

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING  
Scibelli Hall, Building 2, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

Monday, May 23, 2016  
5:00 p.m.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Present:** Christopher Johnson, Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees  
Benigno Padilla III, Student Trustee  
Debra Kaylor, Vice Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees  
Daniel Moen, Secretary of the STCC Board of Trustees  
William Abrashkin  
Maria Gonçalves  
Eric Hagopian  
Rosa Maldonado-Brown (arrived at 5:02 p.m.)  
Franklin Quigley  
MacArthur Starks, Jr.

**Also Present:** Ira H. Rubenzahl, President  
Michelle LeDoux, Staff Assistant, Office of the President  
Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President, Office of the President  
Arlene Rodríguez, Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Joseph DaSilva, Vice President of Administration/CFO  
Kamari Collins, Vice President of Student and Multicultural Affairs  
Bob LePage, Vice President of Foundation and Workforce Training  
Joan Nadeau, Senior Director of Human Resources  
John Reynolds, Events Planner, Facilities Department  
Nick Camerota, Professor/Representative, STCC Professional Association  
Louisa Davis-Freeman, Dean, Admissions Office  
Jonathan Tudryn, Controller, Business Office  
Adrienne Smith, Dean, School of Engineering Technologies and Mathematics  
Leona Ittleman, Dean, School of Business and Information Technologies  
Anne Bonemery, Interim Dean, School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

**Excused Absences:** Steven Grande

**I. Call to Order**

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**II. Approval of Minutes form Presidential Search Committee Finalist Interviews**

- April 19, 2016 – The open session interviews of Dr. White and Dr. Cook.  
Trustee Quigley moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, seconded by Trustee Abrashkin, and unanimously approved.
- April 21, 2016 – The open session interviews of Dr. McGinnis and Dr. Douglas.

Trustee Quigley moved to approve the minutes of the meeting, seconded by Trustee Moen, and unanimously approved.

### **III. Approval of Minutes**

#### **• April 25, 2016 – Regular Meeting**

The approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2016 was tabled. Christopher Johnson, Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees and Wanda Castellano, Executive Assistant to the President, are still working on the minutes. Trustee Padilla moved to table the approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 25, 2016 until June 27, 2016, seconded by Trustee Quigley, and unanimously approved.

### **IV. Trustee Committee Reports**

#### Committee on Internal and External Relations

[Committee Report] Meeting held May 9, 2016

Trustee Quigley served as Interim Chair of the Committee on Internal and External Relations. He gave a summary of the items of discussion that included conversations on the NEASC 5-Year Interim Report, the Vision Project Dashboard of STCC, a report on new hires, and two motions that were recommended to the Board: 1). The approval of Granting of Tenure, and 2). The approval of the appointment to the WTCC Advisory Board. The College is waiting to receive the formal letter from the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education (CIHE) on the NEASC 5-Year Interim Report. The formal letter will be addressed to President Rubenzahl and Chair Johnson and will contain additional information. Trustee Hagopian moved to approve the committee report, seconded by Trustee Padilla and unanimously approved. Unanimously approved.

#### Committee on Ways and Means

[Committee Report] No meeting held in May.

### **V. Old Business**

No old business.

### **VI. New Business**

Trustee Johnson introduced Michael Mizzoni, Director of Trustee Relations. Mr. Mizzoni has been with the Department of Higher Education for three years, has been in his current position for four months, and has been working with the state for a total of six years. Mr. Mizzoni has been with the DHE from the onset of the Vision Project. Mr. Mizzoni mentioned that the Multi-Agency Trustee Workshop is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at Mass Bay Community College Framingham Campus. It is a training opportunity for trustees and everyone who works directly with trustees. The event will provide presentations on ethics law, fraud detection, and panel sessions. The event is brought together by the State Ethics Commission, the Attorney General's Office, and the Department of Higher Education. The training will focus on the legal responsibilities for trustees. Mr. Mizzoni said that he will bring back questions, priorities, and concerns regarding appointments to his office for follow-up. His goal is to be as helpful as he can be to all of the campuses. President Rubenzahl mentioned our Board's vacancies, including that of Trustee Moen, whom will be leaving after the June meeting. Our Board has 5 seats that need acting on. It is important for continuity purposes to have the vacancies filled. Mr. Mizzoni stated that the DHE is

committed to get the vacancies filled. President Rubenzahl will provide names to Mike Mizzoni by the end of the week.

