a success, and thanks were extended to all who facilitated culturally responsive trainings, which were well attended. The Student Readiness Fair took place on Friday, bringing together students and faculty. Congratulations were extended to Robin, Lisa, and Ellia for their successful reorganization efforts. Deans and directors have actively participated in cost-saving measures over the past year, and these efforts will continue. Appreciation was also expressed to Micky Jennings for his alignment and contributions. Two programs, Pharmacy Technician and LPN to BSN, will delay their start by one quarter to strengthen enrollment and ensure a robust cohort.

ACTION: Action items were reviewed in detail during the board work session

Election of Board Officers

Trustee Zimmerman nominated Trustee Cartagena to serve as chair and Trustee Hancock Lewis to serve as vice Chair. Wilma will continue as legislative representative.

Trustee Steve Zimmerman moved elect Trustee Cartagena as Chair and Trustee Hancock Lewis as vice chair. The motion was seconded by Trustee Arno Martinez and carried unanimously.

MOTION NO. 2404

3:20

Secretary	Date	Chair	Date