

Marion Technical College  
**Board of Trustees**  
Virtual Board Meeting  
Tuesday, March 16, 2021

**Call to Order**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m, with the Board meeting virtually. The state legislature granted temporary authority (House Bill 197 and 404, 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly) allowing public boards to meet remotely under the Ohio Open Meetings Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Roll Call**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Chair Tim Anderson, Vice Chair Roxane Somerlot, Mr. Kit Fogle, Ms. Jude Foulk, Dr. Justin Hamper, Mr. Gregory Moon, Mr. Don Plotts, and Mr. Ken Young.

**Introduction of Guests**

Mia Yaniko, Education Section Chief in the Attorney General's Office, and Brad Billet and Kyler Overly, Clark Schaefer Hackett, were present.

**Major Discussion Topic**

Ms. Yaniko presented to the Board on the recently passed Forming Open and Robust University Minds Act (FORUM Act, Senate Bill 40, 133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly), related to free-speech on college campuses. Ms. Yaniko reviewed the relevant new statutes enacted by the bill, impacts to the College to develop a policy, charging of consistent security fees, and reporting requirements.

Vice Chair Somerlot asked if a policy should be established with OSU-Marion, since the campus is co-located. Ms. Yaniko noted OSU may have a model policy to share with the College, and Vice Chair Somerlot hoped the College could create a policy that would not contradict the intents of OSU-Marion. Dr. McCall noted he has discussed the issue with OSU-Marion on developing complimentary policies, especially since the campus has a singular police force. Vice Chair Somerlot questioned the elimination of allowing colleges to prohibit members of the Communist Party and other groups, and Ms. Yaniko noted it was a clean up of existing law and that the provision was no longer needed.

Dr. McCall asked the Board to review language in existing Board policies related to presidential authority to approve contracts below a certain funding threshold. Chair Anderson, Mr. Plotts, and Mr. Young were supportive of establishing an authority threshold for the president, noting the limitations established within other Board policies. Mr. Plotts was supportive of reviewing and approving capital spending as a whole, rather than individual contract approvals. The remaining Board members were supportive of the suggestions and Dr. McCall will work on a solution to present at the April Board meeting.

### **Audit Presentation**

Mr. Billet presented to the Board on the College's audit, and noted the delay in completing the audit as a reaction to federal CARES dollars and reporting requirements. The auditors presented an unmodified opinion, which is the highest standard applied to financial statements. No significant deficiencies, material weaknesses, and material instances of noncompliance for internal controls were found. Additionally, the single audit found no findings related to the financial aid program, which is a rare occurrence. The auditors reviewed changes in assets, liabilities, and deferred inflows. The College's Senate Bill 6 ratio for 2020 is 3.80, well above the fiscal watch threshold of 1.75. The auditor recommended a review of policy and procedures for proper encumbrance of funds, noting seven of 40 tested were not properly encumbered; Mr. Billet noted this was not a significant finding and is found at all institutions.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes

Chair Anderson presented the consent agenda and called for a motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Ms. Foulk and seconded by Mr. Fogle. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Dr. McCall highlighted the establishment of the Douglas and Virginia Geib Scholarship and the Education Equity Scholarship through the MTC Foundation. In February, the College hosted a community meeting to provide informational updates about the National Science Foundation Smart Engineering grant, Title III grant, and RAPIDS funding for equipment. Over 70 community partners and leaders and MTC employees attended. The College will become a primary CCP partner for Pickerington School District beginning fall 2021, which is likely to double the College's early college students. Presently, over 800 applications have been received for fall term. The revenue from this partnership will be established as an auxiliary budget to ensure responsible use of those funds in the future. The College recently partnered with United

Church Homes to provide professional development and leadership training to UCH employees. Dr. McCall noted that Jack Hershey, Ohio Association of Community Colleges, will attend the April Board meeting to discuss the state budget and legislation pertaining to higher education.

Chair Anderson asked if the College has discussed raising tuition \$5 per credit hour, if allowed by the state budget. Dr. McCall noted fall registration is open now, so if there is an increase in tuition it would be planned for spring 2022.

## **Monitoring Reports**

### Ends 1.2 – Student Success

Dr. McCall highlighted a number of student success metrics within his report, such as graduate wage data, major employers of MTC graduates, successes of alumni, the College's single digit cohort default rate (CDR), transfer opportunities, and special programs to serve low-skill/high-risk populations like Aspire and correctional education.

### EL 4.5 – Financial Condition

Chief Financial Officer Rhonda Ward presented the finance report as of February 28, 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.

- The College's Senate Bill 6 score fluctuated down between FY2019 and FY2020, and Ms. Ward noted this is due to a change made by ODHE related to a calculation for holding no debt.
- The Business Office will begin implementing suggestions from the audit related to encumbrance management and fixed assets.

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

## **Policy Review/Governance Issues**

### EL 4.4 – Services

Dr. Hamper felt the policy has served the Board well, and that Dr. McCall has provided sufficient evidence throughout the year and through a variety of means. Dr. Hamper asked if the policy should include a review of services based on changes in revenue. Mr. Plotts and Mr.

Young felt the policy did not need to be changed based on the existing executive limitations. The Board did not make any changes to the policy.

### **Informational Items**

Two appraisals of the downtown location were completed in February by independent appraisers selected through the Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

The Board voted to approve the contract for renovations to Bryson Hall. Chair Anderson – yes, Vice Chair Somerlot – yes, Mr. Fogle, - yes, Ms. Foulk – yes, Dr. Hamper – yes, Mr. Moon – yes, Mr. Plotts – yes, Mr. Young – yes.

### **Executive Session**

The Board voted to convene into executive session at 7:30 p.m. Chair Anderson – yes, Vice Chair Somerlot – yes, Mr. Fogle, - yes, Ms. Foulk – yes, Dr. Hamper – yes, Mr. Moon – yes, Mr. Plotts – yes, Mr. Young – yes. Mr. Plotts motioned to return to open session, and Vice Chair Somerlot seconded the motion. The Board returned to open session at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Young motioned to increase Dr. McCall's salary 2% beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>, commensurate with raises given to MTC employees. Mr. Moon seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.