

**South Puget Sound Community College
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, April 8, 2025
Building 25-Boardroom
South Puget Sound Community College
2011 Mottman Road, S.W.
Olympia, WA 98512-6292**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Steven Drew called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Trustee Doug Mah, Trustee Steven Drew, Trustee Jeff Davis were present. Trustee Judy Hartmann and Trustee Rozanne Garman were absent. Elizabeth McAmis, Assistant Attorney General, Education Division, was present on behalf of Justin Kjolseth, Assistant Attorney General.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Mah, seconded by Trustee Davis, and carried **THAT THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED. THE MOTION CARRIES.**

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

- March 10, 2025 special board meeting
- March 11, 2025 regular board meeting

B. MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- ACT Trustee Tuesday, April 8, 2025, Virtual
- ACT Spring Conference, May 22-23, 2025, Spokane

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Faculty Tenure Reception, April 8, 2025, 4:45, 1st Floor-Building 25
- ASPEN Award Ceremony, April 17, 2025, Washington DC

D. DATE OF THE NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular Meeting
May 13, 2025
2:30-4:30 p.m.

South Puget Sound Community College
2011 Mottman Road, S.W.
Olympia, WA 98512-6292

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chair Drew announced, "Board Policy 105 (*Meetings*) allows for oral comments or questions by members of the public on any matter relevant to its responsibilities and duties in the operations of the college. Consistent with this policy, comments may be limited to three minutes per person. The board is here to listen and typically does not respond and/or engage in public comments. We will now hear from individuals who wish to comment."

There were no comments.

BOARD SPECIAL COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

- ACT Legislative Action Committee (LAC): Trustee Doug Mah--primary; Trustee Steven Drew--secondary
 - Trustee Mah reported:
 - Sine Die – legislative session has 19 days remaining, with uncertainty about the completion of business due to existing budget differences.
 - The ACT discussed the legislative update, focusing on a significant \$28M funding error present in the Senate version but absent in the House version. They highlighted that the \$28M should be viewed as one-time funds and not ongoing. The impact of this to SPSCC is \$757,000. There is a legislative call to action for presidents and trustees to engage with legislators regarding this issue.
 - Legislative updates on the following:
 - High school completion, GED eligibility, Tribal Elder tuition waivers, Customized training program reauthorization
 - Changes to tuition, college grants, and staff compensation, including potential furloughs for state employees
- Board Finance Committee: Trustee Jeff Davis--primary; Trustee Doug Mah--secondary
 - Trustee Davis reported:
 - The Board Finance Committee did not meet; no report available.
- Foundation Board: Trustee Judy Hartmann--primary; Trustee Rozanne Garman--secondary
 - Kelly Green, Vice President for Advancement, reported on behalf of Trustee Hartmann:
 - Update on Clipper scramble fundraising event scheduled for June 6; seeking new sponsors due to loss of longtime supporters
 - Challenges faced by non-profits in securing sponsorships
 - Foundation board discussion on financial institutions' support and securing new sponsors for fundraising events/new sponsorship opportunities

REPORT FROM THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT

Dr. Stokes reported the following:

- No Reports from Student Senate, Faculty Union, or Faculty Senate as it was a Study Session board meeting
- Congratulations to Trustee Doug Mah for receiving the 2025 ACT Trustee Leadership Award
- Congratulations to Chair Steven Drew for being confirmed by the Senate for another term on the Board
- Enrollment Update: Classes started yesterday, and spring enrollment looks positive, with projections looking favorable; Gratitude extended to everyone for their teamwork in enrollment efforts. The goal is to grow enrollment through summer and fall to mitigate legislative reductions and to generate enough revenue to avoid furlough days.
- ASPEN Prize Ceremony on April 17, with two trustees and attendees from the college
- Soccer Field & Housing Update: The City of Olympia has approved the change around the soccer field. The soccer field project is expected to be completed in nine months to a year, while the housing project will take a year or more. The housing project has been approved with additional conditions, such as more covenants from neighbors regarding lighting and the submission of a management plan for the housing units.
- He noted that the President's Outreach/Advocacy/Professional Development Activities List is in TAB 2.

POLICY No Report.

BUDGET AND FINANCE No Report.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION No Report.

STUDY SESSION

SPSCC Degree and Certificate Alignment Assessment

Dr. Stokes provided a brief background. In 2017-18, the board commissioned a study to evaluate degree and certificate outputs and their alignment with community needs. The board requested an update to focus more locally.

SPSCC contracted with JRO + CO (J Robertson and Company) to assess the college's degree and certificate alignment and to identify any specific gaps or oversupply in the college's offerings. The study focused on job postings, degree and certificate outputs, and unmet demand in the PacMountain (PacMtn) region. The study did not cover whether graduates work in fields related to their studies.

Jason Robertson, President of JRO + CO, presented data sourced from:

- JobsEQ (BLS, census, real-time analytics for occupation demand and skill gaps)
- SPSCC (degree, certificate awards and occupation crosswalk)
- IPEDS (occupation crosswalk)

He reviewed the alignment of SPSCC's educational offerings with the current and future occupational demands in the region. Key findings indicate that SPSCC's programs are well-aligned to meet the five and ten-year occupational demand forecasts, with no obsolete degrees or certificates offered. There is a general alignment with regional job demands, particularly in registered nursing, early childhood teaching, and business administration.

