



Grays Harbor College provides meaningful and engaging learning opportunities and support services to enhance the knowledge, skills, and abilities of our students and support the cultural and economic needs of our community.

Grays Harbor College Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Board Meeting: The Board meeting was convened on July 14, 2026, at 1:04 PM.

Members Present: Dr. Paula Akerlund, Jim Sayce, Dr. Harry Carthum

Members Present on Zoom: Astrid Aveledo, Aliza Esty

Others Present:

Derek Edens, Dr. Carli Schiffner, Jason Gordon, Kristy Anderson, Erin Tofte, Matthew Barber, Holly Bringman, Lisa Smith, Cassandra Hogarty, Jacob Borden, Jessica Madison, Annette Orona, Jody Pope, Aaron Jackson, Lori Christmas, Terri Bell, Virgil Matthews, Nick Brock, Penny James, Jonni Dawson, Donald Reifensahl, Teresa Mowitch, Erin Tofte

Others Present on Zoom:

Andrew Gaines

Study Session

A study session featuring the Athletic Updates, Part 2 by Jody Pope, Camryn Scheuber, and Holly Bringman. The session focused on the finances of the current athletic department and the formation and related timeline for a taskforce were presented and discussed, with the goal of an ongoing athletic advisory board.

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken by Kimberly Nolan.

II. Safety statement

Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund called attention to the safety statement.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Land Acknowledgment

Jim Sayce read the Land Acknowledgment. Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund thanked him for doing so.

V. Agenda Adoption

Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

VI. Public Comments

None

VII. Celebration

Brian Mahoney and Andrew Gaines recognized Art Oestreich's retirement with fond memories of his numerous talents with the Bishop Centers plays.

Art shared some of his favorite memories of creating props for the Bishop Center alongside his family and friends. He is looking forward to spending more time with his family during retirement.

VIII. New Employee Introductions

Erin Tofte announced the hire of Elsa Larson, Kayla Olsen, Maria Brinones, Kortney Sterm, Dr. Codi Jo Broten, Thomas Nordvik, Teresa Mowitch, and Nick Brock.

IX. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of June 9, 2026, Minutes
2. Second Reading of Operational Policy 302 – Instruction-Academic Council-Curriculum Development
Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund called for a motion to approve the June 9, 2026, meeting minutes and Operational Policy 302. Jim Sayce moved to approve, and Dr. Harry Carthum seconded the motion. The motion carried.

X. Review Items

1. First Reading of Operational Policy 324 – Washington Reverse Articulation Program (WRAP). Holly Bringman presented and there were no questions.
2. First Reading of Operational Policy 507 – Procurement. Jason Gordon presented and there were no questions.
3. First Reading of Operational Policy 509 – Vending on Campus. Jason Gordon presented and there were no questions.
4. First Reading of Operational Policy 511 Accounts Receivable. Jason Gordon presented and there were no questions.
5. First Reading of Operational Policy 514 - Fee Waivers – Senior Citizens. Jason Gordon presented.
 - a. Jim Sayce asked who established the fee waiver. Jason Gordon responded that it is established by RCW 28B.15.540.
6. First Reading of Operational Policy 524 – Reporting of Loss or Suspected Loss of College Resources
 - a. Dr. Paula Akerlund asked whether this policy is reported to the State Auditor. Jason Gordon confirmed that it is reported to the State Auditor.
7. First Reading of Operational Policy 801 – Information Security & Data Protection Policy. Derek Edens presented and stated that this is an overarching policy and there were no questions.

XI. Action Items

1. Approval of the Dissolution of Operational Policy 508 – Services, Students, Employee, Citizen
 - a. Jim Sayce moved to approve the dissolution of Operational Policy 508, and Aliza Esty seconded the motion. The motion carried.
2. Approval of the Portion of Agreement Related to Corrections Education
 - a. Erin Tofte explained that the Washington Corrections Center for Women has been added to the policy. She also noted that Faculty Development Leave has been added, and the language limiting hours under Compensation at Retirement or Death has been removed and replaced with language stating that the master contract applies.
 - b. Jim Sayce stated that in Article 1, Section 1 Tenure definition is confusing.
 - c. Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund called for a motion to approve Portion of Agreement relating to Corrections Education. The motion was carried.

XII. Standing Reports

1. **Student Government Report** (no report – Summer intersession)
2. **Classified Staff Report** (Ryan Decker)
Yari Rolfe Maloney was selected as the Spring Quarterly Employee.
3. **Represented Exempt Staff Report** (Deanna Shedley)
No additional updates.
4. **Faculty Report** (no report – Summer intersession)
5. **Administrative Services Report** (Jason Gordon)
The Aberdeen campus roof repairs are slated for completion by the end of August.
6. **Human Resources Report** (Erin Tofte)
The CTC link for employee fiscal year pay rates has been updated.
Several positions are currently open, including Assistant Coaches, Stage Technician, Campus Safety and Security Coordinator, and Executive Assistant to the President.
7. **Learning and Student Success Report** (Holly Bringman)
Summer enrollment increased by 90 students compared with last year. The College has also expanded its outreach efforts, with several outreach events scheduled this summer compared to one event during the same period last year.

Astrid Aveledo requested enrollment demographics, including age and ethnic group data.
8. **President's Report** (Dr. Carli Schiffner)
The Office of Financial Management has requested that all state agency offices participate in funding reduction exercises.

Dr. Carli Schiffner thanked the Board members and GHC employees for their contributions to a successful graduation. The hospitality room was greatly appreciated.

The economic forecast is expected to be negative for higher education.

The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is holding working forums focused on governance and finances.
 - a. **Accreditation** (Kristy Anderson)

The Accreditation Simulation Workshop was by an external consultant and was attended by numerous faculty and staff. Faculty had a lot to have with program reviews and pilots which have been completed.

Kristy Anderson has set a goal of completing the Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness report by August 1, 2026.

9. Board Report

a. Foundation Meeting Report (Aliza Esty)

The Foundation was established in 1963 and has experienced significant growth over the past 10 years, adding 50 new funds and partnerships. These funds have supported a variety of student-focused initiatives, including childcare, the food pantry, and the installation of the new gym floor.

Lisa Smith announced that the Foundation is considering hiring a fourth employee to expand its donor development.

b. Legislative Committee Report (Jim Sayce) - Work continues with elected officials to raise awareness of upcoming impacts that decreases in state funding will have on GHC.

c. Fiscal Liaison Report (Aliza Esty) - Nothing more to add than what was presented by Jason Gordon. Noting the Long-Term Fiscal Health Plan discussion slated for the Board retreat.

d. Items of Interest (Dr. Paula Akerlund)

i. Review of July Board Retreat Agenda

ii. The September and March Board Meetings have been updated as follows:

1. September 8, 2026 to September 22, 2026
2. March 9, 2027 to March 23, 2027

XIII. Non Public Session

No Items were brought forward.

XIV. Action Items as a Result of the Non-Public Session

No action was taken.

XV. Executive Session

Executive Session was called in at 2:58 PM and adjourned at 3:30 PM Returned to the regular meeting.

XVI. Action Items as a Result of the Executive Session

No action was taken.

XVII. Good of the Order

No items were brought forward.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Dr. Paula Akerlund adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM The Board of Trustees will hold its next meeting on August 11, 2026, at 1:00 PM, at Grays Harbor College in Aberdeen and via Zoom.

Dr. Carli Schiffner, Secretary

Dr. Paula Akerlund, Chair