

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TWELVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Centralia College	
Hanson Boardrooms Centralia College Boardrooms Centralia, Washington	Study Session/Regular Meeting April 10, 2025 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- **Study Session**

Meeting with the Accreditation Team

Annalee Tobey, Board Chair, and Mark Scheibmeir, Trustee, met with the accreditation team from NWCCU. This meeting took the place of the normal study session.

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Annalee Tobey called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members present:

- Annalee Tobey
- Pretrina Mullins
- Mark Scheibmeir
- Chris Thomas
- Court Stanley

3. Introductions/Presentations:

Joe Chirhart, Athletic Director, introduced the spring sports teams.

Joe Chirhart introduced head coach Dave Klov Dahl and the members of the women’s 2024-25 golf team.

Joe Chirhart introduced head coach Ben Harley and assistant coaches Dan Bower, Ayden Ruminski, and Steve Harley and the members of the men’s 2024-25 baseball team.

Joe Chirhart reported head coach Kevin Slorey, and assistant coaches Dakota Fluke, Shelby Levang, Abby Russell, and McKenna Smith and the members of the women’s 2024-25 softball team are down in Chemeketa for a double header and unable to attend the board meeting for introductions.

Open Forum

No one requested to speak in open forum.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of Minutes:

It was MOVED BY Pretrina Mullins THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF March 13, 2025, AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy Governance

Policy Updates

Dr. Mohrbacher reported Institutional Effectiveness (IE) met April 2, 2025. Two policies passed on second read.

- 4.050 Course Audits
- 4.070 Course Substitution

Dr. Mohrbacher reported most of the IE meeting was spent on preparing for the accreditation visit.

Dr. Mohrbacher added that the Facilities and Safety Committee submitted a Building Monitor Plan. The purpose of the building monitor plan is to identify and train volunteers from each building to assist in the event of an emergency or evacuation of their building. By identifying individuals in each building to assist in the orderly evacuation of buildings, maintain control of the evacuation, and assist the college in getting back to normal, the college should be able to return to normal operations quickly. The plan should be in effect next year.

5. Trustee Reports

Court Stanley attended the Trustee Tuesday “What the heck is going on?” by Arlen Harris and Choi Halladay. Participants heard about the fifteen billion budget shortfall over four years, the Senate and House budgets prescribed cuts, and other various reductions to state budgets.

Court attended the Sports Gala in TransAlta Commons.

Court attended Forest Products Day at the Legislature yesterday. Court did his best to promote the college and the simulators.

Chris Thomas was able to attend a couple of baseball games.

Chris attended his son’s wedding in North Carolina.

Mark Scheibmeir reported that he also attended the Trustee Tuesday “What the heck is going on?” Mark noted that it was eye-opening as to what colleges may be facing in the way of budget changes, not just cuts, but changes in general. The increase in tuition coupled with a decrease in college grant funding is challenging.

Mark reminded the trustees that Tuesday, April 15, 2025, is Foundation Night at Burgerville. A portion of the purchase price goes to the Foundation.

Wednesday, April 16, 2025, is the Foundation's annual planning session. The Foundation encourages the college trustees to attend as well. It is a chance to interact with Foundation members and get a sense of what the Foundation is planning to do.

Pretrina Mullins attended the Foundation meeting where the members participated in budget cleanup. Several different accounts needed to be moved, and the money utilized. There was considerable contemplation on how to best reassign the funds.

Pretrina attended the Trustee of Color Affinity Group where members discussed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and how local and federal decisions might impact our colleges. How will decisions impact students, financial aid, and the college atmosphere? How will these policies influence our perspective and how will we maintain what we currently have?

Pretrina is a member of the Association of College Trustees (ACT) Nominating Committee. The committee met this morning and discussed nominations for the new leadership.

Annalee Tobey signed up to attend the "Latest Action in Washington," a monthly update from ACT.

Annalee did not attend Trustee Tuesday, but she did receive the PowerPoint slide deck, so she has the information that was presented.

Annalee spoke at the Centralia City Council meeting regarding the United Learning Center. Annalee serves on the boards of Lewis County United Way and Discover Children's Museum, which both serve as partners in the United Learning Center project. Federal grants, state grants, foundations, and several different community partners help fund the project. Each funding source has specific restrictions on how it is to be used. It is great to see the city council rally around our youth, students, and future college attendees and support the United Learning Center project.

WA-ACT

Dr. Mohrbacher reminded the trustees of the upcoming ACT Spring Conference. The theme is "Inspiring Leadership, Strengthening Community." The conference will be Thursday and Friday, May 22-23, 2025, at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, WA.

