

Marion Technical College
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2025
Health Technologies Center Auditorium

Call to Order

Vice Chair McCleese called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Vice Chair McCleese ran the meeting until Chair Fogle was able to join the meeting.

Roll Call

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Vice Chair Michael McCleese, Mr. Tim Anderson, Ms. Jude Foulk, Ms. Vidya Iyengar, Mr. Don Plotts, and Ms. Roxane Somerlot. Chair Kit Fogle and Ms. Mary Fox were present virtually.

Introduction of Guests

Guests present included MTC employees Dr. Ryan McCall, Dr. Bob Haas, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Dr. Lindsey Knapp, and Ms. Laura Woughter.

Major Discussion Topic

Dr. McCall reviewed with the Board two legislative provisions adopted by the General Assembly in House Bill 96 related to curriculum and general education at the College. Included in the provisions is the establishment of the Board's ultimate authority over curriculum, academic programs, etc. and that recommendations of the Faculty Senate are advisory in nature. The process must be adopted by the Board by March 2026 and updated every five years after. Dr. McCall shared the College will provide suggested language to the Board at an upcoming meeting outlining the existing Curriculum Committee process and allow the Board to then weigh in on the changes. Ms. Somerlot questioned how the requirements fit in with the Board's policy governance operations, and Dr. McCall responded it does not fit in but is a requirement established by the state. Ms. Iyengar asked if the requirements would be established in policy, and Dr. McCall anticipated providing a draft policy for the Board's review to be provided at either the September or November meeting. Mr. Plotts emphasized the Board's role as oversight authority, not curriculum design. The Board discussed the reasoning behind the legislative change, and Mr. Anderson also noted the concern of programs that do not provide viable job outcomes or a livable wage for graduates.

Additionally, the Board is now responsible for reviewing and revising the College's general education curriculum, and submitting a resolution certifying completion of the process. The Board should consider civics, culture, and society, artificial intelligence, STEM and computational thinking, entrepreneurship and innovation, and workforce readiness. Ms. Iyengar asked if the two processes were linked, and Dr. McCall noted similarities but ultimately the processes are unique. Ms. Woughter noted the general education review was added by the Governor in the budget process, and the curriculum oversight was added by the House.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes
2. Approval of Senate Bill 1 – Open Access Policy
3. Approval of Low Enrollment Report – Ohio Department of Higher Education

Mr. Plotts made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted – Chair Fogle – aye, Vice Chair McCleese – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Ms. Fox – aye, Ms. Iyengar – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye, and Ms. Somerlot – aye. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

President's Report

Dr. McCall highlighted the following from the President's Report:

- The College was awarded two National Science Foundation grants (IUSE and ATE) related to STEM education and artificial intelligence. Both grants will total approximately \$1.1 million over three years.
- Enrollment continues to grow over fall 2025 final enrollment, with headcount up 11% and credit hours up 18%. The College is poised to continue to surpass its record-breaking headcount for the sixth term. Mr. Plotts asked what percent of the College's students are online, and Dr. McCall responded many students take at least one online course, while approximately 15-20% are fully online. Ms. Iyengar asked if the enrollment growth is from Marion or surrounding communities, and Dr. McCall responded the growth is not from one particular area. Dr. McCall highlighted cost, opportunity, location, particular programs, and time to completion are driving the College's enrollment. Dr. McCall noted the College's improvement in retention of part-time students, which is a significant population of the College's enrollment. Dr. Adams shared the general student enrollment represents 54 counties in Ohio.
- The College was represented at a Marion Matters roundtable with Lt. Governor Jim Tressel about the Employee Resource Network and the College's Student Resource Navigator.

Monitoring Reports

EL 4.1 Communication and Counsel to the Board

Dr. McCall highlighted examples of communication to the Board as evidence of compliance with the policy, in addition to regular monitoring reports to the Board.

EL 4.3 Organizational Structure

Dr. McCall provided a draft of the College's planned reorganization. Included in the reorganization are:

- Executive Director of Grants
- Institutional Research (already filled – Chief Strategy Officer)
- Dean of Technical Studies
- Dean of Arts and Sciences
 - o Director of Math and Articulation
 - o Director of Sciences
 - o Director of English, Art, and History
 - o Director of Psychology, Social Sciences, and Philosophy
 - o Director of Early Childhood Education (already filled)
- Dean of College Credit Plus
- Director of Teaching and Learning Center

Ms. Iyengar asked for additional information about the Executive Director of Grants, and Dr. McCall noted this position would liaise with Columbus State and provide support to grant principal investigators on campus.

