

Marion Technical College
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 16, 2025
Health Technologies Center Conference Room

Call to Order

Chair Kit Fogle called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Ms. Jude Foulk and Ms. Mary Fox were not present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests present included MTC employees Dr. Amy Adams, Dr. Bob Haas, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Ms. Joan Smalley, Mr. Mike Stuckey, and Ms. Laura Woughter. Dr. Ryan McCall was not present due to travel for a conference.

Major Discussion Topic

Dr. Adams presented to the Board on the Foundation's growth since 2018. The Foundation currently holds 59 endowed scholarships, with 27 created prior to 2021. The College currently makes awards to students from 56 of these endowed scholarships, as well as institutional, state, federal, and community scholarships. Since fiscal year 2017, the Foundation has grown from \$992,958 to \$2,305,077, for an eight-year average growth of 11.6%. These funds do not represent other pass-through donations, named facilities, or sponsorships that the Foundation solicits. Dr. Adams shared the Foundation is in the process of being declared a public charity from its current status as a private foundation. The Board discussed the change in detail, with Dr. Adams and Mr. Stuckey noting the change will allow the Foundation will create new opportunities to request funding from larger private foundations. Dr. Adams reminded the Board of the upcoming Big Tent event in September and the annual Alumni Hall of Fame in November, immediately after the planned Board meeting.

Ms. Somerlot asked about the criteria to establish an endowed scholarship, and Mr. Stuckey and Dr. Adams noted donors need to gift \$10,000 for the scholarship to be endowed by the Marion Community Foundation. For several years, the Foundation has used revenue from the annual golf outing to provide matching grants of \$5,000 to individuals to support new endowed scholarships. Donors are also able to select certain programs, high schools, and other criteria when establishing a named fund.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes
2. Approval of American Civic Literacy Plan
3. Approval of American Civic Literacy Plan Resolution
4. Approval of American Civic Literacy Course Exemptions Resolution

Mr. Plotts made a motion to approve the consent agenda, including the American Civic Literacy Plan and required resolutions for compliance with Senate Bill 1, and Ms. Somerlot seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Monitoring Reports

Ends 1.1 Educated Workforce

Dr. Haas reviewed the evidence with the Board, highlighting the following information from the written report:

- Board exam passage rates for health programs, demonstrating outcomes of graduates in healthcare fields.
- Advisory committees engage community leaders on curriculum feedback relevant to industry needs.
- The College tracks wage data through Job and Family Services to review graduate earnings in comparison to the MIT Living Wage calculator, which is one of the College's key performance indicators for its strategic plan. Through the College's tracking, data shows Pell-eligible graduates earn less than non-Pell eligible graduates. This data, among other points is valuable to understanding the impacts of degree and certificate attainment on students. The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) is now tracking graduate employment outcomes through the community college performance-based funding model.

Ms. Iyengar asked if the College's tracking of graduate wage data was new, and Dr. Haas noted the process has been ongoing for approximately nine years.

EL 4.11 Presidential Vacancy

Dr. Adams reviewed the College's contingency plan for a presidential vacancy. Mr. Plotts noted the Board also has authority to fill a long-term vacancy with an interim president, in addition to the contingency plan.

EL 4.5 Financial Condition

Ms. Ward highlighted the following from her written report:

- Fall enrollment continues to grow, with credit hours for CCP up 13.1%, general up 8.8%, and prison up 2.3%. The College will review enrollment following the census date and drops for non-attendance and non-payment.
- Increased expenses year-over-year are due to increased instructional costs for increased section enrollment, as well as front loaded expenses like association dues and software subscriptions.
- The College has absorbed four full-time and three part-time Title III staff to operations with the grant ending at the end of September. Additional staffing needs include a maintenance technician for Downtown, a director for the new Early Childhood Education program, additional faculty to meet enrollment growth, and moving two part-time specialists to full-time.
- Cash and investments are flat year-over-year.
- The College's capital reserves, including a set aside for the ERP implementation, totals \$286,646.
- The Business Office is working to close out FY25 in advance of the annual audit. The College anticipates an operating surplus of \$2.4 million, which includes the funds awarded by the Small Business Administration to purchase the downtown facility (\$1.5 million).
- A new GASB pronouncement (101) for compensated absences will be included in the College's upcoming audit. This will focus on the liability of the College's leave balances paid out to employees who retire from the College.

Ms. Iyengar asked if the College budgets the liability for compensated absences based on salary, and Ms. Ward noted the budget factors salary and years of service. Ms. Ward also noted the College doesn't hit a large liability when employees retire, and employees hired for a similar vacancy have a lower rate of accrual. Sick leave is paid out to retirees with 10 years of service at 25% of a maximum of 1,440 hours.

Following up from the August meeting, Ms. Ward reviewed with the Board requirements established in House Bill 96 for cybersecurity programs within political subdivisions. Ms. Ward noted the College will be required to report to the Department of Homeland Security and the Auditor of State for certain cybersecurity events. The College is not able to pay a ransom first without Board approval and approval through the Attorney General's Office. The College will enforce mandatory cybersecurity training for employees going forward, where the training has not been mandatory previously.

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the monitoring reports, and Ms. Iyengar seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

President's Report

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

- With the shift to 8-week courses, first time freshmen are taking more credit hours, at 11.3 over 9.8 credit hours for fall 2024.
- Enrollment is up across the board. The College did briefly break 3,800 students, but is poised to continue to break enrollment records.
- The College has engaged with other organizations to discuss partnering with CAN DO for economic development, as the organization is undergoing some restructuring.
- Ohio State has announced a pathway for Columbus State Community College graduates to earn a bachelor's degree tuition-free. Dr. Adams noted there is potential for a similar program for the regional campuses, but nothing official has been shared.

Policy Review/Governance Issues

EL 4.1 Communication and Counsel to the Board

Ms. Foulk was not present for the meeting. The policy review will be moved to November.

EL 4.3 Organizational Structure

Ms. Iyengar reviewed the policy with the Board and highlighted the College regularly shares the organizational structure with the Board. Ms. Iyengar noted management positions should not supervise more than five employees due to the significant workload associated with it. Ms. Somerlot asked if the proposed restructure has been finalized, and Dr. Adams noted portions of the restructure has occurred, with the plan being finalized by the November Board meeting. Dr. Adams reiterated the restructure is still with the emphasis on providing services to students and breaking down barriers.

Informational Items

Ms. Ward shared with the Board the Business Office is seeking an extension of the College's audit filing due to extenuating circumstances, including hiring of a new controller and the implementation of the new ERP system. The College has not requested an extension since 2020. Ms. Ward feels the College is tracking on time but did want to prepare in case processes are delayed by the challenges within the department.

Mr. Plotts made a motion to approve the audit extension letter request, and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Executive Session

Ms. Somerlot motioned to convene to executive session at 6:41 p.m. to discuss the employment of a public employee or official. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Chair Fogle – aye, Vice Chair McCleese – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Iyengar – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye, Ms. Somerlot – aye.

Mr. Plotts motioned to return to open session and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. The Board reconvened in open session at 6:46 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Somerlot seconded the motion. The Board adjourned at 6:47 p.m.