

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT TWELVE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Centralia College	
Hanson Boardrooms Centralia College Boardrooms Centralia, Washington	Study Session/Regular Meeting March 13, 2025 3:00 P.M.

MINUTES

- **Study Session**

Student Wellness – Dr. Robert Cox, Darcell Scott, Graziela Gonzales

Washington State House Bill (HB) 1559, also known as the “Establishing the Student Basic Needs at Public Postsecondary Institutions Act,” aims to address student basic needs insecurities at public postsecondary institutions, requiring institutions to employ benefits navigators and develop strategic plans to support students. This required colleges to do a survey in 2022 and in 2024. The response rate was much better in 2024; there was a 16% increase in student responses. 40% of survey respondents were female and 29% were male. 54% of the respondents were two-year students versus 51% of four-year students.

The survey drew attention to food insecurity, housing insecurity, health care, childcare and access to mental health care services. (Homelessness is a subset of housing insecurity). The definition of housing insecurity is a student could have places to stay but it isn’t consistent. The students who are struggling to complete courses and be retained are the same students who are identified in this survey as having food and housing insecurities. There seems to be a direct correlation.

The state average of students who experience insecurities is 52.4% and the local region is at 53.8%. As strategies are developed to help with retention, recruitment and degree completion, it helps to realize that there are external factors students face when deciding whether their education is a priority.

Most of the students surveyed thought that they had sufficient access to healthcare. Only 14% of the students said that they never had access to mental health care.

Darcell Scott, Dean of Student Success and Retention, and Graziela Gonzales, Resource Specialist, provided information on how the college has partnered with other state agencies to learn more about how to provide support for students. The Student Emergency Assistance Grant (SEAG) was used to help relieve insecurities that students were experiencing. There are grants available and several local resources available for students. The Lewis County Food Bank Coalition, United Way, Azure Church, Emmanuel Lutheran Church are among those who have helped provide consistent access to various resources. Maintaining connections and developing partnerships to support students is ongoing work.

As these services and resources are expanded, the ability to track the data to show students who are receiving these services were retained at higher rates. This may also help procure more state and/or private funding.

Dr. Cox, Darcell Scott, and Graziela Gonzales thanked the trustees for the opportunity to present their information.

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Annalee Tobey called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board members present:

- Annalee Tobey
- Pretrina Mullins (via Teams)
- Mark Scheibmeir
- Chris Thomas (via Teams)
- Court Stanley

Dr. Mohrbacher requested a reorder of the board agenda to accommodate the topic of athlete waivers under new business.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD REORDER THE BOARD AGENDA. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Introductions/Presentations:

Joy Anglesey introduced Roberta Graver, Executive Assistant to the Vice President of Human Resources and Equity. Roberta began work for the college on January 2, 2025, and comes from the City of Renton, WA where she served as an administrative assistant.

Open Forum

No one requested to speak in open forum.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Adoption of Minutes:

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REGULAR MINUTES OF February 13, 2025, AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Policy Governance

Policy Updates

Dr. Mohrbacher reported Institutional Effectiveness (IE) met March 5, 2025. Five board policies passed on second read.

- 1.360 Travel Regulations

- 2.385 Student Employees
- 3.050 Class Dismissals
- 4.060 Student Complaint Process
- 4.170 Student Rights & Responsibilities Code

Dr. Mohrbacher noted that policy 1.360 Travel Regulations has been reviewed again. Non-cabinet agencies do not need to use a state travel agency to reserve airline tickets. The college can realize savings in travel expenditures by avoiding additional travel agency fees, deciding whether or not to purchase refundable tickets, or making other decisions to improve efficiency. The college can manage this process more efficiently in-house.

5. Trustee Reports

Court Stanley attended the Trustee Tuesday “Campus Access: What Institutions and Trustees Can and Cannot Do When Encountering Campus Disruptions.” Participants discussed disruptions at a board level and how different boards manage a disruption. The differences have been in stark contrast.

Mark Scheibmeir reported that he attended the Trustee Tuesday “Campus Access: What Institutions and Trustees Can and Cannot Do When Encountering Campus Disruptions.” Mark appreciated the effort that Aileen Miller, Assistant Attorney General, put into the preparation for this event. One take-away is to have policies in place so that if something does happen, the college appears less arbitrary in its response.

