

Cascadia College Board of Trustees

Regular Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2026

Cascadia College
18345 Campus Way NE
Bothell, WA 98011

Tjossem Boardroom, CC2-260
4:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Present: Dr. Meghan Quint, Chair; Alex Lee (excused), Vice Chair; Dr. Colleen Ponto, Shahryar Quadri, Dr. Rania Hussein

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Chari Davenport, Erin Blakeney, Brittany Caldwell, Shawna Pitts, Ifrah Mohamed, Dr. Eric Murray, Dr. Ellen Evans, AAG.

Shannon Bath (presentation assistant)

Susan Thomas (recorder)

AUDIENCE

Audience members included: See Addendum A

1. Public Meeting Call to Order

Chair Dr. Meghan Quint officially called the regular meeting of the Cascadia College Board of Trustees to order at 4:01 pm.

2. Consent Agenda

Chair Quint presented the Consent Agenda for approval. No modifications were proposed.

MOTION: Trustee Ponto

SECOND: Trustee Qadri

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments submitted or made during the meeting.

4. New Employees / Promotions

VP Erin Blakeney introduced Felicia “Fi” Walters, Assistant Director of Accessibility & Student Support Services

5. Information Items

A. Board Self-Assessment

Boards of Trustees are required to engage in a yearly self-assessment process to help guide their work and development as Trustees. Cascadia has used a consistent version of the self-assessment for multiple years. After approval of the instrument in the Board Packet, the assessment will be sent to each Trustee for completion and results will be presented at the Trustees’ Summer Retreat. The Board opted to approve the instrument at this meeting.

Recommendation ”I move to approve the Trustee Self-Assessment Instrument included in this month’s packet.”

MOTION: Trustee Qadri

SECOND: Trustee Ponto

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

B. Trustee Calendar 2026-27

The Trustees must approve yearly their meeting calendar for the coming academic year. The Trustees can review their personal calendars and make any suggestions before adoption at the June meeting.

C. UWB Connections

The Trustees have encouraged the College to continue building connections with UWB. This item articulates those connections. Examples of Cascadia’s on-going work with UWB are included in the packet:

Data shared by UWB regarding Running Start credits and graduation rates data report

Work in progress on building transfer relationships with UWB

An Email between UWB VC and President Murray

D. Faculty Sabbaticals

Natasa Kesler's 2026 Sabbatical Report is in the packet

6. Discussion & Presentation Items

A. Mission Fulfillment Moment: Data-Informed Decisions

One of the college's three recommendations from the NWCCU mid-cycle review was to ensure ongoing, systematic evaluation and planning processes are in place to inform decision-making and resource allocation for improving institutional effectiveness.

Four "micro" examples were highlighted as key to advancing data-informed decision-making:

1. **Dr. Ana Nina** presented on the *Cascadia Scholars Constellation* initiative (see slide deck in packet), which includes Building Bridges. The presentation emphasized alignment with the college's mission and strategic goals, intentional development of initiatives, and the use of data to evaluate effectiveness.
2. **Laura Heddal** presented the ITS slide deck, noting the increasing reliance on technology tools to support student progress and the importance of access to student success. The objective was to simplify student access and reduce barriers. Three micro-initiatives were implemented: rebranding the network as the Kodiak Account, revising student communications in collaboration with Outreach, and shortening student usernames. Data showed that while enrollment increased, support tickets decreased, indicating improved access and reduced technology-related barriers.
3. **Becky Riopel** presented *Student Life: Creating a Community Where Everyone Belongs*. The objective was to ensure student life programs are inclusive, accessible, and welcoming. Key practices included reinforcing "you belong here," engaging in genuine conversations, and recognizing returning participants. Data demonstrated increased student engagement.
4. **Kristen Buck** shared an advising improvement initiative, *Student-Drafted Education Plans*, which has been in development for approximately five years. The goal is to increase student engagement with educational goals, improve understanding of degree and transfer requirements, and promote active and reflective learning. Results showed that Winter 2026 education plans were more complete and accurate than those from Fall 2025. Additional improvements included streamlined resources, increased advisor participation in workshops, updated Canvas materials, and supplemental workshops.

Closing Remarks:

Dr. Murray noted that over the past six years, the college has developed 32 outcomes and objectives, and this work has become embedded in the institution's culture—continually

asking, “What problem are we trying to solve, and what can we do?” He thanked the four presenters and congratulated them on the progress and improvements achieved.

B. Events & Advocacy Board: S&A Budget Process

Annually, students serving on the Services & Activities (S&A) Fee Budget Committee and the Events & Advocacy Board (EAB) facilitate the request process for the use of S&A Fees by various student groups and departments on campus. This process results in a budget forwarded to the Trustees for approval.

This process highlights how those decisions are made, and **Becky Riopel** provided an overview using the *Budget Process Overview* slide deck included in the packet.

Students lead and make the funding decisions. S&A fees, also known as 522 fees, have a fee structure established annually by the state. Permissible uses of these funds are guided by student code—developed by students—as well as the state’s allowable-use guidelines. The students have voted on the proposed allocations and are presenting them to the Trustees for approval.

C. Events & Advocacy Board: Draft S&A Fee Budget for 2026-27

The Board must approve the student’s yearly budget based on estimated S&A free revenue, **Muskaan Grewal** presented the budget to the Board; the report is in the packet. The Board opted to approve the proposed budget at this meeting.

Recommendation:

The recommendation of EAB is that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed S&A budget allocation in full.

MOTION: Trustee Ponto

SECOND: Trustee Qadri

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

D. Monthly Finance Report: Spring 10th Day Enrollment + 2026-27 Draft Budget

Shawna Pitt presented the Finance Report slide deck.

