



TACTC PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges

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Words from Willis



2004-05 TACTC President, Beth Willis - Pierce College

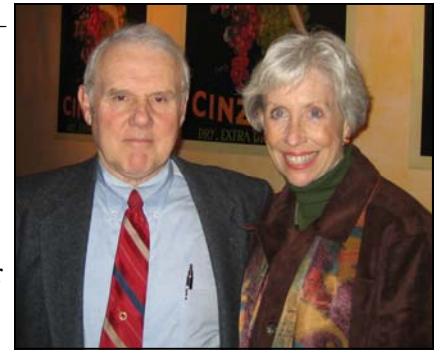
The TACTC Executive Committee met in January prior to the State Board meeting. We had an agenda that included revising travel voucher rules, TACTC's presidential compensation legislation, the 2005 TACTC Legislative Contact Conference agenda, and ACCT's National Legislative Seminar arrangements, as well as a status report on the plans for the 2005 ACCT Congress in Seattle. Following our meeting we attended the State Board study session before joining the State Board members for a dinner meeting.

I'm very pleased the State Board members value the benefits of having our two groups meet at least twice a year to discuss important issues facing our system, as well as inviting trustees to attend their meetings and having State Board members at our meetings. It offers an opportunity for a good exchange of ideas and helps us reach a common understanding of the issues.

At the joint dinner this month, we focused on legislation – particularly legislation relating to baccalaureate production. The discussion included university centers on our campuses, future roles of the branch campuses, and allowing our colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degrees. We also discussed HB 1101, which is TACTC's request legislation to give trustees the equal authority over presidents' salaries and compensation that the 4-year university and K-12 boards enjoy.

Please make it a priority to attend TACTC's conference Feb. 27 – March 1st. Legislators want – and we need – you to talk to them about TACTC's presidential compensation bill, as well as your view on the many proposals to change the structure of higher education in this state.

Please take your advocacy responsibility seriously!



State Board Chair Tom Koeninger and Beth Willis at the State Board joint dinner meeting.

TACTC's

Newsletter is Online

TACTC's newsletter can be found online. It is archived, in case you are looking for a past edition, and the pictures are sharper on screen than in the printed version. The newsletters can be found at: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/admin/trustees>.

Inside this issue:

Trustees Support Presidents	2
WACTC Report	2
Celebrating Success	3
State Board Meeting	3
Congress Passes Omnibus Appropriation bill	4
Calendar of events	4

Welcome New Trustees

In December Governor Locke made his last round of trustee appointments before leaving the honor to his successor. TACTC welcomes the new trustees, and thanks the retiring trustees for their dedicated service:

Big Bend:
Edmonds:
Lower Columbia:
Renton Tech:
Shoreline:
Skagit Valley:
South Puget Sound:
Yakima:

Michael Blakely
Mauri Moore
Thuy Vo
Ira SenGupta
Richard Stucky
Margaret Rojas
Judy Blinn
Paul McDonald

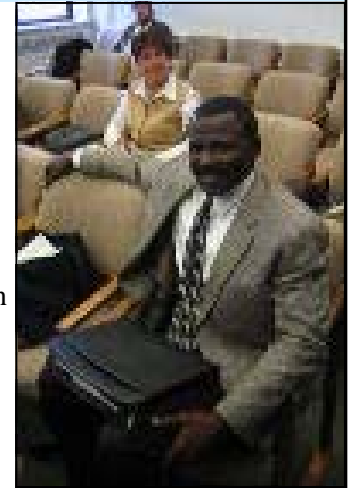
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replaces Gary Healea
replaces Jim Medzegian
replaces Sarah Phillips
replaces Elizabeth Hancock
replaces Ed Mayeda
replaces San Juana Gonzales

Trustees Support Presidents by Beth Willis

Frustrated with the restraints trustees have when trying to administer the college presidents' contracts, TACTC requested legislation to amend the statutes to give two-year college trustees the very same authority 4-year and K-12 boards have. The legislation is HB 1101.

The bill, sponsored by **Rep. Phyllis Kenney** (as well as Reps. Roberts, Fromhold, Jarrett, Sommers, Ormsby, Kagi, and Haigh) was heard by the House Higher Education Committee on January 28th. TACTC's Legislative Steering Committee chair **Gene Chase**, Everett, as well as **Jack McRae**, Edmonds, **Helen Malone**, Spokane, and **Wayne Martin**, Columbia Basin, testified on behalf of TACTC. **Frank Irigon**, Renton Tech; **Ronnie Behnke**, Renton Tech; **Sherry Gates**, Green River, and I were there to add additional support to the bill.