Currently, Pretrina Mullins, Annalee Tobey and Dr. Mohrbacher will be attending.

ACCT

No report provided.

6. President's Report

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that the legislature will be done Sunday, April 27, 2025. Overall, the Senate budget is more favorable, but there are a few problems in each budget.

The House does not have full funding for COLAs; the Senate does. The House suspends the automatic tuition adjustment based on inflation. The Senate retains the inflation adjustment and allows for up to 5% increase on top of that.

The House budget does not call for furloughs; the Senate does. The Senate calls for thirteen furlough days or the equivalent cut in funds. Furloughs are looking more likely since the governor said he will not sign a budget that includes a wealth tax. If the college were to implement furloughs, an effective way to proceed will need to be identified. This will require significant coordination.

The Senate calls for a general fund reduction of \$18.7 million. It allows the college to offset the cut with the extra tuition increase.

The college will not receive the funding for the Teacher Education and Family Development (TEFD) building until July of 2027.

The Senate budget takes some money out of Minor Works funding; that would not be good for Centralia College. Centralia College has several needs for that and we are working hard to get the Minor Works funding reinstated.

Tuition is going to increase by 3%. The Senate proposes increasing tuition an additional amount in the second year of the biennium.

College expenditures are continuing to exceed revenues. College revenues are not keeping pace with inflation and other rising costs, so this exacerbates the situation. If the college must absorb the COLA amount, it may mean not replacing positions as they come vacant.

Between now and the end of the legislative session, another update will be provided. The legislature is working on a variety of strategies and there may still be some revenue increases; they will not be able to balance the budget in terms of cuts, but what they will settle on is difficult to determine.

Last week, Bob Guenther, Bill Sullivan, and Dr. Mohrbacher met with Kaitlin Harrington from Senator Murray's office. We are exploring the possibility of congressionally directed funding for the mobile lab. The funding would provide money to operate the lab for a year while a longer-term strategy is determined. Those applications will be submitted tomorrow. It is a small amount of money compared to usual requests, but it is not a perfect match for the types of things they usually fund.

Centralia College is now eligible to become a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI). Dr. Mohrbacher explained that a Hispanic Serving Institution must have 25% or more of degree seeking students identify as Latinx and Centralia College is over the threshold. However, it is not clear whether HSI status or the Title 5 grants will continue to exist. Some Centralia College administrators will be attending an HSI Symposium at Skagit Valley College on May 13 -14, 2025. There should be more information regarding HSI status at the symposium.

7. SAALT

Joshua Pickett, Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) President, reported that as he participated in the student aspects of the college's accreditation process, he felt an overwhelming sense of pride. Pride in being a Blazer and being part of a college that cares and supports its students. Joshua heard the positive feedback from students, how students feel, are seen, heard, and supported and how faculty, staff, and services go above and beyond, and genuinely care. There is a sense of camaraderie that is felt walking across campus, in classrooms, and in the student spaces. Students come from all kinds of backgrounds and face real academic,

personal, and financial challenges. Centralia College is more than a place to earn a degree – it is a community.

As a member of student government, we work to continue that sense of connection and belonging. In our final quarter, we will focus on dynamic, engaging, impactful events and go out with a bang!

Madi Beck, SAALT Vice President, announced that SAALT has several events planned:

- SAALT hosted a well-attended watercolor event this week.
- A DUI simulator will be on campus next week to promote awareness regarding alcohol use and personal safety.
- Earth Week is full of activities involving student clubs, facilities, committees, and community.
- Volunteers will participate in the KNOLL cleanup project on the 25th. This will make the campus more appealing and support environmental responsibilities.

Madi echoed Joshua's sentiments and is proud to represent the student body and grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with the team.

Madi thanked the trustees for their continued support of the students and programs. Together we are Blazers!

8. Faculty

No report provided.

9. Classified

J Mott for Emil Parke-Fagerness, classified representative, reported that Brianna Ramsey completed her associate's degree and will be walking at graduation.

The classified staff have scheduled their annual egg hunt on Friday, April 18, 2025, starting at 8:15 in the morning. A golden egg entitles the finder to a prize.

The Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) celebrated with the Program Coordinator staff. The current enrollment of 92% is excellent for Washington State ECEAP. ECEAP works with ten preschool classes, ages from 3 to 5, on campus and seven outlying school districts.

10. Instruction

Connie Smejkal, Vice President of Instruction, reported the Instruction Office has focused its energies on accreditation this past month.

