



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT VIII
BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District VIII, 3000 Landerholm Circle SE, state of Washington, was held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Pradnya Desh, vice chair, presided. This meeting was held in B201 and on Zoom. A telephone line was also available.

MINUTES

Vice Chair Desh called the business session to order at 2:00 PM.

ROLL CALL

A quorum of the Board was present; however, a majority of the Board was not present so the Board did not engage in any voting during this meeting.

Present: Vice Chair Pradnya Desh, Trustee Rich Fukutaki, Trustee Greg Dietzel, President David May, Assistant Attorney General Tricia Boerger, and Board Secretary Alicia Keating Polson.

Absent: Chair Richard Leigh and Trustee Desiré Sotelo

There were 69 guests in attendance.

Vice Chair Pradnya Desh opened the meeting by expressing gratitude to Bellevue College faculty and staff, acknowledging their dedication, intellectual leadership, and commitment to student success. She noted the challenges currently facing higher education, including shifting budgets, changes to financial aid, and increasing public scrutiny. In light of these pressures, she emphasized the importance of steady, collaborative leadership and reaffirmed the Board's belief that continuity in leadership is critical to navigating uncertainty while advancing the College's mission.

Vice Chair Desh highlighted the progress made under President May's leadership over the past two years, including addressing the faculty pay backlog, prioritizing a new scheduling system, increasing student retention and graduation rates, achieving designation as an Achieving the Dream Leader College, reinstating the provost role to strengthen faculty support, and hiring new vice presidents for student affairs and administrative services.

Vice Chair Desh underscored that these accomplishments were the result of collective effort, reflecting the College's culture of collaboration and shared commitment to students. She closed by reaffirming the Board's full support for President May's continued leadership and expressed gratitude to all employees for their hard work, integrity, and belief in Bellevue College.

CONSTITUENT REPORTS

A. Student

There was no report.

B. Classified

The Classified report was provided by Valencio Socia, WPEA Chief Shop Steward.

- Kevin Wong is co-Chief Shop Steward.
- The WPEA contract was not signed in the governor's budget. A majority of classified staff will not get a COLA and this will likely hurt retention and recruitment.
- WPEA will return to bargaining table and encourages college leadership both to attend and not use OFM to bargain on their behalf.
- Campus construction and HVAC issues are creating stress for classified employees.
- The Bellevue College Pride Fest is June 18.

C. College Assembly

The College Assembly report was provided by Amy McCrory, Chair of College Assembly.

- College Assembly has been waiting for the results on the 2025-2026 BCG Election Cycle. The Chairs and councils are excited to welcome their new and/or returning members, once the voting is finished on June 12.
- The College Assembly members had their nominations and voting for the incoming College Assembly Chair for 2025-26. Congratulations to Faculty Chair, Michael Broome.
- The combined Governance Retreat for College Assembly and President's Cabinet is being coordinated, with tentative goal of a gathering for the end of Spring Quarter or early Summer.

D. Faculty

The Faculty report was provided by Dr. Lindsay Haney, President of the Bellevue College Association of Higher Education (BCAHE.)

- Strategic planning is pivoting to include more faculty.
- It has been challenging to schedule meetings in regard to demands to bargain.
- More all-faculty meetings are requested.
- More communication with faculty union and faculty at large is requested.

E. Foundation

The Foundation report was provided by Chelle Chase, president-elect for the Bellevue College Foundation (BCF.)

- Chase is excited for the upcoming term as president.
- Groundbreaking for W Building had a fantastic assemblage despite bad weather. This event had regional media coverage.
- Alumni relations: commencement is around the corner. June 11 is a ConGRADulations lunch event.
- Chase congratulated the Board on the new vision and mission statements for Bellevue College.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Linda Schinman, faculty at Bellevue College, provided public comment on letters of support from oncology community.

FIRST READ

A. Tenure

A recommendation from the Tenure Review Committee regarding tenure appointments for full-time faculty members listed below has been submitted to the College President, in accordance with the [“Collective Bargaining Agreement By and Between the Board of Trustees of Bellevue College – Community College District VIII and the Bellevue College Association of Higher Education.”](#) On the basis of this recommendation and in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement, it is the recommendation of the President and the Tenure Review Committee that the faculty candidates listed below be granted tenure or a fourth probationary year.