It will be important to attend the April 2025 Trustee Tuesday; the topic will be the budget, and the presenters will break down the key developments and what is ahead in the final 21 days of the legislature.

Dr. Mohrbacher added that he could provide the trustees with sample policies on public disruptions to review.

The trustees were made aware of:

- 1) General hours posted on the website
- 2) General hours posted on buildings
- 3) What offices are private/public
- 4) Chalking allowed on horizontal but not vertical surfaces

Dr. Mohrbacher stated that at the next meeting, there will be a review of policies regarding public comment and other related issues. The President’s Office will do some research and provide the trustees with sample policy information.

Pretrina Mullins attended the Trustee of Color Affinity Group where several of her colleagues discussed their recent visit to Washington, D.C.

The group is reviewing the idea of surveys regarding how to manage Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) with some of the recent language changes.

Pretrina attended the Trustee Tuesday “Campus Access: What Institutions and Trustees Can and Cannot Do When Encountering Campus Disruptions.” Pretrina added that not everything can be addressed in a public meeting, however, that portion of the agenda allowing an open forum is to provide a venue where people can provide input.

Pretrina attended the Foundation's Executive Board meeting last night. 135 students have applied for scholarships and approximately twenty of them haven't finished the process. The deadline for finished scholarship applications is Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Chris Thomas met with Athletic Director Joe Chirhart for the upcoming benefit this spring for athletics. Joe will be providing retired jerseys to Chris and Chris' wife will be sewing them into a quilt for the event.

Chris apologized for being on the road during a board meeting but will be involved as much as possible.

Annalee Tobey attended the play *Waiting for Godot*. Annalee thought the performance was interesting and was glad she had the opportunity to attend.

Annalee also attended the Trustee Tuesday "Campus Access: What Institutions and Trustees Can and Cannot Do When Encountering Campus Disruptions."

She also participated in an ACCT tip online seminar.

Annalee was unable to attend the Mental Health 101 workshop sponsored by the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee. It was recorded so Annalee was able to watch the presentation. The topic is important with college aged students; there are stresses for students that were not there when she was attending college.

After the board meeting, Annalee will be attending the Visiting Nurses gala.

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 and Annalee Tobey expressed an interest in attending. Chris Thomas and Court Stanley are unable to attend. Mark Scheibmeir is currently undecided.

ACCT

No report provided.

6. President's Report

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that he has devoted time to determining what is taking place in Washington, D.C. Currently, the college is waiting to see whether a continuing resolution is passed or if services shut down. The college is solvent for the immediate future, even if things shut down. Programs that may be affected are:

- Financial Aid
- TRIO programs
- WorkFirst
- Perkins
- Basic Food and Education Training (BFET)

Some funds are drawn down directly, and some are sub-recipients through the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) or the State Board for Community and Technical College (SBCTC). TRIO is forward funded, and the money is already

there. There will be no immediate changes at Centralia College. Currently, the college can assure that those programs can continue to function normally, and those employees will be supported.

Today, twenty states, including Washington, filed a suit against the layoffs at the Department of Education. An article in the *Seattle Times* alleges that this is an illegal dismantling of an agency created by Congress and goes beyond the scope of Executive Branch authority. It could prevent colleges from accessing the funds they have already been granted to administer Financial Aid or civil rights laws. It is likely that this is a temporary injunction.

The Governor's budget continues to be kind to community colleges. He did not specifically ask for cuts to community college budgets; he did suggest cuts for four-year colleges. His budget proposals did not suggest recouping the money from the Office of Financial Management (OFM) error; however, he did suggest that all state employees take one furlough day a month for the next two years. For higher education, rather than mandating furloughs, they may provide a dollar amount equivalent to employee furloughs. Faculty furloughs are difficult to administer. Dr. Mohrbacher does not think the furlough suggestion is getting much traction.

Dr. Mohrbacher has been asked to serve on a state task force to review new models for funding higher education. The Washington Roundtable is organizing this task force to investigate how other states fund higher education. The membership consists of three community college presidents, some people from the regionals, and representatives from the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU) as well as Roundtable employees. A consulting firm will be doing the research. If there is a proposal made from this group, it could be for the 2027 biennium. The challenge is there is no new source of funds.

There have been some issues with the mobile lab. It is a wonderful resource with several problems. Thanks to Bob Guenther and Bill Sullivan for finding extra funding for more simulators and installing power outlets at middle and high schools. For the mobile lab to be successful, there needs to be sufficient funding for operations and a program manager. The lab is technically not one of the college programs; it does not deliver instruction, and it is not direct recruiting.

