

MERCER COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Minutes of the 677th Meeting
of the Board of Trustees
September 17, 2021

The public meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Matzen, at 6:37 p.m., via Zoom Conferencing. In addition to the Chair, the following members were in attendance: Blanca Berrios-Ohler, Winnifred Brown-Glaude, Kevin Drennan, David Fried, Lenora Green, and Jianping Wang, President. Also present was Perry Lattiboudere, College Counsel. Absent were Angela Delli Santi, Yasmin Hernandez-Manno, Anthony Inverso, and Larry Nespoli.

I. OPENING OF MEETING

A) FLAG SALUTE

Chair Matzen led those attending the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

B) STATEMENT OF NOTIFICATION

The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting its interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of this Act, the Board of Trustees of Mercer County Community College has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the Administration Building, on the West Windsor Campus, at the James Kerney Campus, on the College's website homepage, and faxed to The Trentonian and The Times.

C) ADOPTION OF REVISED AGENDA

Mr. Drennan moved to approve the Revised Agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Berrios-Ohler and adopted with Trustees Berrios-Ohler, Brown-Glaude, Drennan, Green, and Matzen voting aye.

D) PUBLIC COMMENT

Professor Alvyn Haywood spoke, thanking the faculty team, along with Dr. Schreyer, Dr. Kleinschmidt and the Board, for eventful and amicable contract negotiations. He said the negotiations would not have been successful without this group and that the contract reflects the respect that has been earned.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2021 BOARD MEETING AND EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES FROM JULY 15, 2021

The Board did not approve the Minutes of July 15, 2021 or the Executive Session Minutes of July 15, 2021 at this time.

III. FINANCE AND FACILITIES MATTERS

The Board did not approve Finance & Facilities Matters at this time.

IV. HUMAN RESOURCES MATTERS

The Board did not approve Human Resources Matters at this time.

V. OPERATIONS MATTERS

The Board did not approve Operations Matters at this time.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Chair Matzen appointed the Nominating Committee for the Board. Ms. Berrios-Ohler will Chair the committee and Dr. Brown-Glaude and Dr. Nespoli will be members.

VII. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

Enrollment

After collective efforts, we have minimized the fall enrollment decline to .5%. However, this decline is on top of a 16.9% decline last fall. This also means that we are likely to experience enrollment decline in spring 2022.

The major decline occurred at JKC. This reflects what we already know about the disproportionate negative impact COVID-19 has on underserved communities. We are working with the Trenton communities to reach those who need and can benefit from our services.

Financial Health

Thanks to collective sacrifice and efforts, the college continues to balance the budget with controlled expenses, including managed hirings and all non-essential expenses. In addition, the college also continues to find alternative revenue sources such as grants, rentals and other professional services. We have successfully secured a record number of grants. On the other hand, we continue to provide financial assistance to students through the federal stimulus funds. As of September 13, the College has disbursed \$5,237,000 through 5,866 awards to students under the federal stimulus funds.

COVID-19 Responses

The college officially reopened in-person operations on September 7. I toured both campuses and visited dozens of classes and met with many students. Overall, students are excited and happy to be back on our campuses. The faculty and staff were satisfied with the preparation work done by our facilities and security team to welcome the college community back. Students especially enjoy the new OneStop Center.

We continue to strongly encourage all employees and students to get vaccinated and upload their vaccine information onto the self-service portal. As of September 17, 555 full and part-time employees have uploaded their vaccine information. Anyone who is not vaccinated or has not uploaded the vaccine information is required to fill out the Symptom Tracker Form each day s/he accesses the campus.

All employees and students must wear masks in all indoor and outdoor spaces when in the presence of other people. As I toured the campus, I found no resistance to this requirement.

As the Biden Administration rolls out the new directive for mandating vaccines for all federal employees and contractors, the college has formed a special task force to develop a plan to implement a vaccine mandate if needed.

College News

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our in-person 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony scheduled for September 10. As we continue to address the global public health crisis, we are reminded of how resilient we truly are and what we can accomplish when we are unified. We can continue to demonstrate the values of unity and service. It's what keeps us whole and what best honors the memory of the victims of 9/11. If you haven't done so already, please visit our [9/11 tribute page](#), which includes a video featuring retired Major General Robert Karmazin.

American Federation of Teachers Union (AFT) – has granted the college \$75,000, with the potential of \$100,000, for the Back to School for Everyone 2021 grant. The purpose of these funds is to provide additional tutoring services, professional development for faculty and students, FAFSA workshops, student focused motivational speakers, small grants for students in need, and to establish a OneStop Student Communication Center.

Perkins FY 2022 – we have been approved for \$570,706 by the New Jersey Department of Education in support of Career and Technical Education programs at the college.

A team of MCCC faculty & staff members (Barbara Basel, Andrea Lynch, Terry Voldase, Stacy Denton, and Chris Cruz-Cullari) submitted a proposal to the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU). The winning proposal earned the college a \$25,000 reward to develop a Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campus Center, which will support cultural event programming, intercultural competence assessments, student training and scholarships, and TRHT Conference attendance.

The New Jersey Council for the Humanities selected MCCC as one of the host sites for the New Jersey tour of *Voices and Votes: Democracy in America*, an exhibit from the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street program.

SOAR (Student Orientation, Advisement and Registration) sessions were held virtually this summer. A total of 836 students participated, compared to 592 during the summer of 2020. 534 participated via Zoom and 302 attended the Online Webinar. This is very encouraging news as our students embrace our services through a new platform. We intend to continue this type of service in the future.

Our annual Fall College Assembly was held on Thursday, September 2 via Zoom, with over 240 faculty and staff participating. Faculty and Adjunct Convocations as well as other pre-class events were also held virtually. We had record participations in many of those events. While many are anxious about returning to in-person teaching and operations, many are excited to see colleagues and students. The overall spirit is high. We are happy to see each other and to see our students back.

VIII. NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF COUNTY COLLEGES REPORT

At a special meeting convened a few weeks ago, the NJCCC approved a new funding formula for the distribution of state aid to community colleges. There are not many states that turn to the colleges themselves (their presidents and trustees) to develop important state policies of this kind. It's very difficult work. All community colleges think they are underfunded (which they are) and all presidents and trustees are most passionate about the needs of their own colleges, making consensus an elusive goal. But the NJCCC got this done, with the strong leadership of NJCCC President Aaron Fichtner plus a supporting cast of presidents and trustees throughout the state. All NJ community colleges will see an increase in state funding under this new formula, some more than others of course based on the factors in the formula.

The NJCCC continues to work with the national community college organizations to support recent community college proposals from the Biden Administration including a national free community college tuition program, funding for student success initiatives, and new workforce development initiatives as well. Action on these federal priorities is expected later this month.

IX. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Matzen introduced Dr. Elizabeth Anderson, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment, who provided a closing report for the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan. She also reported that an assessment component has been embedded in the new Strategic Plan.

Chair Matzen thanked the ad-hoc board committee that was appointed to choose the Presidential Search Firm. He then reported that he will work with the President to decide if the October board meeting will be virtual or in person.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Drennan moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Green and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Jianping Wang
President, Mercer County Community College

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