

Marion Technical College  
**Board of Trustees**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, April 20, 2021

**Call to Order**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 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**

Guests present included Mr. Jack Hershey, President of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC), Dr. Ryan McCall, Dr. Bob Haas, Dr. Amy Adams, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Ms. Christy Culver, Mr. Mike Stuckey, and Ms. Laura Woughter.

**Major Discussion Topic**

Mr. Hershey presented to the Board on the state operating budget, which is awaiting approval from the Ohio House of Representatives. Mr. Hershey noted the significance of the once anticipated 20% funding cut by the state at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, which did not materialize and the nominal cuts (~3%) made were later returned. With changes in spending patterns boosting sales tax revenue and federal stimulus packages, revenue projections for the state improved and no expenditures were made from the Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF or “rainy day fund”). The state budget includes a proposed 1.0% and 0.9% increase in state share of instruction (SSI) in FY22 and FY23 respectively. The budget also includes a performance-based funding change that moves from a completion incentive for developmental education to weighting completion for college-level math and English, which is a best practice model for student success. The House maintained many of the Executive budget provisions, including the SSI increase, tuition authority to increase rates \$5 per credit hour per academic year in the biennium, and changes to CCP eligibility to make the program open to more students. The House

did remove provisions related to establishing rules through ODHE related to withholding transcripts and requiring high school students to complete the FAFSA in order to graduate.

OACC lobbied members to support a study committee to determine how the state can fund and support workforce training at community colleges, separating the SSI budget line item to provide transparency on how funding is allocated to universities and community colleges, and reforming OCOG to better support community college students. OACC also prepared a plan, the *Rapid Recovery Ohio Initiative*, to utilize the next round of federal stimulus funding for targeted efforts to support economic recovery through community college initiatives.

Mr. Hershey also highlighted the Higher Ed Reform Bill (SB 135, Sen. Cirino), which includes a second chance voucher program for stopped-out university students to attend a community college, short term certificate financial aid, allowing bachelor's degrees at community colleges, and create stronger dual enrollment partnerships between community colleges and universities. He noted SB 135 is more impactful, and costly, to universities, and there are some benefits to community colleges.

Mr. Hershey also touted the anticipated federal infrastructure package, which totals \$12 billion for physical, technological infrastructure and funds to address education deserts. Additional federal policies receiving a lot of attention include free community college and student loan forgiveness.

Vice Chair Somerlot asked five states implemented financial aid for short term certificates, and Mr. Hershey responded Michigan, Louisiana, and Virginia implemented the funding, albeit in different manners. Mr. Hershey discussed the *Rapid Recovery* incentive to provide funding for short term credentials in order to retrain 15,000 workers and put people back to work. Mr. Plotts asked if the funding would be for incumbent workers noting the success in years past, and Mr. Hershey noted the increase in unemployment necessitates support for unemployed workers. Mr. Hershey also hoped Sen. Rob Portman would be successful in passing the Jobs Act to provide Pell funding for short term credentials. Dr. Hamper asked a question, and Mr. Hershey was positive about local control for higher education institutions, and shared his concern when state officials debate taking back some of that control in order to create better data collection. While data collection is happening in the state, analysis is lacking, however OACC does work to provide analysis to its member institutions. Mr. Plotts and Vice Chair Somerlot discussed the intersection of unemployment and jobs training. Mr. Hershey also shared concerns that free community college could drive federal take over and control of higher education institutions, and shared his surprise that it was an early platform item for President Biden.

## **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 Vice Chair Somerlot and seconded by Mr. Fogle. By a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

### **President's Report**

Dr. McCall shared updates on the Connections Center, which will house a food bank, clothing, toiletry items, and additional student support services. He also highlighted positive responses and trends from the Noel Levitz student survey, which will be shared in more detail at the May Board meeting. Pillar Credit Union is the official sponsor of the Esports team and arena annually. Dr. McCall also highlighted the work of the MTC Foundation to grow scholarships and giving over the past few years. Dr. McCall provided an update on COVID-19 cases, which have been minimal, and noted employees will begin returning to work starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, unless on a remote work plan. The College's first vaccination clinic will be held on campus on April 22<sup>nd</sup> in a drive-thru format; it will be open to all students, employees, and community members.

### **Monitoring Reports**

#### EL 4.5 – Financial Condition

Chief Financial Officer Rhonda Ward presented the finance report as of March 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.

- The College is monitoring summer enrollment and implications to revenue. Progress is being made, however prison registrations are delayed.
- New CARES guidance has been provided related to lost revenue, so additional review of financials will be underway to understand how those funds can be used. A projection will be shared at the May Board meeting.

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

### **Policy Review/Governance Issues**

#### EL 1.2 – Student Success

Mr. Moon reviewed EL 1.2 – Student Success with the Board, noting the various evidence that supported the policy in the March 2021 report. After reviewing the policy and report, he felt no changes were necessary to the policy. Dr. McCall noted he had just received a data set from ODHE on employment metrics, which can be added in future reports. Mr. Young also noted MIT has adjusted its living wage calculator, which the College utilizes in its employment wage data metrics. The College partners with ODJFS to receive graduate wage data, which is not widely available; MTC has been approached by other colleges on how to collect the data.

### **Informational Items**

Dr. McCall shared the College received the two, independent appraisals from the state, however they have not been finalized by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS). Those finalized appraisals will be shared at a future meeting.

Chair Anderson asked if the study abroad trip to London and Paris was still planned for July. Dr. McCall noted the trip is still expected to take place, however the itinerary will be determined by location quarantine and lockdown restrictions.

Dr. Hamper and Dr. McCall discussed future employer needs for OhioHealth and will discuss those needs in detail outside of the meeting.

Mr. Hershey noted the state extended the ability of boards to meet remotely through the end of the calendar year through the state budget.

### **Executive Session**

No executive session was held.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Fogle motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Moon seconded the motion. Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.