Some notes:

- From the list of Certificates/Degrees issued by SPSCC in 2022-23: after liberal arts, highest award categories are: Business, Nursing, Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, and Computer Systems.
- Most common degree/certificates awarded by CIP Code (Classification of Instructional Programs), all institutions: 2023. Relatively few 4-year or post-graduate degrees awarded in the region; community colleges are essential.
- Degree gaps are often nuanced: for example, Registered Nurses can navigate between more than two dozen specific occupational pathways
- Most forecast occupational gaps are high-wage jobs

Exploration – Pathways:

- Evaluate potential for certificate, transfer pathway or BAS for: Human Resources Specialist, General Operations Manager, Business Operations Specialist, and Management Analyst
- Maintain or grow: Nursing/Healthcare Programs, Computer Science Programs, Math-Based Occupation Pathways

Discussion:

- Importance of addressing local workforce needs and adapting to evolving industry demands; aligning degree and certificate outputs with local job demands
- Strengthening connections between students and employers and role of navigators in doing so
- The job demand forecast, particularly in registered nursing and other healthcare fields, and challenges in meeting the demand for certain occupations due to capacity limitations
- The importance of additional certifications (e.g., CPR, first aid) for employability
- Automation's impact on job categories and impact of automation and AI on future job openings and curriculum needs
- Acknowledgment of the need for ongoing efforts to align educational programs with community and regional job demands, particularly in high-growth and high-wage occupations

Core Theme 3: Learning & Engagement

Dr. Dave Pelkey, Vice President for Student Services and Jen Manley, Dean of Student Engagement & Retention, provided an update on Core Theme 3.

Learning & Engagement Scorecard:

- Goal 1: Enhance general education competency
 - Measure 3.1.1.: Students who meet the College-Wide Abilities
 - Above baseline, up 4.5 points. Mission fulfillment 94.5%.
- Goal 2: Enhance quality student experience and campus life activities. Most survey respondents find SPSCC events to be valuable.
 - Measure 3.2.1.: Student satisfaction with student life activities
 - Above baseline, up 3.7 points. Mission fulfillment 77.4%
 - Measure 3.2.2.: Student satisfaction of campus support services.
 - Above baseline, up 3.7 points. Mission fulfillment 77.4%
- Student satisfaction with campus support services: Graduates are satisfied with college services
 - Average rating of all services: 4.06 (Library, Enrollment, Tutoring, Financial Aid, Current Student Advising, New Student Advising, Counseling, Placement Testing, Participation Events)
- Student satisfaction with student life: Most respondents find the college events to be valuable
 - 2023-24 – Very Valuable 72.8%; Above Average Value 16.5%; Average Value 8.7%

Some results:

- Student satisfaction with campus support services has declined by 3%, whereas student life satisfaction remains at 89%
- Financial aid satisfaction had the biggest decline due to delays in application processing and challenges due to things that were out of our control: implementation of the ctcLink system in the last few years and the Department of Education's disruptions with FAFSA, impacting student financial aid awards
- Seeing growth in satisfaction in tutoring, placement testing,

Food Service and Student Engagement:

- Food service has been successfully revamped and opened Fall 2024 with hot food options and increased customer transactions from Clipper Coffee Corner/Hot Grill food services
- Enhance food service offerings and maintain focus on quality, affordability, and customer service
- Growth in community-building gathering/community spaces and enhanced engagement in the Student Union Building
- Multi-modal offerings for campus programs

- Priority of enhanced marketing of programs and services to students
- Student programs to address loneliness and connection to the campus community

What we are doing/next steps:

- Implementation of new CRM advising software to enhance student services, improve student engagement, and streamline processes
- Increased Financial Aid information marketing and information session
- Continuing to work on addressing the ctcLink system inefficiencies and improving financial aid process (hired College Aid Services to help us align our process with ctcLink)
- Continuing to add staffing in Educational Planning and re-establishing staffing and process in Access Services
- Launching the update to our Compass system, now called Navigate 360

Healthy Minds Survey

Chandra Miller-Starks, Psychology Professor and member of the Mental Health Promotion Committee, introduced herself and the other members of the Committee who were present: Heather Kranz, Jen Manley, and Ross Artwohl. Professor Miller-Starks, Counselor Sally Sharbaugh, and Counselor Ross Artwohl, highlighted the importance of the Healthy Minds survey administered to students to gather data about their mental health and reviewed the 2024 results.

Mental Health Issues Impacting Academic Performance:

- 77% of surveyed students reported that emotional and mental difficulties adversely affected their academic performance
- Top mental health disorders impacting academic performance included anxiety/stress, depression, and learning disabilities like ADHD

Disability Statistics

- 41% of surveyed students reported having at least one disability, with 42% of these students indicating they had ADHD
- 31% of students scored in the moderate to severe depression range
- 36% of students scored in the moderate to severe anxiety range

Mental Health Committee Actions Related to Healthy Minds Data:

- Continue sharing data across campus
- Reviewed data and designated committee priorities: Faculty Community of Practice; Exploration of utilization data; Internal marketing; Spring 2025 Mental Health Programming; Foster engagement and address loneliness; Data dashboard and administrative tracking

Mental Health Counseling Services Actions Related to Healthy Minds Data:

- Continue classroom instruction and workshops open campus-wide
- Continue cross-departmental collaboration

- Continue primary focus on anxiety/stress, depression, and flourishing
- 19 presentations reaching 402 students/participants (winter 2025)
- Faculty-led Communities of Practice
- Collaboration with Student Life to design intentional programming that promotes/improves factors of flourishing in our student body

The Committee expressed gratitude for the support and collaboration from campus members and emphasized the need to continue addressing mental health challenges to improve student retention and success.

COMMENTS FROM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES None.

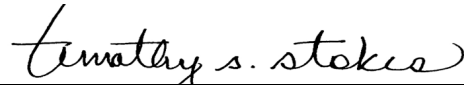
EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

ACTION ITEM FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION None.

ADJOURNMENT 4:50 P.M.



STEVEN DREW, BOARD CHAIR
SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE



TIMOTHY STOKES, SECRETARY
SOUTH PUGET SOUND COMMUNITY COLLEGE