The original vision was to hold classes or training in the lab and that has not worked out. Now, it mostly serves as a conduit for career exploration and enrichment for middle school students, which is not part of the college mission.

Dr. Mohrbacher received a thank you note from former trustee Doris Wood-Brumsickle. She extended her gratitude to the college for helping celebrate Bill Brumsickle's life at his memorial service.

7. SAALT

Joshua Pickett, Student Advocacy Activities Leadership Team (SAALT) President, reported the student government has been working to engage the student body and create a sense of community and support during a busy and stressful time.

Joshua listed key events and initiatives:

- Staff appreciation blue wave at recent men and women's basketball games
- President's Day Pizza with Dr. Mohrbacher

- Whiteout game for sophomore athletes at the men's and women's basketball games
- Music and comedy showcase at Corbet theater
- Speaker on anxiety and mental health who provided valuable insight and coping strategies
- Campus spa before finals week

Joshua stated that these events contribute to the ongoing effort of student government to provide opportunities for engagement and to create a sense of belonging and promote overall well-being for students. Joshua thanked the trustees for their continuing support.

8. Faculty

Mark Gorecki, faculty representative, Centralia College Federation of Teachers President, commented that AI has definite implications for higher education and for most of the faculty, it has not been well received.

Mark Scheibmeir commented that rather than trying to defeat AI, incorporate AI and teach students to use it cleverly rather than illegally.

Dr. Mohrbacher added that faculty may be worried about specifically generative AI being used to write an assignment, which is just one narrow piece of what AI can do. There has been discussion on using AI for transcript evaluations. An AI database could help with that task. Information would be fed into AI and AI would learn how to evaluate transcripts. The human would be responsible for reading the error report. This would be much more efficient.

Fia Eliasson-Creek added that she attended a presentation in November 2024 by a faculty member who incorporated AI into her curriculum to use as a learning tool.

Mark Gorecki responded that first- and second-year students do not have the ability to assess whether the AI tool is effective or whether the AI prompt is either good or bad. Students need to create their own text with their own ideas. Expressing themselves, whether it is written or oral, takes far more learning, ability, and growth than reviewing AI to assess whether it is good or bad. Mark is hesitant to endorse faculty members who say that they are going to incorporate AI into their classrooms. It is a complex topic.

9. Classified

Emil Parke-Fagerness, classified representative, reported that Bobbi Callies, reported the Panda Preschool Class, led by Kasi Hopkins, complete a paper mâché galaxy in preparation for the April 18, 2025, Family Fun Fest.

10. Instruction

Connie Smejkal, Vice President of Instruction, reported Preston Kiekel, Assistant Professor, mathematics, submitted a sabbatical request for spring quarter of 2026 as outlined by the negotiated contract. The Sabbatical Committee and Dr. Mohrbacher approved his proposal. Preston will be spending spring quarter rewriting and updating his textbook on statistics.

11. Human Resources & Equity

Joy Anglesey, Vice President of Human Resources and Equity, reported the report is for the months of January and February.

The HR Office put out a survey on the Winter Conference and the responses were very positive.

Employee Appreciation Day was celebrated on Thursday, March 6, 2025, with a free beverage at the Blazer Bistro. Joy also distributed personal cards of thanks and appreciation.

The HR Office has produced a public records index (table of contents). The index is posted on the public facing college website. If anyone comes to campus and claims to be doing a First Amendment audit, employees know what that is, how to respond (and how not to respond), and where to find the information.

Public Records Requests (PRRs) range from “How much money are you spending on postage?” to information on curriculum, board minutes and board packets, College in the High School faculty credentials, and Phi Theta Kappa information. Both Roberta Graver and Joy Anglesey are signed up to participate in PRR training in April.

12. Student Services

Dr. Robert Cox, Vice President of Student Services, reported that Centralia College was well represented Friday, March 7, at Discover Lewis County’s Second Annual Bowling Tournament at Mill Town Smokehouse in Morton with Justin Losey, Connie Smejkal, Nicole Zock, and himself.

Mark Scheibmeir asked whether there were any projections for next fall enrollment numbers. There is some concern regarding the reduction of Department of Education (DOE) staff in terms of being able to process applications for federal financial aid. If there is a significant loss of staff, there could be major implications. At this point, it is too early to tell.

