



# EDMONDS COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 2024 | 4:30- 6:00 PM

College Cafe

**Attendees:** Brian Donaldson, Megan Wood, Maria Montalvo, Libby Lewis, Linda Krese, Bob Terwilliger, Steve Carter, Steve Pennington, Shashank Kalokhe, Abraham Mathew, Sherri Anderson, Jennifer Myers, Jeff King, John Pribble, Dr. Amit B. Singh, Nayara Nasution, Trustee Adrienne Wagner

**Staff:** Tom Bull, Ryan Davis, Ciela Valle-Olguin, Mary McLaughlin (Inspire Consultant)

**Absent:** Whitney Rivera, Doug Fair, Nicole Galipeau

**Guests:** Dr. Mari Acob-Nash, Dr. Kim Chapman, Kirk Heynan,

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### 1. Welcome & Acknowledgments

- Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Donaldson at 4:31].
- College Café Presentation:
  - Kevin and Traci Edlin provided an overview of the College Café, discussing the program's role in hands-on student learning and culinary training. They shared details about the evening's menu, which was prepared and served by students. The café continues to serve as a vital training ground for students pursuing careers in hospitality and culinary arts.
- Moment of Silence: The board observed a moment of silence in memory of Mike Meeks, recognizing his contributions and impact on the community.

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### 2. Approval of Minutes

- Libby Lewis requested that the five strategic goals previously shared by Brian Donaldson be incorporated into the meeting minutes for continuity and reference.
- Motion to Approve Minutes: Moved by Bob Terwilliger
- Seconded By: Linda Krese
- Vote: Motion approved unanimously

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### 3. Key Reports & Updates

## A. Enrollment Update – Dr. Amit Singh, President

- Enrollment Trends:
    - Pre-COVID enrollment stood at 18,000 students.
    - During COVID, enrollment dropped to 12,500 students.
    - Last year, numbers rebounded to 15,000-16,000 students.
    - Current projections estimate enrollment will approach 17,000 by the end of the academic year.
  - International Student Recruitment:
    - A targeted recruitment strategy is in place to attract more international students.
    - Efforts include expanding partnerships with overseas educational institutions and increasing outreach to potential students.
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## B. Financial Aid & FAFSA Completion – Dr. Mari Acob-Nash & Dr. Kim Chapman

- Challenges in FAFSA Completion:
    - Washington State ranks very low nationally in completed FAFSA applications.
    - Many students miss out on available financial aid due to a lack of awareness and assistance in the application process.
  - Limitless Learning Grant Initiative:
    - This four-year grant aims to improve FAFSA completion rates by working directly in local high schools.
    - Current Status:
      - The initiative is in year 2 of a 4-year implementation plan.
      - Edmonds College is now conducting FAFSA workshops in local high schools to increase awareness and completion rates.
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## C. Student Engagement & Leadership – Kirk Heynan, CSEL

- Board Engagement with Students:
  - The board discussed opportunities to engage directly with students to enhance leadership and mentorship efforts.
  - Opportunities for Board Involvement:
    - Volunteering at New Student Orientation
    - Connecting with student clubs and organizations
    - Supporting externship programs, which provide students with hands-on professional experiences
    - Assisting students in College Success Classes, which require students to interview professionals in their intended career fields.
- Latino Leadership Initiative:
  - Recruitment is underway for Latino Leadership Initiative, which supports leadership development and community engagement.
  - Best Contact for Involvement: Anne Penny (Recommended point of contact for mentorship and internship opportunities).

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#### D. Student Representative Report – Nayara Nasution

- Challenges Faced by Students:
    - Many students express frustration with unpaid internships and volunteer opportunities, preferring paid roles that align with their career goals.
    - Suggestions for Board Engagement:
      - Increased board presence during the first few days of the quarter to assist and guide students.
      - More structured involvement in student support services.
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#### E. Trustee Recommendations & Other Discussions

- Trustee Wagner’s Recommendation:
    - Encouraged board members to watch the documentary Join or Die, which explores the importance of civic engagement and community participation.
  - Black Box Theater Update:
    - Rehearsals are ongoing, with upcoming performances showcasing student talent.
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### 4. Board Business & Announcements

#### A. Board Retreat

- Date & Time: January 31, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM
  - Location: On Campus
  - Agenda Items:
    - Strategic planning discussions
    - Board engagement strategies
    - Committee updates and goal-setting
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#### B. New Operations Coordinator

- A new Operations Coordinator will start on Monday.
  - The role will focus on streamlining internal operations, improving communication, and enhancing overall efficiency.
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#### C. INSPIRE 2025 Theme Announced

- Theme: Disco!

- The committee is actively working on event logistics, fundraising, and community engagement strategies.
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#### D. Committee Updates

##### Finance Committee

- The Finance Committee is actively seeking additional members to assist in financial oversight and strategic budgeting initiatives.

##### Operations Committee

- Discussed updates regarding the College Agreement and ongoing partnership strategies.

##### Programs Committee

- Kickstarter Grants Initiative:
    - Focused on funding innovative student and faculty projects that align with the college's mission.
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#### 5. Next Board Meeting

- The next board meeting will take place during the Board Retreat on January 31, 2025, on campus.

#### 6. Adjournment

- Time: Meeting adjourned at 5:56 PM