

Marion Technical College
Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Call to Order

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Roll Call

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Chair Tim Anderson, Vice Chair Roxane Somerlot, Ms. Jude Foulk, Mr. Greg Moon, and Mr. Don Plotts.

Mr. Kit Fogle and Dr. Justin Hamper were absent.

Introduction of Guests

Guests present included Dr. Ryan McCall, Dr. Bob Haas, Dr. Amy Adams, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Mr. Mike Stuckey, and Ms. Laura Woughter.

Major Discussion Topic

Dr. McCall noted the ability of two-year colleges to offer applied baccalaureate degree programs and now Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degrees, which was authorized in the state budget (H.B. 110, 134th General Assembly). While the College has not identified any applied baccalaureate programs to offer at this time, discussions have begun on offering a BSN program. Dr. McCall hopes that offering a BSN or other four-year degree would allow the institution to meet employer workforce needs, impact community perception as a higher education institution, and serve students at an affordable cost. The process would require internal Curriculum Committee, Ohio Department of Higher Education, third-party accrediting bodies, and Higher Learning Commission approval.

Ms. Somerlot asked what the impact to faculty would be, and Dr. McCall noted the Director would need to be separate from the Director of the existing Nursing Program and have a doctorate; two MTC faculty will have their DNP by the end of the calendar year. Additional faculty may be needed based on growth, however many existing faculty are credentialed to teach at the baccalaureate level. Mr. Plotts asked if Ohio State Marion (OSUM) would be willing to bring their RN – BSN program to campus, and Dr. McCall stated no, the program will continue to be available online or on main campus. Dr. McCall indicated the College is not interested in

offering competing degrees with OSUM, and keeping programs in line with the College's mission. Dr. McCall noted the most consternation about the ability to offer a baccalaureate degree was related to offering a BSN, and the angst came from private institutions during the legislative hearings. MTC won't increase the tuition from associate level programs, however revenue through subsidy is earned at a higher level. Ms. Foulk asked if Marion General Hospital is requiring all RNs to earn their BSN, and how long do they have. Dr. Haas stated it is required within several years, and MGH does pay for their employees for their BSN; currently, MGH encourages their RNs to go through Ohio University's online program. Vice Chair Somerlot noted Western Governors University is also a popular option, and Dr. McCall noted it is a more expensive option and MGH only covers up to \$5,500 per year. Vice Chair Somerlot and Mr. Plotts asked how this would impact the Tri-Rivers program and taking students from their RN program; Dr. McCall noted that Tri-Rivers students earn a diploma and not a degree, so there are some unknowns on transfer. Dr. McCall shared that most of MTC's RNs work within the College's three-county service area. Chair Anderson noted the projected return on investment in five years is admirable.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes
2. Resolution 2021-01 – Authority to Offer Four-Year Degrees
3. Proposed Rule on Freedom of Expression and Preventing Harassment

Mr. Plotts motioned to approve the consent agenda, and Ms. Foulk seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the consent agenda was approved.

President's Report

The College is requiring new student orientation for all new students, online or in-person, to better prepare students for entering college. Annually, the College now requires adjunct faculty to attend one faculty in-service (three available, in-person or online), which includes training to better orient all adjunct faculty with the College. The trainings are headed up by Ms. Christy Culver, a long-serving faculty member.

The College received a perfect score (106/106) on the Trio Educational Talent Search grant, however the College did not score high enough to be funded. The grant is awarded to institutions over 106 based on prior experience points for administering the grant. Additional funding may be available for institutions scoring between 105-106, and will be determined by the end of September. The grant would allow the College to interact with underserved students in the K-12 system and introduce them to higher education and beyond. Ms. Foulk asked for a reminder on the cost to contract with Columbus State Community College on grant writing services, and Dr.

McCall stated the annual cost is \$48,000, significantly lower than hiring one grant writer (~\$100,000 salary/benefits). The partnership allows for discussion between both institutions on potential grants, collaborative writing, and tapping the experience of CSCC's robust grant office. Other institutions, including Rhodes State and Washington State, are interested in partnering with CSCC for similar services. Dr. McCall and Dr. Haas will lead presentations at the Rural Community College Alliance and ACCT Leadership Congress on the partnership.

Dr. McCall was pleased to announce the College met 4 out of 5 criteria of ODHE's Changing Campus Culture initiative, which sets metrics to improve campus resources related to sexual assault. The improved standing was the result of a team of employees tasked with educating the campus and establishing partnerships.

The College is once again requiring all individuals to wear a mask while indoors due to surges in COVID-19 cases, until the CDC transmission map shows the county is below high spread. Online learning is still an option for many students. Dr. McCall noted many clinical sites are requiring students be vaccinated or tested regularly during clinical rotations, and shared that may cause concerns and careful handling.

