



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Newtown Campus
Tyler 142

Date: September 13, 2012
Time: 1:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

J. Peter Dominick, Presiding
Dr. Frederick Breitenfeld, Jr
S. W. Calkins
James M. Dancy
Blake Eisenhart
Frank Fazzalore
Elizabeth Fineburg
Frederick Gudknecht

Otto Grupp III
Madeline Kemper
Carol Mignoni-Ferguson
Bernard O'Neill
Thomas Skiffington
Jeffrey Garton, Esq.
Dr. James Links

ABSENT: Elizabeth A. Graver, Garney Morris.

Mr. Eisenhart called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM. Mr. Eisenhart announced that earlier in the day the Board of Trustees met in executive session.

Upon motion by Mr. Skiffington, seconded by Mr. Dancy, the minutes of the June and July special meetings were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Links congratulated Trustee Carol Mignoni-Ferguson on her selection of as one of four outstanding educators named as Persons of the Year by the *Bristol Borough Advance*.

The President reported that the College once again hosted the July meeting of the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce meeting on the Newtown Campus. Tobi Bruhn was also recognized by that organization for his role in supporting their ongoing leadership training program.

The Upper Bucks Campus was the site of an informal hearing held by House Representative Paul Clymer, Majority Chair of the State House Education Committee. The hearing focused on educational issues in the state and also featured presentations on teaching history.

Dr. Links thanked the STEM Department for once again hosting a successful summer workshop for K-12 science and math teachers. Twenty-nine teachers attended the program which was planned and presented by faculty and staff.

The President congratulated the PSTC for their reaccreditation by the Pro Board following their Spring site visit. The Bucks fire training program is the only institution of higher education in Pennsylvania which has earned this accreditation.

At the end of Dr. Links' remarks, Chair Eisenhart noted that Dr. Links was featured on the previous day on a KYW radio program about applications to community colleges.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Garton, College counsel, explained that after review by College Human Resources staff, it was noted in the original employment contract for the new College President that the benefit year and TIAA CREF contributions were slightly inaccurate. As a result, Mr. Garton prepared a contract amendment which has been signed by Dr. Shanblatt and presented today for Board approval.

Upon motion by Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Skiffington, the board approved amendments to the employment contract for Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt which clarify the fiscal year for benefit allocation purposes and establish TIAA CREF contributions in accordance with College policy.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMITTEES

STUDENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Elizabeth Graver, Chair

There was no committee report this month.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – James M. Dancy, Chair

Provost Annette Conn introduced two new faculty members in the STEM department, Michael J. Babij and Dr. Mary S. Lenczewski.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, MARKETING & ASSESSMENT – J. Peter Dominick, Chair

Vice President Barbara Yetman reported that in June the Middle States Commission on Higher Education acted to reaffirm accreditation for Bucks County Community College. In addition, the Commission requested a monitoring report on governance due September 2013 and a progress

report on institutional and student learning outcomes assessment due April 2014. Ms. Yetman reviewed the steps being taken by the College to respond to the reporting requirements and the time line for report preparation. Finally, Vice President Yetman described the activities and charge of the Assessment Oversight Council.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Dr. Frederick Breitenfeld, Chair

Upon motion by Dr. Breitenfeld, seconded by Mr. Grupp, the Board of Trustees approved the following other contracts, change order and change in signatory:

- **Cable television advertising to Comcast Corporation for \$28,764.**
- **Internet service provider to Reliance GlobalCom, Inc. for \$445,136 for 22 months.**
- **Billboard advertising in northern Bucks County to Adams Outdoor for \$18,050.**
- **Billboard advertising in southern Bucks County to Steen Advertising for \$22,200.**
- **Two-way radio maintenance contract to All Systems Wireless, Inc. for \$21,093 for 3 years.**

Upon motion by Dr. Breitenfeld, seconded by Mr. Grupp, the Board of Trustees approved the following change order:

- **Change Order #1 for Newtown Commons to Dayspring Electric, Inc. for \$41,561.**

Upon motion by Dr. Breitenfeld, seconded by Mr. Grupp, the Board of Trustees approved the following other action:

- **Change in signatory privilege from Dr. James Links to Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt effective October 1, 2012.**

Upon motion by Dr. Breitenfeld, seconded by Mr. Fazzalore the Board of Trustees approved the following bid awards:

- **Virtual welder courseware to Airgas East, Inc. for \$46,915.**
- **Electromechanical courseware to Alleghany Educational Systems, Inc. for \$106,000.**

Financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 2012 were provided for review.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE—Elizabeth Fineburg

Vice President Dennis Matthews presented a report on the impact of the Health Care Affordability Act on benefits planning and provision at the College in the past, short term and several years in the future.

