

I. SPECIAL MEETING

1. Call to Order

Chair Tim Cooper called the meeting to order at 8:28am

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments

3. Board Policy Review

Vice President Lesley Hogan provided an overview and updates on Board policies, noting that they are organized into four sections: Introduction, Executive Limitations, Governance Process, and the Board-President Relationship. She outlined a proposed method for reviewing these policies and offered general observations, including a reminder of the distinction between policy governance and college operations. Additionally, she noted that the Board will conduct a required review in January of the updated Vision/Mission Policy.

4. Strategic Equity Plan

Director Lia Homeister provided a review of the Strategic Equity Plan (SEP), outlining the roles and responsibilities for implementation at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. She emphasized that the Year 2 focus will center on Goal 1: Student Success, supported by five priority activities designed to advance equity outcomes. Discussion also highlighted the importance of aligning unit and budget planning with SEP priorities. While budget alignment has been partially met, processes are currently in place to spend down recent fee changes. The Board of Trustees continues to review course fees every other year, and questions remain regarding the criteria used to determine which programs should be considered in this process. Finally, Director Homeister clarified the role of the Board of Trustees in supporting and overseeing SEP implementation, ensuring accountability and alignment with institutional goals.

5. Accreditation Update

Vice President Stephanie Delaney provided an update on accreditation, including a report on the recent NWCCU Ad Hoc Visit. The visit resulted in two key recommendations: the need to strengthen strategic indicators and

resources, and to enhance assessment practices with a focus on continuous improvement. She emphasized that the institution has strong foundations, including a deep commitment to equity, inclusive and collaborative planning processes, and resource allocation that is aligned with the college's mission. At the same time, several areas for improvement were identified. Strategic metrics remain underdeveloped, goal setting has often followed a reactive timeline, and approximately 30% of programs lacked assessment data. These findings highlight the importance of continued focus on building robust systems to support accreditation standards and institutional effectiveness.

6. Federal and State Policy Updates/SBCTC Legislative Priorities

Legislative Director Arlen Harris provided an update on federal and state policy developments and SBCTC priorities. He noted that student presence on campus is at its highest since 2018 and commended the college for the condition of its grounds. At the federal level, Congress reconvened following the recent shutdown, passing three of twelve appropriations bills while continuing nine under resolution. There remains a high risk of additional shutdowns in February and March. SBCTC has been actively advocating with delegations throughout the summer and fall, closely monitoring issues such as the Workforce Pell Grant. Other updates included SNAP benefits expected to return online soon, NOAA's green energy bill reintroduced, and ongoing guidance from DSHS. At the state level, Director Harris emphasized that every college now has a food pantry on campus, but significant support is still needed for short-term programs given a \$1 billion shortfall. Cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) have been funded up to 79%, leaving colleges to identify ways to cover the remaining 21%. He stressed that tuition and fee policies remain underfunded and are not keeping pace with inflation. Rising utility costs are also a concern, with SBCTC advocating for full funding of compensation and offsets to address these increases. Positive developments include an increase in transfer rates from community and technical colleges to four-year institutions. Two policy proposals are currently under consideration: accreditation for nursing programs through the Washington Board of Nursing (WABON) and expanded connections to the Washington College Grant. Director Harris also noted that colleges are being asked to bring presidents, trustees, and students to Olympia to meet directly with legislators, beyond the regular Hill visits, to strengthen advocacy efforts.

7. RTC Foundation Board

Executive Director Carrie Shaw provided an update on the RTC Foundation Board, beginning with introductions led by Dr. Harden and emphasizing the importance of face-to-face connections between the Foundation and the Board. She highlighted how the Foundation's work aligns with the Strategic Equity Plan (SEP), noting its priority to help students mitigate financial struggles while continuing to pursue opportunities such as the Renton Promise initiative. The Foundation awarded over \$240,000 in scholarships per quarter and received \$1 million in direct support, underscoring its impact. A key long-term goal is to reduce dependence on state dollars. E.D. Shaw also previewed the upcoming 2024–2025 Impact Report and shared the RTC Foundation Strategic Plan, which is reviewed monthly and designed to align with the SEP. The plan focuses on four goals: increasing fundraising capacity; strengthening Board effectiveness through engagement, influence, and accountability; expanding student support with an equity-centered approach; and deepening industry and community partnerships. She concluded by raising the question of how the Foundation and Board can further increase communication and support one another in advocacy efforts.

8. Meetings

A. Regular Board Meeting – December 17, 2025

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2025, at 3:00 P.M.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Cooper motioned to adjourn the Board of Trustees meeting at 3:44 P.M. Trustee Norouzi seconded, and the motion carried.