Third Year Candidates Recommended for Tenure

Maria Lizana	Science (Astronomy)
Kanthimathi Radhakrishnan	Science (Mathematics)
Weina Sun	Arts & Humanities (English as a Second Language)

Second Year Candidate Recommended for Early Tenure

Stacy Woodruff	Health Sciences Education & Wellness Institute (Healthcare Leadership)
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Third Year Candidate Recommended for Fourth Year

Muntaha Alibrahim	Health Sciences Education & Wellness Institute (Nursing)
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The reason for tenure, as stated in the Revised Code of Washington, is to protect faculty employment rights. Further, tenure protects academic freedom and promotes collegiality and professionalism among faculty.

The tenure process at Bellevue College involves four levels:

- 1) The Tenure Evaluation Subcommittee (TES) gathers information, mentors the candidate, and prepares the tenure document.
- 2) The Tenure Review Committee (TRC), including six faculty members elected by the faculty at large, reviews the documentation prepared by the TES to ensure that similar standards and expectations are met across the many disciplines. The TRC provides an objective look at each document to make sure that the case supporting the recommendation of the TES is sound.
- 3) The College President, after reviewing the recommendations of the TRC, submits those recommendations and accompanying materials, along with his/her own recommendation, to the Board of Trustees.
- 4) Finally, the Board of Trustees, giving serious consideration to the recommendation of the President and the TRC, decides to grant or not grant tenure or extend the probationary period. During the first two years of candidates' employment, the President uses the recommendation of the TRC to decide whether or not to continue the probationary period.

Required documents have been gathered by the TES and the tenure candidates that provide evidence that the process described above has been strictly followed.

B. Creation of Policy 1510: Immigration Enforcement Protections

On January 14, 2025, President's Cabinet granted interim adoption of the new policy 1510 immigration Enforcement Protection Policy (and related procedures). This brings Bellevue College into compliance with the Keep Washington Working Act of 2019. This policy strongly affirms the college's commitment to inclusion and safety for all students and employees.

In 2019 the Washington State Legislature passed the [Keep Washington Working Act](#) (KWW) to establish statewide practices regarding the enforcement of federal immigration laws by state and local agencies and provide improved support of economic opportunities for all Washingtonians, regardless of their immigration or citizenship status, or place of birth.

KWW also directed the Office of the Attorney General to develop and publish model policies "for limiting immigration enforcement to the fullest extent possible consistent with federal and state law" at public schools (including all public institutions of higher education), courthouses, publicly operated health facilities, and shelters, "to ensure they remain safe and accessible to all Washington residents, regardless of immigration or citizenship status." Under this legislative directive, Bellevue College engaged with campus stakeholders to develop the required policy and procedure.

One comment was received in appreciation during the 45-day comment period in Spring Quarter.

C. Creation of Policy 3460: Classroom Guests and Visitors

This policy defines and establishes clear rules for guests and visitors in Bellevue College classrooms. It applies to individuals who are not enrolled in a specific course and those who are invited for educational purposes by faculty members.

The policy provides clear definitions for classroom visitors and invited guests, establishes a standard process for requesting and approving visits, and sets behavioral expectations to support safety and minimize disruptions. The policy and procedure also address visit limits, liability waivers, and compliance with college policies such as procedure 6500P regarding children on campus. The development of Policy and Procedure 3460/P responds to a need for consistent, transparent guidance around classroom access by non-enrolled individuals. While Bellevue College values openness to the community and supports academic enrichment opportunities such as guest lectures and prospective student visits, unregulated classroom access can present safety concerns, legal liability, and disruptions to the learning environment.

Key considerations included:

- **Maintaining a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment:** With increasing concerns around classroom safety, the procedure ensures all visitors are appropriately reviewed and accounted for, particularly in sensitive or restricted instructional spaces such as laboratories.

- Supporting Faculty Autonomy and Instructional Integrity: Faculty are given authority to approve or deny classroom visitors, reinforcing their ability to manage their classrooms effectively and prevent unexpected disruptions.
- Reducing Liability Risks: By requiring liability waivers for all classroom visitors, the college proactively protects the College while informing visitors of campus safety expectations and behavioral standards.
- Creating Consistent Protocols for Visitors and Guests: A centralized form and approval workflow helps academic deans and faculty track classroom visits, document visitor purposes, and ensure compliance with broader institutional and legal guidelines.

Two comments were received and incorporated during the 45-day comment period in Spring Quarter.

D. Revision of Policy 4150: Equal Opportunity in Education and Employment

This policy has not been updated since 2015, and this update will bring the Bellevue College EEO statement into compliance with current state and federal law, particularly RCW 49.60.030.

