

Agenda Items

Information/Action/Presenter

I. SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Bob Zappone called the meeting to order at 1:16 P.M. and noted a quorum.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Automotive Program Tour

4. Meetings

A. The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2026, at 3:00 P.M.

5. Adjournment

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. At 2:10 P.M., an Executive Session was called to order for 45 minutes to review the performance of a public employee (RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)), in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Executive Session was extended by 8 minutes.

2. The Executive Session concluded at 2:53 P.M.

3. Return to Open Session

III. REGULAR BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Bob Zappone called the meeting to order at 3:08 P.M. and noted a quorum.

2. Adoption of Minutes

A. January 21, 2026 – Special and Regular Meeting

Trustee Norouzi introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the special and regular meeting held on January 21, 2026. Trustee Peschek seconded, and the motion carried.

3. Communications

A. General Information/Introductions

Vice Chair Bob Zappone introduced new Trustees Shana Peschek and Peter Aiau.

President Yoshiko Harden introduced Jordan Mellott, new Executive Assistant to the President / Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

Morenika Jacobs, Associate Dean of Enrollment Services & Registrar, introduced Zahra Joseph, new Credential Evaluator. Morenika also Introduced Evette Dean, new Enrollment Specialist.

John Henry Whatley, Executive Director of College Technology Services, introduced Kaylie Velazquez Becerra, new Technical Support Analyst.

B. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

C. Public Comments from the Audience

Marty Cooksey, math faculty, made public comment regarding the college budget.

D. Student Leadership

Odessa Paule, Umi Moalim, and Ruby "Rue" Pocasangre spoke about the Advocacy Day Trip that members of ASG attended. They went to Olympia and talked to Senator Conway and Representative Bergquist. They also spoke about the Lunar New Year event which occurred yesterday. There were over 150 attendees and there were lion dancers, food, and cultural activities. They announced an upcoming Black History Month event on Wednesday, February 25th from 1:00-3:00 P.M. Leonna Lee introduced Roe Harris, new VP.

E. Renton Federation of Teachers

Dr. Huma Mohibullah shared that she is in solidarity with everyone celebrating occasions like Black History Month, Lunar New Year, Lent, and Ramadan. Expressed excitement that we filled vacant trustee positions. Shared that the top priority of the union's agenda is ending the college's financial emergency and gave context to the topic for the new trustees. She stated that the financial emergency was declared in December 2024 and resulted in faculty and staff reductions, which she said impacted employees, programs, and students. She said the union believes the college is now financially stable and that the emergency should be lifted. Shared concerns about the justification for

continuing the emergency given a projected \$250,000 deficit and no anticipated personnel cuts, and raised questions about budget transparency, including revenue estimates and longterm- vacant positions. Dr. Mohibullah concluded by encouraging the Board of Trustees to consider lifting the financial emergency to restore stability and trust.

F. Written Communication Reports

None.

4. Discussion/Reports

Information

A. President's Report

President Harden

Dr. Harden began her report by welcoming the new trustees to the board and shared highlights since the last meeting, including being recognized as a community leader at the Garfield Teen Life Center Gratitude event and participating in legislative visits in Olympia with college leadership. She reported on the Spring AllCollege meeting, noting strong attendance, questions about college finances, and the goal of avoiding personnel cuts in the next fiscal year. She stated that, barring extraordinary circumstances, the college projects no personnel cuts over the next two fiscal years. Dr. Harden shared updates on her participation in statewide leadership efforts, including presenting at the Middle Leadership Academy and serving as chair of the WACTC Equity Committee. She also noted engagement with instructional leadership, attendance at the City of Renton Blue Ribbon luncheon, participation in the Strategic Equity Plan implementation meeting, and a visit to UW-Tacoma. She provided an enrollment update, reporting that overall enrollment is at 71% of the internal target for the year, with tuitionpaying- enrollment at 77% of target and -tuitionpaying FTE up 5% compared to the same time last year. She noted preparations for the new state allocation model beginning July 1. Dr. Harden also shared construction updates, including projects in Buildings I and L, and provided a legislative update, noting system priorities and that the college has accounted for an anticipated- 1.5-2% state funding reduction in the upcoming budget.

B. Financial/Budget Status

VP Jacob Jackson provided a financial and budget status update, noting that tuition revenue is reported to be approximately \$700,000 higher than last year, and fee revenue have also increased following fee adjustments made in collaboration with ASG. Enrollment revenue from Running Start and youth high school completion programs is reported as slightly lower than projected; however, Running Start enrollment is currently at approximately 180 students,

compared to a historical average of about 120, representing an unexpected increase. Enterprise revenue has increased, driven in part by ASG revenue associated with the S&A fee. Total revenue generated to date was reported at approximately \$32.0 million, compared to \$31.5 million at the same point last year. Total expenditures were approximately \$26.9 million, compared to \$26.2 million last year. The college is currently projecting approximately \$400,000 to reserves. Cash and investments were reported at approximately \$20.8 million. Capital and facilities updates included plans to send Building J out to bid next month, with construction anticipated to begin in July. The Building C refresh project is nearing completion, with an open house planned. Parking lot lighting upgrades in lots P6, P7, and P2 are also scheduled to occur soon.

5. Board of Trustees

Foundation Liaison Report

Carrie Shaw reported on behalf of the Foundation. She shared that the Foundation has been working hard to raise money and that they recently closed the McCarthy Bridge Grant. She reminded that the Foundation Gala is scheduled for March 7. She shared that this is the first year the gala has secured three premierlevel- sponsors: Invitation Homes, Amazon, and Boeing.

Legislative Action Liaison Report

Vice Chair Bob Zappone shared that he went to Olympia last month and they were told that there was no money available. Advocated for how much we need to maintain strong operations. Has heard that the legislative budget will be the same as what the government decides on. House budget should release next week. Bob encouraged folks to reach out to legislatures between sessions. Many people reach out during the session, but it's important to reach out between as well.

Community Advisory Committee Liaison Report

Trustee Jessica Norouzi shared that Executive Director Wade and Dr. Harden have been doing great work since last meeting. They are working on getting their Spring Meeting Scheduled.

6. Meetings

A. Regular Board Meeting – March 18, 2026

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 3:00 P.M. on March 18, 2026.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Peschek moved to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting 4:06 P.M. Trustee Norouzi seconded, and the motion carried.