The mandatory student success class may be one of the reasons there was a decrease in enrollment, but the effort will pay off with the increase in retention of students from fall to fall.

13. Administrative Services

Tariq Qureshi, Vice President of Finance and Administration, highlighted the numbers provided by the Budget Department. Actual expenses continue to trend downward, and the college is currently 2.1 million below budget. The trend continued into January. Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 will end with the college in good fiscal shape.

Budget planning sessions for FY26 are underway. Cliff Frederickson, Director of Budget, Grants, and Contracts and Bill Storms, Research Data Consultant, have scheduled training workshops with staff. These workshops will emphasize the shift to provide transparent budget numbers and incorporate feedback from budget managers in the budget planning process.

The athletic field bleachers on Silver Street are supposed to be fifteen feet from the property line but it is going to be 3 ½ feet. A variance was applied for and approved. The hearing was yesterday, March 12, 2025. The hearing set a record for the shortest hearing Centralia City Hall has ever had.

14. Foundation

No report provided.

15. New Business

Mission, Vision, Values

Dr. Mohrbacher reported policy 5.001 needs to be updated. There is an unnecessary phrase that should be removed as it refers to a policy that has been deleted.

It was MOVED BY Court Stanley THAT THE BOARD APPROVE POLICY 5.001 AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Change of Venue

Dr. Mohrbacher reported that the accreditation site visit will be on the main campus April 9-11, 2025. Therefore, the traditional April board meeting trip to Morton will be postponed until May.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE POSTPONMENT OF THE APRIL MORTON BOARD MEETING TO MAY. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Athletic Waivers

Dr. Cox thanked the trustees for reordering the agenda to accommodate the athletic waivers topic.

Dr. Cox proposed the college offer 37.5% waivers (an increase from the previous 25% waiver). The college will apply the 37.5 percentage to both the Associates and Bachelor students. Waivers are based on associate degree tuition, so to accommodate the Bachelor students; the rate would be adjusted to 62.5%. The 37.5% amount of \$483 will be awarded to associate's degree students and the 62.5% amount of \$805 will be awarded to the bachelor's students. All athletes who are awarded waivers will have 37.5% of their tuition waived regardless of whether they are an associate or bachelor's degree student.

It was MOVED BY Mark Scheibmeir THAT THE BOARD AUTHORIZE THE COLLEGE TO GRANT TUITION WAIVERS TO ATHLETES AT 37.5% AND 62.5% OF 15 CREDITS FOR THE 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

16. Old Business

Strategic Planning

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, stated a systematic way of collecting information for the institution is important. The institution must tie the student's data to investigate retention, completion, and other educational behaviors.

- Who are our students?

- What services do we offer?
- What kind of classes do they take?
- How do they do in their classes?
- Are they dropping out at a certain point?
- What are they not completing?
- What demographic factors are there?

The college is required to compare itself to its peers. Fia created a dashboard comparing the college to five state peers. The peers were selected based on factors such as enrollment distribution of male/females, race, full-time, and part-time categories. The five peer institutions are Peninsula, Grays Harbor, Lower Columbia, Walla Walla, and Wenatchee. Fia selected a couple of the Key Performance Indicators as part of the comparison. For example, in terms of completing 15 college level credits within the first year, 68% of them completed 15 credits versus 69% of our peers in fall 2022.

All of this peer information is posted in greater detail on our website:

<https://www.centralia.edu/about/leadership/institutional-research/comparisons.aspx>

Fia provided an example for Goal 1.3 – Ensure Equitable Learning and Achievement Outcomes. Under “Mission Fulfillment,” one of the key performance indicators are the numbers used to review the data on these three student groups:

1. African American Black students
2. Native American students
3. Hispanic students

Outcomes in progression from first to second term retention, first year to second year retention, and three-year completion including completion of college level math and English are being examined. This shows the equity gaps between this group of students and white students. Reviewing Black African American students, the gaps in the metrics measure between 9 to 14 percent. Native American students are similar, although the gaps are smaller.

- Why are those gaps there?
- Can students be tracked better to determine at what point they need help?
- Can we determine why they did not complete their courses and therefore withdrew?
- Could the reason be external?

It would be beneficial to determine what strategies can be put into place to help student groups.