**VII. [MOTION #2016-21] Approval of the Granting of Tenure**

Trustee Quigley moved to approve the following:

[MOVE]

*That the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approves the Granting of Tenure, as detailed in exhibit A.*

The motion was seconded by Trustee Moen, and unanimously approved.

President Rubenzahl stated that the Board of Trustees had previously delegated to the President the authority to hire, promote, transfer, or dismiss personnel, but that the delegation of authority does not include the Granting of Tenure. The Board of Trustees will continue to approve the Granting of Tenure.

**VIII. [MOTION #2016-22] Approval of Appointment to WTCC Advisory Board**

Trustee Quigley moved to approve the following:

[MOVE]

*That the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approves the appointment of Jennifer McNeill to the WTCC Advisory Board, for a three-year term effective May 24, 2016 through May 23, 2019, as detailed in exhibit B.*

The motion was seconded by Trustee Padilla, and unanimously approved.

**IX. NEASC Accreditation – Decision on 5-Year Report**

President Rubenzahl addressed the four concerns as noted in the email from Carol Anderson, Vice President of the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education:

1. *refining and implementing its strategic plan;*
2. *addressing the College's own goals for diversifying the faculty to more closely mirror the diversity of students;*
3. *achieving its retention and graduation goals with emphasis on developing academic pathways that incorporate successful developmental initiatives;*
4. *retrofitting Building 19, completing planned renovations, and reducing the institution's deferred maintenance backlog.*

NEASC will send official letters to Trustee Johnson and President Rubenzahl with the specific details. Trustee Gonçalves inquired as to how the College would handle the deferred maintenance issue, noted on item #4. President Rubenzahl replied that some of the concerns were already being resolved.

**X. Vision Project Dashboards for STCC**

President Rubenzahl stated that it is not as resourceful as it should be. It is overly complex. It does not describe what is going on with our campuses as it should. STCC will continue to work on

increasing graduation rates. Our campus is urban and in comparing it to a school in Wellesley, you are comparing different populations. The comparison should be with similar schools across the country or compare with itself. Secretary Peyser informed the community college President's at a meeting earlier in the day that there is a new strategic plan at the State level. Secretary Peyser said that there was nothing about sustainability and resources in the strategic plan. There was nothing about how it will get funded, and how the campuses would be sustained. This is what is missing from the Vision Project. There is no concept of who is paying for it. The Department of Higher Education has hired a company that will be going around to the campuses. STCC is the poster child for cooperation, because we work with HCC. We have to work together. There will be a new direction under Secretary Peyser. The Vision Project is supposed to help the presidents run their campuses. The trustees expressed their concern with the complexity of the details outlined in the Vision Project. The document is difficult to read and decipher. Mr. Mizzoni has taken into account the concerns of the Board of Trustees. He has taken notes and reaffirmed that he would bring back the message to his office to have a discussion with his colleagues. Mr. Mizzoni added that across the board the message is consistent from the responses that he has received from the other campus. The information is not resourceful for trustees.

## **XI. Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2016-2017 Academic Year**

The Board of Trustees does not meet in July, August and December. The first Board meeting of the 2016-2017 academic year, and the annual Retreat, will both be held in September. The proposed meeting schedule includes meeting dates, times, and locations for the sub-committee meetings. President Rubenzahl's last Board meeting will be on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Starks moved to approve the meeting schedule for the 2016-2017 academic year, seconded by Trustee Gonçalves, and unanimously approved.

## **XII. President's Report**

1) Status of Building 19 aka Career and Learning Center: President Rubenzahl reported the good news about the Governor's FY '17 budget to the Board of Trustees. There is 14 million to work on building 19. The first 3 million should be used by January 2017. The construction company has been hired. There is 17 million dollars to advance the project. The construction has started. After the money has been expended, the College may have to wait for funds from FY '18 or we could ask for more funding in FY '17. The study is done. Design is done, and construction is underway. The project may take three years. The project is going to happen. Consigli has a contract from the State to carry out the project. The awarding of the construction company was the big hurdle, but we are beyond that stage. The design process was good. Ann Beha did an excellent job and we are pleased with the process. There are issues with parking. The National Park Service is involved with this piece of the project.

2) EDA Commercialization Grant: President Rubenzahl stated that the EDA grant supports the manufacturing program. We are working with UMass Amherst, Greentown Labs, and Valley Venture Mentors. UMass will lead the initiative.