Gene read a letter from Bob Barringer, a presidential search consultant, that said in part: "I know from first-hand experience that Washington community colleges lose qualified and excellent candidates with every search because it is not willing to put its community college presidents on the same compensation track as it places its K-12 and university leadership. That kind of 'second class' treatment keeps Washington's community college system from being truly competitive nationally."



Columbia Basin College trustee, **Wayne Martin** testified on behalf of HB 1101.



Everett Community College trustee **Gene Chase**, TACTC President **Beth Willis**, and Edmonds Community College trustee **Jack McRae** at the House Higher Education Committee meeting.

Helen reminded the legislators hiring a president is the most important decision a board makes. She said a lack of legislative trust denies them the tools they need to attract and retain strong management. Wayne said his hands are tied. "How in the heck do I do something for my CEO?" he asked them. "We're not asking for money, but only for flexibility." Jack wrapped up the testimony for the trustees by telling how his board used recruitment and retention money for their president, and what challenges and frustrations they encountered before they could do that.

Faculty were on hand to speak against HB 1101. Faculty from Edmonds, Pierce, Shoreline and Seattle community college districts told the legislators they were angry, frustrated, and demoralized when presidents got raises at a time when no other college employees were receiving any. They argued that if the presidents could negotiate for their salaries, they, too, should be amended into the bill so they could have full-scope bargaining authority.

WACTC Report

The presidents met in Olympia for their monthly meeting. Governor Christine Gregoire was a surprise speaker Friday morning. She was speaking to the Spokane Chamber of Commerce in a room next to the WACTC meeting and afterwards stopped by to say a few words. Gov. Gregoire said she's learned a great deal about the community and technical college system over the last 18 months and congratulated the presidents on doing a terrific job. She talked about the \$1.8 billion shortfall the state is facing and how, when trying to put her own budget together, it is one ugly root versus another ugly root. Gov. Gregoire stressed, however, that we "can't damage the infrastructure of education. We must step up" to the issue. She is proposing a study of the financing of education. "We have studies that show the problems, but none show how to fund the solutions."

Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, chair of the Senate Early Learning, K-12 and Higher Education Committee, also spoke to the presidents. She said she was not going to go "quietly into the night," instead she was going to "rage, rage, rage". She strongly challenged trustees to get out into their communities to explain to the public the crisis facing education today.

Celebrating Success

Carver Gayton has been named the director of the Northwest African American Museum. Gayton, whose grandfather arrived in Seattle in 1888, is a former Seattle CC District trustee and the former director of the Employment Security Department. Gayton says the museum will show how African Americans have influenced the Northwest.

Wenatchee Valley College won four Regional Medallion Awards from the national Council for Marketing and Public Relations. The awards include a Gold Medallion for Best Media Success Story, Silver Medallions for Best Annual Report and Best Outdoor Advertising, and a Bronze Medallion for Best web site.



Lyle Quasim, trustee at Bates Technical College, was the recipient of the inaugural *Heart of Bates* award on January 19 at a gala dinner held at the Tacoma Glass Museum. Governor Christine Gregoire was one of the featured speakers there to honor Lyle. Beth Willis, TACTC's president, also was an invited speaker that evening. The award was established to honor an individual who exemplifies the values of the college, including dedication to education, commitment to diversity, and support of economic development efforts.

Diana Postlewait, Renton Technical College trustee, spent Friday, January 21st at the Legislature with Rep. Fred Jarrett. Diana bought her special day at an auction. She got a private tour of the House floor and behind-the-scenes rooms, had a good conversation over lunch and attended a House Higher Education Committee meeting with him. According to Diana, "I have a deep appreciation for what Rep Jarrett does and am very glad to report he is very much in our corner. He likes what the community and technical colleges do for the economic development in this state and he appreciates the people who work to make it happen."



State Board Meeting Report by Beth Willis

The State Board held an historical meeting this month. I was so pleased we had several trustees in attendance to listen to the study session – and a few to watch the vote the next morning. Thank you to Larry Brown, Ronnie Behnke, Elizabeth Chen, Jim Robinson, Jane Stein, Barbara Clarkson and Walt Waisath for taking the time to be there.