FTE Enrollment Trends: Retention is up, Running Start enrollment is growing, and overall FTE has increased by more than 12% year over year.

Current Year Projection:

Projected revenue: \$32M

Current shortfall: \$544K

\$1.2M has been reduced from last year’s initial shortfall projection

Reserves Update: Provided an update on current reserves

FY 27 Budget Overview

Includes SBCTC allocation

Assumes a conservative approach to enrollment growth

Anticipates a Tuition increase in fall

Takes a conservative approach to international student enrollment

FY Financials:

Total revenue \$33.5M

Total expenses: 33.8M

Projected shortfall: \$229k

Reserves:

Reviewed reserve draw down proposal

Provided a recap of drawdown projection

Recommendation: to approve Reserve spending and operating budget

MOTION: Trustee Ponto

SECOND: Trustee Qadri

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

7. Action Items

A. Awarding Emeritus Status

The Faculty Council and College leadership recommend Emeritus Status for Dr. Brian Bansenauer, Kathy Brown, Dr. Peg Harbol, and Lelia Olson.

Recommendation:

“Based on the recommendation of the College President and the Faculty Union, I move that the Trustees approve the status of Faculty Emeritus, effective immediately, for Dr. Brian Bansenauer, Kathy Brown, Dr. Peg Harbol, and Lelia Olson.”

MOTION: Trustee Qadri

SECOND: Trustee Hussein

OUTCOME: Approved unanimously

8. Other Reports

A. Cascadia Events & Advocacy Board (EAB)

Muskaan Grewal highlighted recent events and advocacy initiatives, which are included in the packet:

Events:

- Culture Night, 93 students attended
- Kody's Birthday, 317 students attended
- Stay Hydrated Tabling, 152 students attended
- Spring Fest is happening today

Advocacy:

- Continuing to work on reusable water bottle campaign, signage on vending machines
- Providing ICE resources around campus for students

Muskaan shared that wrapping up EAB events this year they've put on 25 events and over 3,500 Cascadia students attended.

B. Cascadia Community College Federation of Teachers (CCCFT)

Dr. Dave Shapiro shared from his report included the packet.

He noted that UW Libraries and Press workers recently reached a contract agreement, avoiding a strike.

Dr. Shapiro emphasized Faculty safety and student mental health as key areas of focus, with ongoing efforts aimed at raising awareness and addressing these issues.

He will be steering the election process as part of the transition next year.

C. Cascadia Classified Union (WPEA)

Ryan Higgins was not present; no report submitted.

D. Reports from Board Chair and Trustees

- Trustee Ponto referenced the most recent Finance Sub-Committee Meeting.
- Chair Quint reported attending the Riverview School Board meeting. The Board expressed appreciation for Cascadia's continued present and are impressed by our strong enrollment. Increased student attendance at these meetings was also highlighted as a positive development, providing valuable exposure to Cascadia.

E. President's Report – Dr. Eric Murray

- School district updates have been completed and are in the folder, with the exception of Lake Washington School District (LWSD), which is finalizing one item.

Pre-COVID, a “Gang of Five” group—including the superintendent—met regularly. The new board chair has expressed interest in reinstating these meetings, which would bring institutional partners back together. The college is awaiting confirmation from LWSD.

- Dr. Murray referenced earlier remarks regarding faculty safety and student mental health. Dr. Ana Nina has agreed to develop an Ombuds program focused on conflict resolution and mediation, with the goal of creating a safe, equitable, and supportive environment for employees and students.
- Two upcoming events, in addition to commencement, were highlighted:
 - **Rose Revival Wine Walk** – Trustee presence is encouraged, as it provides an excellent opportunity to engage the community and share information about Cascadia College.
 - **Northshore Rotary Event** – Dr. Murray will serve as the bingo caller to help raise funds for student scholarships.
- Dr. Murray shared that Ed Taylor, Vice Provost at the University of Washington, is prioritizing community relationships. UW’s strategic plan includes a focus on developing “radical partnerships,” which will continue to shape collaborative work with the Seattle campus.
- An update was provided on the grant from Centro Cultural Mexicano. The funding agency has revised the grant criteria, and funding is currently on hold. Even so, the partnership will continue to be a priority.
- **Commencement:** Trustees’ regalia is ready, and the College looks forward to celebrating together. Trustees are asked to arrive at 3:00 PM on Friday, June 12. Dr. Murray and Trustee Hussein will also attend the Innovations Lab High School graduation on June 10.

9. Other Business or Announcements

There was no other business

10. Next Meeting – Public Meeting

Date: June 17, 2026, 4:00pm

Meeting Adjournment

Chair Quint adjourned the meeting at 5:30 PM.

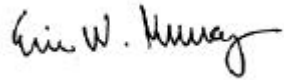
Approval of Minutes

Approved and Adopted on: Jun 17, 2026



Dr. Meghan Quint, Board Chair

Attest:



Dr. Eric Murray, President

Addendum A

Board of Trustees Meeting Attendance

Eric Murray, President	X
Meghan Quint	X
Colleen Ponto	X
Shahryar Quadri	X
Rania Hussein	X
Ellen Evans, AAG	X
Brittany Caldwell	X
Shawna Pitts	X
David Shapiro	X
Susan Thomas	X
Shannon Bath	X
Kristina Young	X
Erik Tingelstad	X
Teya Viola	X
Ana Nina	X
Shawna Pitts	X
Laura Heddal	X
Bryan Fauth	X
Antonio Shimono	X
Becky Riopel	X
Jacinth Nurse	X
Gergina Lazarova	X
Gordon Dutrisac	X

Thais Lima	X
Deann Holliday	X
Ifrah Mohamed	X
Kristen Buck	X
Yukari Zednick	X
Felicia "Fi" Walters	X