3) Manufacturing Center at the Tech Park: President Rubenzahl stated that we have three manufacturing programs; Photonics, a sheet metal precision machining program, Advanced Manufacturing, and a controls program, Electrical/Robotics Technology. All programs have a significant growth industry. The objective is to house these programs together in the basement across from where the Phoenix Charter Academy High School is located. We are currently in

discussions with the Tech Park to create a Manufacturing Center. They will receive monies from the State through a grant.

4) Interim VP of Workforce: President Rubenzahl reported that Bob LePage is leaving STCC to work with Secretary Peyser. The College has hired Jeremiah Riordon to replace Bob. Mr. Riordon has worked with Bob, and he came highly recommended. Mr. Riordon will work to keep things moving forward. Dr. Rubenzahl consulted with Dr. Cook prior to making a decision on Bob's replacement.

5) Senate Ways and Means Committee Budget: The Senate has approved an \$800,500.00. This is more than the House. Money for collective bargaining unit. Also, will be a supplemental budget for last year's raises. They will be coming through in July. Will be paid on back pay by September. Will come from college budget. The Board will recommend that Chair Johnson send letters to the legislators. Trustee Moen moved to authorize Chair Johnson to send letters to House of Representatives and ask them to adopt the Senate version of the budget, if they go to conference committee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gonçalves, and unanimously approved.

President Rubenzahl stated that there are additional funds from the Commonwealth for building 20. At a previous meeting the Board of Trustees authorized from the use of funds from reserves to renovate the nursing faculty offices that have sustained water damage. The faculty members from the nursing department have been in temporary offices. There are still problems with building 20. There is a discrepancy on how to proceed. The State and the College do not agree on how to proceed. The State believes that the College should fix the problems, but President Rubenzahl believes that it absorbs a considerable amount of money. It would be preferable to develop a new building than to repair the current building. Building 20 was not built as an academic building. There may be asbestos in the walls of the top two floors. DCAMM has suggested removing some walls. The College has not come up with a plan with DCAMM that is agreed upon. Trustee Gonçalves inquired about the working conditions and if it has an impact on hiring faculty. President Rubenzahl said that it has not been an issue. It is not an ideal situation.

### **XIII. Chair's Report**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Trustee Johnson congratulated to Bob LePage on his promotion<sup>1</sup>, adding that he will be missed, and asked him not to be a stranger. Trustee Johnson gave a summary of the visit to Manchester Community College in New Hampshire. A total of 12 individuals from STCC went on the site visit. It was a worthwhile trip. The persons who work with Dr. John Cook demonstrated genuine feelings for him. They are happy for his promotion, but are also sad to lose him. The one last hurdle in the presidential search process is the interview with the Board of Higher Education (BHE) scheduled for Tuesday, June 7, 2016. Trustee Johnson, as Chair of the Board is required to be present. The BHE will pose their questions to Dr. Cook and Trustee Johnson prior to confirming Dr. Cook's appointment. Trustee Johnson has a draft of the contract ready for Dr. Cook's consent and signature, immediately following the confirmation from the BHE. Trustee Johnson asked the members of the Board to join him and Dr. Cook in Boston for the Board of Higher Education confirmation meeting. It will take no more than an hour. President Rubenzahl will work until June 30, 2016. Dr. Rubenzahl and Dr. Cook will meet on Monday, June 6, 2016. The Board of Trustees will move to appoint an Interim President for the month of July at next regular

---

<sup>1</sup> Bob LePage, Vice President of STCC Foundation and Workforce Training, has taken a new position with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He will start his new role as Assistant Secretary for Career Education on May 31, 2016.

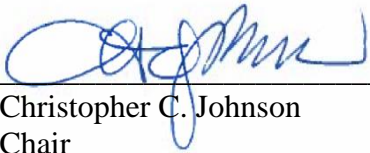
meeting. Trustee Johnson asked the Trustees to attend the activities leading up to commencement<sup>2</sup>. Trustee Johnson stated that the Honor's Convocation, the Nursing Pinning Ceremony, and graduation are the most enjoyable things that the Board does all year. The Lt. Governor, Karyn Polito, will be the speaker at commencement.

**XIV. Date of Next Board Meeting – Monday, June 27, 2016**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 27, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Scibelli Hall, building 2, rooms 703-704. Trustee Johnson stated that the process of adopting next year's budget will require a quorum. There should be at least 6 members present to meet the criteria.

**XV. Adjournment**

Trustee Gonçalves moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m., seconded by Trustee Moen, and unanimously approved.



---

Christopher C. Johnson  
Chair  
STCC Board of Trustees

---

<sup>2</sup> STCC's 49<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2016 at the MassMutual Center.