Indications of things that can be changed need to be examined while the students are still here. For example, completing their courses successfully with the 2.0 or higher, retaining them from term to term in their first year, ensuring they continue to the second year, and that they are following their academic plan. This is part of our strategic plan objectives.

Fia’s goal is to tie all these different pieces together so there is always a metric that carries over and ties one thing to another.

Accreditation

Fia Eliasson-Creek, Executive Director of Institutional Research, reminded the trustees that the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) evaluators will be here April 9 through the 11, 2025.

It is hopeful that the previous recommendations in assessment will be cleared up and the recent work on assessment acknowledged.

Fia provided a brief review of the schedule the evaluators will be following. The first day, there will be two forums. One for students and one for faculty. This will provide employees an opportunity to provide feedback regarding how they think the college is meeting the accreditation standards. Evaluators will meet with the Assessment Committee; this is important because of the previous recommendation. Hopefully, enough has been done to meet that recommendation and it will be removed. The recommendation may be extended and the current work acknowledged, but there may be more to do.

On the second day, there will be a staff forum at 10:00. At 3:00 pm they will meet with the board. Annalee Tobey, Chair and Mark Scheibmeir, long-standing board member will represent the trustees. This will take place instead of the normal study session.

Here are possible questions they may ask:

- What can you tell us about the strategic plan?
- Have you been involved in that planning process?
- What do you know about the college mission statement?
- Are you participating in policy review?
- How often are your board policies reviewed?
- Do you have a self-evaluation process?
- Does that work?
- If you could recommend any changes or improvement, what would that be?

These questions are based on the criteria that are related to the board. The questions are formulated on what they have read in the two reports. To prepare for the meeting, Fia recommended reviewing the two reports: 1) The evaluation of institutional effectiveness which focuses on Standard One and then the Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR) report which focuses on Standard 2.

The third day is a half day. It will begin at 9:30 with a pre-exit meeting with Dr. Mohrbacher and Fia. It will provide an overview of what the evaluators found, the accommodations, and recommendations. At 10:30 a.m. the full executive meeting with the campus is scheduled. The evaluators will walk into the room, thank us for the visit, and then read the recommendations and commendations. They will then walk out. There are no discussions. It is very formal.

The evaluators are on a tight timeline. The evaluators will focus on things they have read in the reports where they may have additional questions. If an evaluator asks you something that is outside of your area, simply remind them it is not in your area if it happens.

Currently, Fia is working with the chair to set up the meetings/schedules. NWCCU provided a template where they specified the traditional meetings they expect to have scheduled. Janet Reaume and Fia are working on the coordination, transportation, meals, and snacks. The things are all nearing completion.

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 5:42 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 6:15 p.m. unless notified that the time is to be extended.

At 6:15, the Executive Session was extended for ten minutes.

The Board has adjourned the Executive Session and reconvened in Open Session. The time is 6:35 p.m.

The Board will proceed with the final agenda items.

18. Action from Executive Session

TENURE/CONTRACT RENEWAL MOTIONS.

It was moved and unanimously passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to FRANCIS BOZZOLO, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to RACHEL BRYANT-ANDERSON, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to MAKAYLA GARNER, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to TIONNA MILLER, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to LISA FRITCH, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to JESSE HARLAN, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to APRIL MORGENROTH, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to KYLE SUTTON, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

It was moved and passed, that the Board of Trustees, after having considered the recommendation of the president and probationary review committee of Centralia College, award tenure to JEREMIAH BOYDSTUN, effective with the 2025-26 academic year.

Chris Thomas moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify ELLEN JUNG that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Annalee Tobey moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify KELLEY SIMMONS JONES that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Mark Scheibmeir moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify ALEXANDER USHMAN that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Pretrina Mullins moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify JEFFREY BIRKENSTEIN that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Court Stanley moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify ANN GRANDE MOODY that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Chris Thomas moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify JUSTIN HARRIS that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Annalee Tobey moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify ANGELA PECK that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Mark Scheibmeir moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify LORI SIRS that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

Chris Thomas moved that The Board of Trustees direct the president to notify LENORE MONTALBANO that the Board authorizes continuation of the probationary review period.

ALL MOTIONS PASSED.

19. Announcement of Upcoming Meeting Date and Place:

The next board meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2025, via Teams and Centralia College Boardrooms, Centralia, WA.

20. Comments

21. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

Annalee Tobey, Board Chair

Dr. Bob Mohrbacher, Board Secretary