



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Newtown Campus
Tyler 142

Date: April 10, 2014
Time: 1:30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Blake Eisenhart, Presiding
Dr. Frederick Breitenfeld, Jr
S. W. Calkins
James Dancy
Frank Farry
Frank Fazzalore
Elizabeth Fineburg

Elizabeth Graver
Frederick Gudknecht
William Maeglin
Carol Mignoni-Ferguson
Thomas Skiffington
Jeffrey Garton, Esq.
Dr. Stephanie Shanblatt

ABSENT: Otto Grupp III, Garney Morris

Mr. Eisenhart called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM. Mr. Eisenhart announced that earlier in the day the Board of Trustees met in executive session to discuss real estate, labor relations and personnel matters.

Upon motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Mr. Fazzalore, the minutes of the March meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Upon motion by Mr. Eisenhart, seconded by Mr. Skiffington, the Board of Trustees approved the award of the honorary degree Doctor of Public Service to Charles Meredith to be conferred upon him at the Commencement ceremonies on May 22, 2014.

Mr. Eisenhart appointed the Nominating Committee: Carol Mignoni-Ferguson, Chair, Elizabeth Graver and Blake Eisenhart.

Trustee Farry discussed his role in hosting students from the College when they visited Harrisburg on April 1 for Community College Day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Shanblatt announced that the College will host a debate between the two Democratic candidates in the 8th congressional district on Tuesday, April 15 from 12:15-1:30 PM. Shaughnessy Naughton and Kevin Strouse will face off in a debate moderated by instructor William Pezza.

The President remarked that yesterday staff and students filled the Links Pavilion to take advantage of the Health & Wellness Fair organized by staff member Tina Permar, Health and Fitness Coordinator. Other College staff and departments who participated included: the Nursing Club, Counseling Services, Justin Burroughs, Athletic Coordinator and Kyle Harris, Health & Phys Ed faculty.

President Shanblatt thanked the County Commissioners for their support of a \$100,000 block grant to the College which will fund a new program in metal work at our advanced manufacturing center in Bristol. The College will work with area employers to provide training to help them meet their manpower needs.

Next, Dr. Shanblatt reported that the Arts at Bucks celebration will run from April 16 through May 13, with concerts, exhibitions, films, and a variety of other activities. The events showcase our nationally accredited programs and the talents of our students and faculty.

In conclusion, President Shanblatt introduced Dr. Steve Sullivan, STEM faculty, who was the recipient of the 2013 Lindback Award for Excellence in Teaching. Dr. Sullivan shared a presentation which illustrated his use of technology in teaching based on the following three principles: organization and consistency, meaningful and valuable assignments, and rigorous but fair assessment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BOARD COMMITTEES

STUDENT & COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE – Elizabeth Graver, Chair

There was no report this month.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE – James M. Dancy, Chair

Interim Provost Catherine McElroy described the new Honors Program which will begin in Fall 2014. Students who qualify for the program, via appropriate GPA and testing scores, will have the opportunity to enroll in dedicated honors sections or complete honors level work by contract in regular course sections. Honors course work will concentrate on providing research based scholarship, experiential learning and critical thinking. Another goal of the program is to increase academic skills and knowledge while preparing students to transfer to honors programs at baccalaureate institutions.

STRATEGIC PLANNING, MARKETING & ASSESSMENT – Mr. Blake Eisenhart, Chair

Vice President Barbara Yetman presented the Spring 2014 enrollment report which included some of the special recruitment efforts employed to attract students. Total credit enrollment was down 4.7%, a level comparable with the state average for community colleges of 4.8% decline. Ms. Yetman noted the major impact of the weather on registration this winter. While full time enrollments have levelled off, there is a continued downward trend in part-time students. Staff will research this further and return in the fall with more insights and action plans.

Next Ms. Yetman presented results from the Clarus Community Scan which showed marked improvements in awareness and attitudes regarding the College since the last scan in 2007. The key recommendations from Clarus are: develop messages for adult students, expand video production, improve webpage layout for academic programs, continue to emphasize value and quality and showcase academic programs.

In the coming months efforts will be focused on promotion of stackable credentials and improving retention through intrusive advising and encouraging degree completion prior to transfer.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Dr. Frederick Breitenfeld, Chair

Upon motion by Dr. Breitenfeld, seconded by Ms. Fineburg, the Board of Trustees approved the following:

Bid Awards

- **Acquisition of Dell computer equipment, including desktops, towers, laptops, printers and peripherals, at a cost of \$837,743.20.**

Finance Other Contracts

- **Five year agreement with Follett Higher Education Group to manage the College retail bookstore operation.**

- **Computer equipment lease financing by Hewlett Packard Financial Services, Inc. at a cost of \$780,077.93 over 36 months; this number reflects the residual value of the equipment.**

Other Actions

- **Revision of Policy 3.35 Employment Category Definition to ensure compliance with the Affordable Care Act.**
- **Tuition increase of \$7 per credit effective fall semester 2014.**
- **Fiscal year 2014-3015 balanced budget of \$83,994,000.**

Mr. Eisenhart made the following statement: The Board of Trustees and College administration are mindful of our mission of access, affordability and excellence. We have worked diligently to keep costs down. While we very much appreciate the support from the county and the state, the level of funding we have received from each of them has remained flat for the last several years. We are also committed to maintaining the high quality of our academic programs and to providing our students with the support they need to meet their educational goals. Accordingly, we have approved a modest 3% tuition increase. Bucks County Community College is still an outstanding value for higher education for the citizens of our county and we believe it to be of the highest quality as well.

Financial statements for the period ending March 2014 were provided for review.

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE—Elizabeth Fineburg

There was no committee report this month.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no board comments.

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 May 8, 2014 at 1:30 PM on the Newtown Campus.

Thomas Skiffington, Secretary