Chris Thomas noted that the Nursing Program is out at Maple Lane and asked whether there were any security issues. Connie noted that Behavioral Healthcare has a Memo of Understanding (MOU) with them and all classes are progressing well.

11. Human Resources & Equity

Joy Anglesey, Vice President of Human Resources and Equity, reported her office has also been working on accreditation this past month; it is a common theme for the April board reports.

Every quarter, one of the vice presidents sends out a staff survey via Survey Monkey. The survey serves as one of the methods that ties in with the strategic plan's goals and objectives. Approximately 18% of the employees participated in this quarter's survey. Those responding are fairly well split with a third of the responses coming from each classification – faculty, exempt, and classified.

It was suggested that numbers and/or comments from the employees' survey be provided to the trustees at a future meeting.

12. Student Services

Dr. Robert Cox, Vice President of Student Services, reported Student Services has been hard at work this past month enrolling students in spring quarter. Enrollment is up slightly over last spring and enrollment numbers continue to move in a positive direction.

Robert explained the significant increase in athlete's GPAs. All coaches require their athletes to meet with them until their first quarter is over. If the student athlete has above a 3.0 GPA, they no longer need to meet with the coach. Any athlete that is below a 3.0 needs to continue to meet weekly, to get academic support, and have tutoring in person. This system is having profound success with the athletes and academic success has gone up significantly.

13. Administrative Services

Dr. Mohrbacher for Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reported that Centralia College received its Fiscal Health Report from the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). This report will be presented at the May meeting. The college's position is still strong, but revenues are not keeping pace with expenditures. Expenditures continue to increase, so some budget adjustments will need to be made. Because the college reserve position is good, it is not an immediate problem.

The Legislature is supposed to be done April 27, 2025. The trustee meeting is eleven days later so there will be a budget presentation at the May meeting. It takes SBCTC some time to determine what everything means and transform it into budget numbers. There will not be a finalized budget available in May, but there will be information on what is known so far. By June, a full budget should be available.

14. Foundation

Christine Fossett, Associate Vice President of Advancement, reported that the Foundation is sponsoring Foundation Night at Burgerville on Tuesday, April 15 from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Tell them you are with the college, or present the graphic, or use the promo code CENTRALIACF and 20% of the proceeds will go to the new textbook scholarship fund.

“A Night with the Authors” is Friday, May 2, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Wickstrom Theater. Three authors will be there to read from their books and answer questions.

Students have one week to finish their scholarship applications. Applications are due April 15, 2025. 330 students have completed their applications.

Amber White and Christine Fossett spent months cleaning up Foundation accounts. They determined where the money came from, where it should be, and if there is a better use for the money. The money was in accounts that were not used, and the board provided several recommendations for the fiscal cleanup. The board voted to evaluate all the old accounts and move unused money into a 3000 Account. This account will be a board restricted endowment. Currently, there is \$1,620,820 in that account; the goal is \$6,000,000.

15. New Business

Public Meetings Interruption Policies

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that at the March meeting the trustees requested some policy examples on how to manage interruptions to a board meeting. Dr. Mohrbacher provided samples from other colleges and asked the trustees how they would like to proceed.

The trustees requested that Dr. Mohrbacher provide a policy (or two) to review at the May meeting. Dr. Mohrbacher will discuss the policies with Kasi Walker, Assistant Attorney General, prior to submission to the trustees.

Allocation Formula Recommendations

Dr. Mohrbacher gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recommendations for the Allocation Formula.

There has been a committee working on this for several months and have provided the college presidents with their preliminary recommendations. Each college gets one survey response.

The main categories where changes are proposed are the 1) minimum operating allocation, 3) weighted/priority enrollments and the 4) District Enrollment Allocation Base (DEAB). There are also proposed changes to existing earmarks.

The minimum operating allocation (MOA) every college receives regardless of size, is \$2.85 million annually. The proposed recommendation is to increase the MOA to \$3.7 million for each college, an additional 850,000 dollars. That additional money is not new; it comes from somewhere else within the allocation model. Ninety-three percent thought this was a good idea, particularly for small colleges.

There are a few changes to the DEAB. The legislative target for enrollment has been eliminated. The target has been kept because it is part of the model, and it is needed to distribute funds. The other change is from basing all enrollment on FTE to basing half on FTE and half on headcount. That better serves part-time students.

There are no real changes to the Student Achievement Initiative other than ensuring the review cycle is done.

The Safe Harbor earmarks have several categories where the colleges get the money, and it is not put into the formula for four years. The biggest one of those is for

compensation increases. When colleges receive the COLA monies, that goes into Safe Harbor. Otherwise, the college could end up with not enough money to fund the COLAs by the time four years have passed.