Changes will bring this statement into compliance, which is required across all printed and digital materials on campus. Language adoption across all platforms on campus will take place spring and summer 2025. This update incorporates expanded elements that will be deleted in 4100 Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

A 45-Day Comment period took place in the Spring Quarter, so the campus community could exercise its advisory role. Two comments were received and incorporated.

E. Deletion of Policy 4100: Equal Employment Opportunity

Policy 4100, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)/Affirmative Action Policy has been out of date for several years as federal and state laws and guidance have shifted. Bellevue College will retain EEO policy 4150 with expanded language and categories. Policy 4100 includes both the EEO statement and an outdated affirmative action policy.

A 45-Day Comment period took place in the Spring Quarter, so the campus community could exercise its advisory role. One comments was received and incorporated.

F. Deletion of Policy 7400: Raffle Ticket Sales

This policy is duplicative of another policy in our library, 6480 Gambling on Campus.

A 45-Day Comment period took place in the Spring Quarter, so the campus community could exercise its advisory role. No comments were received.

QUARTERLY REPORTS

A. Enrollment

Dr. Judith Hernández Chapar, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Steve Downing, Dean of Enrollment Management, provided a review of final enrollment figures for Winter 2025, the interim status of Spring 2025 enrollment, and revised projections for the 2025-2026 academic/fiscal year.

In Winter 2025, Bellevue College served 15,756 students. Winter enrollments overall exceeded projections by 1.8%. Results above projections were seen in most categories of enrollment, including state bachelors and non-bachelors, international, Running Start. College in the High School came in below projections and there is still some volatility in stabilizing projections in this area. All categories of enrollments increased from Winter 2024 to Winter 2025, with overall enrollment increasing by 9.5%.

So far for Spring 2025, Bellevue College is serving 14,244 students. Projections were exceeded in most categories, with overall enrollments being 7.9% above projections. College in the High School projections were slightly over-projected. Contract enrollments (predominantly CEO), are also falling short of projection. Spring 2025 overall enrollment is 9.8% higher than Spring 2024.

In terms of revising projections, they have been increased for state lower division, international and Running Start. Additionally, moderate growth for 2025-2026 is also projected. Continued concern exists around the volatility of international enrollments which may be affected by potential visa limits or restrictions imposed by the current administration.

MONTHLY REPORTS

A. President Report

David May, President, provided the President report:

- The W Building groundbreaking was a great event despite the weather – thanks to trustees for attending and BCF for partnership with the event and with the W Building generally.
- The college has severed its relationship with the external consultants for strategic planning, will create a more inclusive process moving forward, and will work with BCF for alignment with strategic plan.
- Tension exists around the budget. This year it will be more deeply personal than previous years. The President's Office has been sending updates to campus on Wednesdays and a Town Hall has been held on this topic. There is still a lot of uncertainty since the governor signed the budget.
- The demographic cliff is significant though not as severe as expected several years ago. While the college can't do anything about the demographic cliff, it can impact the demand curve by adjusting to ensure it is a place where students want to be.
- President May highlighted some achievements from athletics: the men's tennis team are champions, while women's tennis and several other athletic teams have all gone to the playoffs. Brian Pan has won NWAC coach of the year.

B. Board Report

Vice Chair Desh shared an update from the ACT Spring Conference: Chair Leigh was elected secretary of ACT. Vice Chair Desh presented on AI as it relates to policy in higher education in Washington state.

Trustee Dietzel thanked President May for budget advocacy.

Trustee Fukutaki attended the spring campus community day and particularly appreciated the faculty panel.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

There was no unscheduled business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 3:10 PM, Vice Chair Desh announced the Board would convene at 3:15 PM for 45 minutes in executive session under [RCW 42.30.110\(1\)](#) for the following purpose: (g) To review the performance of a public employee; and (i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation. Vice Chair Desh announced that no final action would be taken during the executive session.

At 4:00 PM Vice Chair Desh extended the executive session by 30 minutes.

The executive session ended at 4:30 PM.

BUSINESS MEETING

Vice Chair Desh called the business session back to order at 4:30 PM.

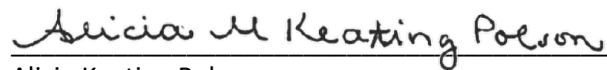
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice Chair Desh adjourned the Board of Trustees meeting at 4:31 PM.



Richard Leigh
Chair, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII

ATTEST:



Alicia Keating Polson
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Community College District VIII