Information was presented on current staffing.

BOARD COMMENTS

Chair Blake Eisenhart noted that this was the last Board meeting for retiring President James Links and offered the following comments to mark the occasion:

The Bucks County Board of Trustees is honored to pay tribute today to our longtime friend, colleague and President. Dr. James Links will be recognized and honored for his twenty years of service as President on September 20, 2012. Today is the last Trustee meeting where Dr. Links will preside as President of this Institution.

I first met Dr. Links when I was last Chairman of the Board, over twenty years ago, and leader of the search committee. Jill Wasserman, Dr. Annette Conn and I paid a search committee visit to the Maryland community college campus where he was serving as Provost. The faculty and staff there praised Dr. Links for his vision, his capabilities and his accomplishments. His capabilities and his accomplishments were many.

Dr. Links was named the third College President in times that were tumultuous and where events were controversial. I noted that at time he was our “new bouncing baby boy” bringing a fresh perspective to the campus in terms of teaching, mentoring, managing and community leadership. For the past twenty years, he has exceeded all of our expectations. His tenure as President has been distinguished through the expansion of our campuses, innovation in our traditional academic programs as well as workforce development, and leadership in the greater Bucks County Community. Our three campuses are “state of the art” and our e-learning is widely accessible. We remain the “Stratford on the Delaware,” and our workplace development programs have global reach. Our faculty and their initiatives have been supported and encouraged to be nationally recognized academic leaders, and our students have been encouraged and motivated to achieve their dreams. Dr. Links is among the most prominent of Bucks County citizens, and serves as on the President’s Advisory Board at Delaware Valley College, a Board Member at The David Library of the American Revolution and the Pearl Buck Foundation, as well as holding other positions of leadership in our health care and business communities.

Dr. Links is recognized as the critical leader in the growth and success of this institution, increasing its enrollment, its resources and its capabilities as well as its recognition as one of the premier community colleges in the nation. A practical leader, Dr. Links understood the importance of linking career opportunities to education, and created pipelines for students to connect their education to growing career fields. The critical link between prepared students and student success was a priority for President Links, leading him to create a Faculty Center of Excellence. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Links has connected the College to the community and been a consistent mentor, advisor and visionary to the Board of Trustees. I believe there is no greater expert in higher education governance who can better manage Trustee egos or better channel the Board’s infinite wisdom.

The Board of Trustees asks all members of the greater Bucks County Community College stakeholders to join the Board of Trustees in offering our warmest congratulations to President James J. Links on his retirement and to celebrate his extraordinary career and legacy he created, helping countless students to achieve their dreams and potential. He has led with conviction, inspired through example and taught with joy and good humor, transforming each

life he touched. He has renewed our community and strengthened our County, proving that one person can indeed make noble and lasting contributions.

I personally feel a strong connection to Dr. Links. He was the first College President I was responsible to transition as Chairman of the Board. In this capacity, and in another connection, as fraternity brothers, we have stories and secrets neither of us would want to share! I will always remember Jim as hands-on, but scholarly, personally tranquil but professionally dynamic. I often looked at Jim during particularly difficult moments, which all Colleges and Presidents endure, and noticed more often than not he had a twinkle in his eye, which more than once amused, but also comforted me. Dr. Links would provide the quiet leadership and keen intellect necessary to gain the respect of those necessary for resolution of the problem. I trusted him, and the Board of Trustees of this Institution trusted him. How blessed we are to know Dr. Links, how grateful we are to him, and how grateful our College and County is to him for lifting up a generation of our students who today are major contributors of good to our common society.

Following Mr. Eisenhart's comments representatives of the College employee groups spoke and expressed thanks on behalf of their members to Dr. Links for his leadership and service to the College. They included Denise McCardle, Administrative Employees, Maureen Seibert, Classified Employees, Brandi Strickland, Security Officers and Professor John Strauss, Faculty.

Next Mr. Eisenhart presented Dr. Links with a commemorative framed print of Tyler Hall after which Dr. Links received a standing ovation. Dr. Links thanked all who spoke on his behalf and remarked that what he will remember most about his time at Bucks are the people he worked with and the opportunity to make a positive impact on lives of so many students. Finally, Mr. Eisenhart invited everyone to a reception for Dr. Links immediately following the meeting in the Tyler Hall lobby.

Upon the motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on October 11 at 1:30 PM on the Newtown Campus.

Thomas Skiffington, Secretary