

## I. STUDY SESSION

### 1. Call to Order

Chair Jessica Norouzi called the meeting to order at 1:21 P.M. and noted a quorum.

There was a Zoom outage, which delayed the start of the meeting. A Teams alternative was offered, and the meeting commenced in-person as usual.

### 2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

### 3. Program Fees

Vice President Jacob Jackson briefed the group on program fees. The Program Fees Committee looked at comparable local colleges. Some fees will be raised, reduced, or eliminated. VP Jackson walked the group through an in-depth breakdown of each fee and reasoning behind any proposed changes. Some programs will have fee increases due to supply costs. These fees are per quarter. Ampersands on VP Jackson's sheet indicate transfer-level courses. The increase for medical fees is due to more robust data on consumable materials needed for student practice. Executive Director Carrie Shaw noted that students can apply scholarships to fees and tuition, as well as a grant that covers book and lab fees and equipment. VP Jackson stated that fee increases don't outprice RTC when compared to other local colleges. Chair Norouzi asked about revenue gain. Revenue will increase, but the overall consumable fee will be largely static. Fee review is every other year to provide consistency to students. Chair Norouzi thanked VP Jackson and the committee for their due diligence.

### 4. Health Sciences Building Naming

ED Shaw noted that about two years ago, Denny and Bernadene Dochnahl approached the Foundation and stated that they had named the RTC Foundation in their will as the recipient of commercial property title. Once realized, this bequest will represent one of the largest gifts to a community or technical colleges in the state and is the largest gift that RTC has received. The bequest is currently a pledge, as outlined in the RTC and Foundation Naming Policy. The Dochnahls have been strong advocates for RTC and instrumental in reestablishing major donor relationships and successful fundraising events. Denny was a founding member of the RTC Foundation in 1994 and currently serves as a Board member emeritus. When Bernie passed away in January 2025, Denny revisited the idea of a naming opportunity tied to their bequest. With Bernie's many leadership roles and work in healthcare, RTC's new health science complex he welcomed the idea to honor

Bernie's legacy and love for the college. Trustee Frieda Takamura stated that "this is Renton history" and thanked ED Shaw to her work on these relationships.

President Harden stated that Bernie was passionate about nursing, access to healthcare, and community. Trustee Takamura commented that the Dochnahls fostered many students of color. President Harden noted the naming policy and shared that Denny plans to attend the regular meeting. Trustee Takamura said that a great hesitance she has had was in naming buildings. However, she is in support of this naming. Chair Norouzi said that she has some questions around naming, but when we have opportunities to use naming to showcase people who have been instrumental to the RTC community and have worked to increase access to education, this can be a good thing. The Board asked questions about Foundation policy and ED Shaw walked the group through the Foundation's gift policy and valuation.

5. Building D Tour

A. Executive Director Doris Martinez took the Board on a tour of the Unity Center.

6. Meetings

A. Regular Board Meeting – April 16, 2025 at 3:00 P.M.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2025 at 3:00 P.M.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Frieda Takamura motioned to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting 2:38 P.M. Trustee Bob Zappone seconded, and the motion carried.

## **II. REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

1. Call to Order

Chair Norouzi called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. and noted a quorum.

2. Adoption of Minutes

A. March 14, 2025 – Special Session

Trustee Zappone introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the special and regular meeting held on March 14, 2025. Trustee Takamura seconded, and the motion carried

B. March 19, 2025 – Special Session and Regular Meeting

Trustee Takamura introduced a motion to approve the minutes for the special and regular meeting held on March 19, 2025. Trustee Zappone seconded, and the motion carried

3. Communications

A. General Information/Introductions

There were no introductions.

B. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

C. Public Comments from the Audience

There were no public comments.

D. Student Leadership

Leo Ragual from the Associated Student Government (ASG) provided a report, including activities around campus. Yesterday, there was a game day, which students reported enjoying. There will be a ASG Luau on May 13 from 12:30 P.M.-2:00 P.M. in the Cafeteria. This will include dancers, activities, and food. The Graduation Fair Celebration will be May 28 with cap decorations, applying for graduation, RSVPing for Commencement, distribution of cords, cap and gown pick up, and colleges and employers tabling. There will also be a barbeque, t-shirt tie dying, and more! Last week was a Coffee and Chill and a mascot vote with more than 300 votes. The Raven won as the RTC mascot.