On January 19 the State Board heard an extensive report on the system's study of baccalaureate capacity in this state. The panelists included Jan Yoshiwara, State Board staff, Jack Oharah, Edmonds Community College president, Jean Floten, Bellevue Community College president, Bill Chance, executive director of the Northwest Education Research Center, and Linda Beath, associate vice president for undergraduate studies at Central Washington University. The next day the State Board adopted a resolution approving the findings of the study, and which:

- Grants the SBCTC Executive Director authority to work with partner universities, the Legislature and the Higher Education Coordinating Board to plan for and fund systematic expansion of University Centers based on the partnership model to address capacity gaps identified in the study;
- Authorizes planning for pilot community or technical college baccalaureate degrees; and
- Supports public universities' funding requests that lead to increased spaces for Washington residents in their junior and senior years on university main campuses, university branch campuses and existing University Centers.

A copy of the full report can be found on the State Board's web site at: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu> Scroll down about two-thirds of the page.

Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations bill

The following article is a reprint of a bulleting sent out by the American Association of Community colleges. It details the impact the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill will have on community and technical colleges. This topic will be discussed at the AACC/ACCT National Legislative Seminar in Washington DC February 14 – 17, 2005. At this point we have 71 trustees, presidents and administrators signed up to join us in DC. We'll be meeting as a delegation at 4 p.m. on Monday, February 14 at the JW Marriott to go over all of the congressional appointments that have been made for us, as well as to hone our messages.

Highlights of FY 2005 Funding for Community Colleges

Congress has passed the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill, which awaits the President's signature pending a final legislative procedure. The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill was among the nine appropriations measures included in the omnibus package. Other than the \$250 million for the new Community College Initiative, the legislation is a disappointment for community colleges. Below are some of the highlights from the bill, with the numbers in parentheses being the appropriated figure minus a .83% across-the-board cut applied to all domestic discretionary spending.

Community College Initiative (Community Based Job Training Grants) – This program has been fully funded at \$250 million (\$247.9 million), easily making this the high point of the bill for community colleges. The news is slightly tempered by the fact that half of that money comes from the dislocated worker national reserve, an account authorized by the Workforce Investment Act.

Pell Grants: The maximum Pell Grant award remains at \$4,050, as expected. Funding for the program increased to \$12.465 billion (\$12.361 billion), which is well below the \$12.83 billion contained in the Administration's request and in the original House and Senate bills. Therefore, the bill will make even less of a dent in the Pell Grant shortfall (nearly \$4 billion) than many had hoped.

Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act: The **Basic State Grants** were funded at \$1.204 billion (\$1.194 billion), an amount that falls between the funding contained in the original House and Senate bills. After the ATB cut, this is a slight decrease from FY 2004. The same can be said for the **Tech Prep** program (\$106.7 million (\$105.8 million)) and the **Tech Prep Demonstration** program (\$4.939 million (\$4.898 million)), both of which were level funded before the ATB cut, resulting in a .83% cut in both programs.

Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants were funded at \$785 million (\$778.5 million), which was more than the Administration's request, but lower than the House and Senate bills by about \$10 and \$15 million, respectively.

Title III-A, Strengthening Institutions received just below \$81 million (\$80.3 million). This was the same funding level recommended by the Administration and the House, but lower than the Senate level by about \$4 million. This also amounts to small reduction from last year due to the ATB cut.

Title V, Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) received \$95.9 million (\$95.1 million). Like Title III-A, this was the amount recommended by the Administration and contained in the House bill, and lower than the Senate by \$4 million. The final amount represents a slight increase from last year.

Calendar of Events



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|----------------------------------|--|
| February 14-16, 2005 | ACCT National Legislative Conference, Washington, D.C. |
| February 27, 2005 | TACTC New Trustee Orientation, SBCTC |
| February 27-March 1, 2005 | TACTC Legislative Contact Conference, Olympia |
| March 24, 2005 | ALL WASHINGTON ACADEMIC TEAM RECEPTION, SPSCC |
| May 19-21, 2005 | TACTC Spring Convention, Semiahmoo Resort |
| September 8-11, 2005 | ACCT Regional Meeting, Seattle, WA |