

North Seattle College

College Council Meeting - Hybrid

12/11/24 3:04PM – 4:22PM

Attendance: Caleb Martin (Vice-Chair), Neal Parker, Dr. Rachel Solemsaas (President – Non Voting Ex-Officio), Andrew Buchanan (Ex-Officio), Alice Melling (Ex-Officio), Peter Lortz (Ex-Officio), Toni Stankovic (Ex-Officio), Neal Parker (Ex-Officio), Kristen Burton (Ex-Officio), Myele Johnson (Designated Staff Liaison), Casey Saunders, Jeff Eng, Julie Lyderson-Jackson, Alissa Agnello, Melissa Allen, Thomas Fuglestad, Emily Rodriguez, Meseret Tesfaye, Nicole Hadisenjaya, Samantha Baneth (Sam?), Mohamed Bin Nagi (Nagi), Kristina Shrestha, Roberta Lord, Thuy Nguyen, Jeanette Miller

- A. Request for motion to approve minutes of 11/13/24 College Council Meeting by Caleb Martin. Kate calls for motion and Jeff seconds motion to approve the minutes.
 - a. Motion passed with 2 abstentions following edit of Minutes to include the name of the individual who seconded motion for Minutes approval
- B. Nominations for College Council Chair announced by Caleb Martin, following Melissa stepping down. Kate Montgomery was nominated to serve as Chair; no other nominations provided.
 - a. Caleb called for a motion and vote; with zero ‘no’ votes and one abstention, Kate Montgomery is elected as Chair
- C. Dr. Rachel shared an update via [PowerPoint presentation](#), concerning the budget status of the Seattle Colleges District (SCD) and concurrently, the North Seattle College (NSC)
 - a. Q: Are we taking into consideration grants that are sunseting? A: Current projection of funding sources doesn’t consider the transition of sunseting grants, current focus is on maintaining operations.
 - b. Q: Is North taking on the deficit of the other two campuses, South & Central? A: North is part of the district, and we share the responsibility to present a balanced budget plan to the Board of Trustees. While each President is responsible in developing a balanced budget plan for their colleges, there may be districtwide policies to consider presenting a united balanced plan. As the Chancellor noted, all options will be considered to achieve this.
 - c. Q: Concerning the idea to Freeze hirings at North, will the roles currently open to hiring in Enrollment services be included as part of the hiring freeze? A: The idea of a hiring freeze applies to all areas supported by the operating budget. Thus, this will include enrollment services. Several exceptions are being identified, including positions that have an impact to meet enrollment or tuition revenues (part-faculty positions needed to meet additional class offerings).
 - i. Additional concerns were brought up concerning the capacity of Enrollment Services, as it currently stands, to handle student traffic, applications for enrollment, and handling fraudulent applications. Response: Dr. Davis is intending on presenting a plan to Cabinet on creating a more efficient workflow for students’ experience.

- d. **Q:** Is there a formal channel for providing feedback on the proposed FY 25' savings?
A: Yes, Either Andrew Buchanan, Dr. Rachel, or your Cabinet representative.
 - e. **Q:** Will filled positions that do not generate revenue be at risk of elimination? **A:** Balancing our budgets would consider all strategies to increase revenue and generate savings by decreasing expenditures. As noted by The Chancellor, everything is on the table, including the possibility of furloughs. We are looking at hiring freezes to see what savings can be accrued there.
 - f. **Q:** Of the 12 vacant faculty positions, which of them are full-time, or part-time? And of the 4 vacant positions funded by S&A fees, will those positions be frozen under the proposed hiring freeze? **A:** The 12 faculty positions are tenure track. The S&A fee positions would be exempt from the hiring freeze.
 - g. **Q:** Are there talks of eliminating positions that would be frozen? **A:** Not at this point and again, all would be considered when we prepare FY 26 budget.
 - h. **Q:** Is the District looking at efficiencies and vacancies to reduce their expense total impact / pass on savings for North's FY 26' budget? **A:** Could be but nothing that can be identified at this current time.
 - i. **Q:** Has there already been individuals identified to serve on the Budget taskforce? **A:** Not at this time. We have the outline of the purpose and the functions of the taskforce with the College Council. Nominations will be announced soon.
 - j. **Q:** Has there been any considerations for generating income to alleviate the budget deficits? **A:** We should always remain entrepreneurial and explore ways to increase revenues. These types of revenues should be sustainable or ongoing that aligns with our mission. These sources can also increase our capacity to invest in innovation and our future.
 - k. **Q:** What exactly is the Fund balance? **A:** Fund (cash) Balance works like a savings 'account'. These funds are used to meet Board mandated reserves of 10%, or for investment in the future and contingencies such as for unexpected expenses or when our revenue assumptions fall short.
 - l. **Q:** When could we (Constituency representatives) get an org chart and if possible, would it be possible to get it before the Holidays? **A:** Possibility there could be a draft available by the end of the week, but it is currently being worked on at the moment. At minimum it will be sent out to College Council prior to January
- D. Dr. Rachel discussed the 'Keep WA Working Act', [DRAFT - NSC Guidelines to the implementation of the Keep Washington Working Act](#)
- a. Concerning anticipated changes to the Department of Education (DoE) with the incoming Presidential administration, which may bring streamlining / funding reduction for the DoE, the SCD receives ~\$25 million in Grants with ~\$12.5 million being federal grants.
 - i. Current focus is anticipating reductions to the grant amounts and working around them, such as drawing funds in a timely manner
 - b. Regarding the possibility of greater immigration enforcement by the federal government, the [Keep WA Working Act](#) identifies the measures public institutions can take.

- i. North Seattle College cannot identify itself as a ‘sanctuary school’ as there are federal, state and local regulations that will limit our capacity to do so.
 - ii. If Immigration officials are present on campus, they must have the proper documentation to exercise their duties and should be directed to campus security. Request for information should be directed to the campus FERPA officer / Public Disclosure Officer
- c. Concerning the NSC guidelines; Q: Who would be the person to share this out with the campus community and who would be the primary contact for questions or considerations regarding the guidelines? A: It is our plan to post this to the web and make it accessible. We also commit to providing training. Peter Lortz will share out the guidelines once faculty returns from their leave; for the wider campus community, information to be shared at Development Day and potentially with collaborative support of Kristen Burton or Dan Tarker for specific employee groups
- d. **Q:** What about training for Admin & Directors? **A:** The prospective townhall / Development Day training would be accessible to them as well.
- e. **Q:** Who is the Public Disclosure Officer? **A:** Hannah, a district employee; information to be included in the guidelines.

Motion to adjourn meeting at 4:22pm by Kate Montgomery