*Trustee Frieda Takamura introduced a motion to approve the Raven as the RTC mascot. Trustee Bob Zappone seconded. The motion carried.*

The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Student of Color Conference, a three-day experience that focuses on identify development, awareness of others, skills development, social justice and social activism, and personal development. Jullian Rocha reported out about his African American/Black identity, and how he feels happy and proud knowing that he is comfortable in his own identity. Leo attended the Men of Culture Academy, that included singing a 4,000-year-old Muckleshoot song and discussed service, their journey, and their identities as men. Angel De La Garza attended Saul Flores' The Walk, which was a session about where we come from, what our parents sacrificed, and what more they could do for their communities. Not only should we see the sacrifices we made, but this session helped the attendees see what sacrifices others made. Chair Norouzi thanked the group for sharing what they learned and the impact this experience made.

E. Renton Federation of Teachers

Donna Maher, President of the RFT, greeted the group and gave thanks for the time. She stated that the state has not yet passed a budget, and there is a lot of pressure to get the budget through. RFT would like to see a more progressive tax. RFT has met with Vice President Stephanie Delaney about teach outs, and mandatory training for adjunct faculty. The quarter is going well. There was a Zoom outage today and it was fixed quickly. Thank you to CTS. Trustee

Takamura asked how many adjuncts are at RTC. President Harden stated that there are about 150 adjunct faculty. Donna Maher stated that she does not know how many adjunct faculty are in RFT because some adjunct faculty belong to other unions.

F. Written (and video) Communication Reports

The Board received written and video communication reports. Trustee Takamura thanked the group for their reports. Trustee Takamura asked about the mismatch for the Building I construction. VP Jackson stated that the plans RTC had to provide to the architect were incomplete. ED Martinez noted that the DEIC Listening Session Results are on the campus climate page.

4. Action Items

A. Health Sciences Building Naming

President Harden introduced the Health Sciences Building naming in honor of Bernadene Dochnahl. The Board learned about “Bernie” and her legacy during the study session. ED Shaw thanked the Board and stated that it is her honor to talk about the Dochnahls. Their impact on this college is immeasurable. Denny Dochnahl is an emeritus member of the RTC Foundation Board and is a founding member who helped establish the Foundation with “seed funding.” Bernie was known as a pillar in the community who believed strongly in the transformative power of education. She was a glass ceiling breaker for woman, serving as the first vice president for Puget Sound Energy and on the boards of Harborview, Valley Medical Center and UW Medicine. Bernie and Denny have created a bequest of commercial property to the RTC Foundation. Denny embodies generosity and a successful entrepreneur and started buying property at age 18. Bernie graduated from Renton High School and the couple have always lived in Renton. It is a distinct honor to receive this bequest. This will be the largest gift to the college and one of the largest gifts to a community or technical college in the state.

*In recognition of Bernadene Dochnahl's leadership in the healthcare sector, her commitment to the Renton community, advocacy on behalf of Renton Technical College and Legacy bequest with her husband Denny Dochnahl through the Renton Technical College Foundation, Trustee Zappone moved to posthumously name the new allied healthcare building the Bernadene Dochnahl Health Sciences Complex. Trustee Takamura seconded, and the motion carried.*

Chair Norouzi thanked Denny for keeping Bernie’s legacy alive and continue to spread the impact of the work they’ve done. We’ve had a lot of bad news, and it is a joy and an honor to see people doing such inspiring and good work to lift up the community. Trustee Takamura stated that the students who joined the group are the embodiment of what the Dochnahls have done for RTC, and the

Dochnahls also embody the Strategic Equity Plan. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts. Trustee Zappone offered condolences and gratitude. He stated that he is so impressed by the Dochnahls and their trust in the leadership of the college.

Denny stated that he has been investing in real estate since he was a kid. The Dochnahls made their money in this community and are putting their money back into the community. The gift is unrestricted because they trust the leadership. The Dochnahls have been involved with the college for over 30 years and investing in the community for over 60 years.

President Harden thanked Denny and ED Shaw for their good work. She remembered meeting Denny at President McCarthy's retirement party, where he embraced her leadership. We will make good returns on the investment. Chair Norouzi thanked the Dochnahls for being an inspiration.