There are new recommendations in weighted priority enrollments. An additional .3 FTE is counted in these four categories: Basic Skills, STEM, Bachelors, and the Skills Gap or High Demand courses. The money that goes into priority enrollments fluctuates based on enrollment and it is unstable from year to year. It would be better to put 5% into a column rather than letting that fluctuate.

The high demand course list has not been updated since 2013. It is complicated and there was not an effective way to do it. Now, there is a better way to do some long-term data projection and be able to divide it up regionally. So, if something is a high demand area, but not somewhere else, we would be able to count it in this category.

The State Board is holding out \$55 million from the formula and it is earmarked for certain programs or students. The Committee is proposing changes here. Worker Retraining, Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG), disability accommodations, Guided Pathways, and Centers of Excellence are established programs and would be retained. Things that would be eliminated would be aerospace apprenticeships, employment resources, hospital employee education and training and university contracts and premium regional pay.

If all the changes are made to the earmarks, \$15.8 million funnels into the allocation formula. There is still 13 million that has to come from somewhere in the formula to increase the MOA and it would come out of the district enrollment allocation base, which means each FTE is worth less money.

Eliminating the target means that the enrollment money can move more quickly from one college to another. Since some colleges are gaining enrollment faster than Centralia College, it works well to have more in the MOA and less per FTE. That is a more stable arrangement for Centralia.

What does this mean overall?

- 1) Increasing the minimum operating allowance makes funding more stable from year to year.
- 2) Eliminating targets will move money more quickly between colleges
- 3) Eliminating some earmarks will put more dollars into the formula
- 4) DEAB—each FTE will likely have a lower dollar amount

Overall, these changes are positive or neutral for Centralia College. Assuming all the recommendations pass for the coming year, Centralia will get money according to the old formula. But Centralia will also receive the data that says if we were in the new formula, here is what your allocation would look like, so we can compare by allocation as we go along and we will establish whether that is what we do.

The college presidents will vote on it in July and then that recommendation will go to the State Board. The State Board will vote on it and then it is finalized. This is the first time there have been changes made to the allocation model since it was implemented.

16. Old Business

Strategic Planning

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, reported that the college's strategic plan has been a reoccurring theme in most of the meetings with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) evaluators.

The evaluators have met with a number of employees, various committees, and with faculty regarding the previous recommendation on the assessment of student learning outcomes. The evaluators met to discuss the process of assessing data, using data, reviewing data and how do we plan to use that data to allocate college resources.

From the initial feedback received from the evaluators, it sounds like the meetings with Blazer Central, Welcome Desk, student forum, staff, and faculty forums have gone well, and the evaluation has been positive so far.

Today the evaluators focused on clarifying questions. The evaluators read the two reports: 1) The Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness which focuses on Standard One and 2) the Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) report which focuses on Standard 2. The evaluators review the evidence the college submitted and then verify and clarify to ensure that what was reported is accurate.

Accreditation

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, invited the trustees to the exit interview at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning in TAC 122. They are more than welcome to attend.

The evaluators will thank us for the visit and then discuss what happens after this visit, their process, and they will read the outcome.

The evaluators will give commendations for things that have been accomplished and/or recommendations where there are areas that need improvement.

The evaluators leave and have seven days to draft their report. The report is reviewed for corrections of errors in fact. The corrections are made and returned to the evaluators. The evaluators have seven days to make any additional changes, and the report is then sent to NWCCU. In July, Dr. Mohrbacher and Fia Eliasson-Creek will attend the NWCCU meeting for their review and the outcome of the visit. Then, the process of accreditation begins all over again.

Fia thanked everyone on campus who helped; it was a good effort, and this has been a good visit.

17. Executive Session

Under RCW 42.30.110, the board may hold an executive session for the purpose of reviewing the performance of a public employee; consultation with legal counsel regarding agency enforcement actions, or actual or potential agency litigation or to review professional negotiations; or considering the sale or acquisition of real estate.

At 5:30 pm board members moved into executive session to review the performance of a public employee and consult with legal counsel about current or potential litigation. The Board will be in Executive Session until 5:50 p.m. unless notified that the time is to be extended.

The Board has adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened the Open Session.
The time is 5:53 p.m.

The Board will proceed with the final agenda items.

18. Action from Executive Session

There was no action from Executive Session.

19. Announcement of Upcoming Meeting Date and Place:

The next board meeting will be Thursday, May 8, 2025, via Teams and Centralia College East, **Morton**, WA.

20. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Annalee Tobey, Board Chair

Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, Board Secretary