Monitoring Reports

EL 4.1 – Communication and Counsel to the Board

Dr. McCall provided examples of communication to the Board outside of meeting materials, including emails with pertinent information. The policy was updated last year to ensure individual communication to Board members includes the Board Chair. Chair Anderson reminded the Board communication was a strength on Dr. McCall's most recent evaluation.

EL 4.3 – Organizational Structure

Dr. McCall provided an updated organizational chart to the Board. He shared the intent is to balance the workload amongst functional areas as best as possible, and better align areas for efficiency. The chart was updated to address the retirement of Deb Stark, Dean of Technical & Professional Programs. She was replaced by three interim associate deans; those deans and two new directors in Arts & Sciences report to Dr. Haas, VP of Academic Affairs & Student Services.

EL 4.5 – Financial Condition

Chief Financial Officer Rhonda Ward presented the finance report as of July 31, 2021, as evidence of compliance with EL Policy 4.5 - Financial Conditions. She provided an overview of

revenues and expenses, cash position, and also referred the Board to the following items in her written report.

- CARES funds recording is arbitrarily increasing revenue and expenses, but is in accordance with auditor recommendations.
- August enrollment revenue is not captured in this report, so the increase will be notable in the next report in September.
- Related to the proposal to offer a BSN degree, Ms. Ward shared the investment and projected ROI over the first seven years. The College is requesting to use \$120,000 from cash reserves to pay for upfront costs for the program, largely for the salary and benefits to hire the Director (required to be hired before program is established). The College is required to hold four months of subsidy in reserve, approximately \$2.6 million. The current reserve balance is \$7.9 million. The trustees asked questions related to the projection model, revenue expectations, and approval timelines.
- The College is working to finalize the campus cost-share agreement with OSUM. A \$1 million payment to OSUM was made at the end of June 2021.
- As a result of the audit, the College is being very intentional about ensuring purchase order dates do not fall after invoice; often this happens with multi-year agreements and blanket purchase orders. Chair Anderson asked if emergency requests are an exemption, and Ms. Ward agreed that would be permissible.

Dr. McCall complimented Ms. Ward and her staff for their work in diligently tracking normal operations and federal stimulus funds equating half of the annual budget.

EL 4.11 – Presidential Vacancy

The presidential vacancy plan includes the Executive Leadership Team, and then the College Leadership Council, led by the Director of the MTC Foundation (Mr. Mike Stuckey has been with Marion Technical College for more than 20 years), and in consultation with the Board to lead when the President is unavailable.

Vice Chair Somerlot motioned to approve the monitoring reports, and Mr. Plotts seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Mr. Moon motioned to approve the request to approve the release/use of \$120,000 from cash reserves to pay upfront costs for the College's anticipated BSN degree program, and Ms. Foulk seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Policy Review/Governance Issues

EL 4.10 – Treatment of Staff

Dr. McCall provided a revised policy to the Board in relation to conversations at the June Board meeting. The trustees agreed to incorporate the changes.

EL 4.2 – Strategic Planning

Ms. Foulk reviewed the policy with the Board and highlight the relevant discussions within the meeting as evidence showing compliance with the policy. Dr. McCall asked if the policy should reflect the sunseting of an existing plan with plans to adopt a new plan, noting that three years is required for look ahead. Dr. McCall and Ms. Foulk both emphasized the need for a living strategic plan, to allow for incorporation of new goals and initiatives. The group agreed to revise the policy to incorporate a rolling strategic plan.

EL 4.12 – Conflict of Interest

Chair Anderson reviewed the policy with the Board and shared thoughts on the College's ethics policy and alignment with Ohio ethics law, noting that employees are required to review and acknowledge receipt of the College's policy. Chair Anderson felt no changes were necessary.

Informational Items

The OACC Annual Conference, originally planned for September at North Central State College, has been postponed due to COVID-19.

The September Board meeting will be held in Bryson Hall, and will include a tour of renovated spaces, including the Surgical Technology classroom and lab, NSF Smart Manufacturing lab, Esports Arena, and Connections Center.

The October Board meeting will be held in Columbus at OACC, and will feature a retreat prior to the meeting. A formal agenda will be shared later.

Executive Session

Mr. Moon motioned to convene to executive session at 6:54 p.m. to discuss the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, demotion or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual. Ms. Foulk seconded the motion. Chair Anderson – aye, Vice Chair Somerlot – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Mr. Moon – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye.

Mr. Plotts motioned to return to open session and Vice Chair Somerlot seconded the motion. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:13 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Anderson adjourned the Board at 7:14 p.m.

DRAFT