**B. Student Fees**

President Harden stated that fee review occurs every other year. VP Jackson commented that the course fees help offset the costs of consumable materials, specialized software. Fees were compared to other colleges, and proposed increases are still below what other colleges are proposing for similar programs.

*After considering the recommendation of the fee revenue committee and all other recommendations, Trustee Takamura moved to approve the updated program fee schedule as presented. Trustee Norouzi seconded, and the motion carried.*

President Harden thanked the Fee Committee to their work. Chair Norouzi thanked the Fee Committee for their due diligence.

**5. Discussion/Reports**

**A. President's Report**

President Harden greeted the group and gave an update on activities since the last Board meeting.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

The first Equity Symposium was March 26, 2025. Thank you to ED Martinez and the planning committee. Trustee Takamura was in attendance and commented that she has known Erin Jones for years. She found the experience valuable and appreciated that she built on work from previous years. President Harden attended the Black Male Research Institute Symposium at Morehouse on Black Fatherhood. The SEP Implementation Taskforce work continues and the strategic indicators are going to be a topic at the April 30 All-College meeting. Be Culture will be facilitating upcoming listening sessions.

### Workforce development/partnerships

The Renton Chamber of Commerce Retreat was last month, as was the Executive Cabinet Retreat which was facilitated by Be Culture. In the Executive Cabinet Retreat, the group focused on moving from survival to thrival. President Harden, Vice President Jessica Gilmore-English, and Representative Steve Bergquist presented to the Renton City Council. The House Bill expanding the Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) criteria for Renton Promise is in the legislature. This expands the funding with matching WSOS dollars.

### Enrollment

Spring enrollment is up 11% year-over-year and 20% for tuition-paying. For the year, enrollment is up 12% for the year and 20% for tuition-paying. It's great that enrollment has improved, but we are still in a very difficult state financial spot. The I-214 Enrollment Services project is mostly complete and is awaiting furniture. It will be exciting for Student Services staff to have permanent space. The Bookstore space is continuing to move forward.

### Legislative

The House and Senate budgets came out and both reduced funding for community and technical colleges. Community and technical college leadership has an idea that there will need to be more reductions. The State Board is estimating another 3% of cuts on top of the claw back. President Harden and VP Jackson were in Olympia last week. VP Jackson stated that the difference between the house and the senate bill is that the senate bill addresses the claw back at the beginning of next calendar year, whereas the house sets a claw back for mid-year. The two bills approach allocations very differently. Cybersecurity and career launch enrollment allocations are expected to be down, as well as June enrollments. Uncertainty around Medicaid and Medicare will have impacts on the state budgets.

Next week is the All-advisory Committee Dinner. Thursday is the Foundation Scholar and Donor event. President Harden and Leo will be at the All-Washington Scholarship Event.

### B. Financial/Budget Status

VP Jackson stated that we are 75% through the fiscal year with revenue collections at about 85%. Catering is a bit behind in revenue collections and is likely turning a corner. Construction is being done in Building I and Building C and the chiller is being replaced. Chair Norouzi noted that campus looks beautiful. Trustee Takamura thanked Director Matt Vielbig for his robust report.

6. Board of Trustees

A. Foundation Liaison Report

Trustee Frieda Takamura thanked ED Shaw for her work. Trustee Takamura noted that this year was the largest amount of contributions and over 90% of students were awarded. Healthcare, advanced manufacturing, technology, and business were all areas of high awards. The student demographics of the bridge grants were largely woman-identified and of color. Please attend the Scholar and Donor Reception on April 24. There is a joint proposal to Congress on behalf of the Kent Valley Air and Space.

B. Legislative Action Liaison Report

Trustee Bob Zappone expressed appreciation for President Harden and VP Jackson's visit to Olympia.

C. Community Advisory Committee Liaison Report

Chair Norouzi will be meeting with President Harden and ED Shaw on what an advisory committee will look like for the RTC President's Office. Mayor Armando Pavone and Be Culture have so far agreed to be on this committee. The design is not to replicate the advisory committees, but rather to form a committee of thought partners who will help set direction.

7. Meetings

A. Special and Regular Board Meeting – May 21, 2025

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2025, at 3:00 P.M.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Trustee Zappone motioned to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:17 P.M. Trustee Takamura seconded, and the motion carried.

JESSICA NOROUZI, Board Chair  
Board of Trustees



YOSHIKO HARDEN, President  
Renton Technical College