Ms. Fox made a motion to approve the monitoring reports, and Ms. Iyengar seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted – Chair Fogle – aye, Vice Chair McCleese – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Ms. Fox – aye, Ms. Iyengar – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye, and Ms. Somerlot – aye. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

EL 4.5 Financial Condition & First Revised Budget

Ms. Ward highlighted the following from her written report:

- The College has absorbed several full- and part-time positions for Title III to continue to support student success initiatives of the grant.
- The College added support for the correctional facilities to support enrollment growth.
- To manage the Downtown location, the College added a maintenance technician.
- The College hired a director for the College's Early Childhood Education program, which will begin in fall 2025.
- The College's Star OHIO account is still yielding approximately 4%.

- Capital reserves at the beginning of the year were at \$280,646.
- FY25 operating surplus was \$2,378,462, with \$1,500,000 realizing the donation of the building. Income investment was responsible for \$323,000 of the surplus. Tuition revenue and state subsidy increased \$906,000 and \$775,000 over FY24 respectively.
- FY25 operating expenses were up approximately \$1,500,000 due largely to increased personnel driven by growing enrollment, as well as software license increases and additional funds for the College's CCP scholarship.

Ms. Ward made the request to the Board to allocate capital reserves to the ERP implementation, totaling \$212,346. Ms. Somerlot asked for additional details of the inclusiveness of the ERP. Ms. Ward noted the ERP is a holistic student information system that will also include financial aid and accounting systems. Vice Chair McCleese asked if the change will save funds, and Ms. Ward noted the system won't save significantly but will produce efficiencies. Ms. Ward noted the College's current student information system is being sunset, necessitating the need for the change. Ms. Iyengar asked questions related to the security of the data, and requested additional information in the future. The request for the capital reserves was made within the report at the June 2026 meeting, but was not explicitly discussed, so Ms. Ward wanted to revisit and provide additional information. She highlighted the possibility of submitting a future Title III grant to recoup the costs of the upgrade.

Dr. McCall wanted to revisit with the Board in the future establishing a metric for capital reserves and what reserves in excess of the threshold could be used for, highlighting capital needs with growing enrollment. Ms. Iyengar asked if there are regulations or requirements on the College's reserves, and Dr. McCall noted the requirements of the Senate Bill 6 score and HLC financial indicators that do impact the College's reserves. The Board discussed facility needs and potential resolutions for space needs.

The first revised budget reflects the following changes, totaling \$297,455 additional revenue and \$385,336 in additional expenses, from the budget passed at the June 2025 meeting:

- An increase in subsidy of \$297,455. Additional funds for technician aligned degree awards, established in House Bill 96, has not been fully implemented and will likely provide an increase as a result of growth against a baseline number.
- An addition 1% salary increase for all employees effective July 2025, in addition to a budgeted 3%. This change reflects an additional \$92,562.
- Additional positions to support tutoring, faculty in science and English to meet enrollment demands, a portion of the College's AI faculty from the NSF grant, and increasing the Connections Center Coordinator from 20 to 29 hours.
- Additional funds (\$9,615) to help launch the College's massage therapy certificate program.
- The College's revised grant budget reflects actual funds for federal grants that were delayed (Aspire and Perkins), and other minor changes to the College's grant portfolio.

The first revised budget, incorporating the above changes, reflects a net income of \$627,399.

Ms. Foulk made a motion to approve the financial condition and the first revised budget, and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted – Chair Fogle – aye,

Vice Chair McCleese – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Ms. Fox – aye, Ms. Iyengar – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye, and Ms. Somerlot – aye. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Policy Review/Governance Issues

EL 4.5 Financial Condition

Mr. Anderson reviewed the policy with the Board and highlighted evidence provided in the most recent report, as well as the report provided by Ms. Ward at the meeting. No changes were requested.

EL 4.6 Financial Planning

Mr. Fogle reviewed the policy with the Board and highlighted evidence provided in the most recent report and Ms. Ward's presentation of the revised budget. No changes were requested.

Informational Items

The Board was provided information about ODHE's Trustee Conference on September 18th, which meets compliance requirements for Senate Bill 1. Trustees were encouraged to contact Ms. Woughter for assistance with registration. Dr. Adams will be attending in Dr. McCall's place due to a conflict with the Rural Community College Alliance conference.

Dr. McCall shared the College hired his wife, Ms. Rachel McCall, to serve as the Connections Center Coordinator. Ms. McCall does not report Dr. McCall, and Dr. McCall was not involved in any portion of the hiring process.

Dr. Adams reminded the Board of the opportunity to secure a matching grant from the Foundation to establish an endowed scholarship.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Plotts moved to adjourn the meeting and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 7:00 p.m.