

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, May 21, 2018  
Scibelli Hall, Building 2, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
5:00 p.m.

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**Present:** Christopher Johnson, Chair  
Franklin Quigley, Vice Chair  
Marikate Murren, Secretary  
Steven Grande, Trustee  
William Johnson, Trustee  
Vicky Crouse, Trustee  
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee  
Karolyn Burgos Toribio, Student Trustee

**Excused Absences:** Eric Hagopian, Trustee  
Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

**Also Present:** Dr. John Cook, President

**Guests:** Dr. Carlos Santiago, Commissioner MA Department of Higher Education  
Matt Noyes, Director of Trustee and Government Relations

**I. Call to Order**

Chair, Christopher Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

The roll was taken with the following STCC Board of Trustees members present: Chair, Christopher Johnson, Vice Chair, Franklin Quigley, Secretary, Marikate Murren, Trustees: Steven Grande, William Johnson, Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Vicky Crouse, MacArthur Starks, Jr., and Karolyn Burgos Toribio. Nine members were present constituting a quorum.

### **III. Introduce & Welcome Dr. Carlos Santiago, Commissioner MA Department of Higher Education**

Chair, Christopher Johnson introduced Commissioner Santiago as well as Matt Noyes, Director of Trustee and Government Relations and welcomed them to the Board of Trustees meeting.

### **IV. Building Tour – Building 19, Learning Commons**

Chair, Christopher Johnson asked for a motion to move the tour to the end of the meeting so that the other agenda items can be addressed prior to the tour. Trustee Franklin Quigley moved to delay the tour to the end of the meeting, seconded by Trustee Marikate Murren and unanimously approved.

### **V. Commissioner Santiago's Remarks**

President Cook noted that the Commissioner held a Public Forum at noon in the Theater, moderated by Denise Hurst, a Springfield School Committee member. Lydia Martinez, Assistant Superintendent, Springfield Public Schools served on the discussion panel as well as President Cook and Commissioner Santiago. President Cook reported that more than 100 people attended the event consisting of students, faculty, and staff. He provided a brief background on Commissioner Santiago, stating that he was appointed to this position by the Board of Higher Education in 2015 and is responsible for providing overall direction to public higher education in Massachusetts and helping shape state-level policies that maximize the benefits of higher education to the Commonwealth and its citizens. The Commissioner is also the author or co-author of six books and numerous other publications that focus on economic development and the changing socioeconomic status of Latinos in the United States. President Cook turned it over to Commissioner Santiago for his remarks.

Commissioner Santiago explained that he had a busy and productive day but his message is somewhat somber due to the times we live in. He reported that enrollments are down nationally. The problem is a declining population of teens and 20-somethings—the traditional age range of college students. It's not just Massachusetts (MA). Maine has consolidated its public university system into one organization, but without closing campuses. Connecticut has consolidated administration of its community college system into one institution with a dozen campuses. Yet, Commissioner Santiago believes in local control and the 29 MA institutions working together to cooperate and collaborate. He mentioned the abrupt shutdown of Mount Ida College and that in the last five years there have been 15 MA colleges that either shut down, merged or eliminated significant programs due to lack of students, lack of funding or both. He stressed the importance of ensuring that students succeed, historically underserved students. Commissioner Santiago thanked Chair Johnson and President Cook for the opportunity to visit STCC.

President Cook distributed a copy of a slide that the Commissioner presented at the Public Forum that shows gaps and success rates (Exhibit A). He stated that 22% is the standard graduation rate and only half of that for students of color. As STCC is a Hispanic Serving Institute (HSI), the focus is about successfully serving a culturally and economically diverse student body.

**VI. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – April 23, 2018**

Trustee Steven Grande moved to approve the minutes from the April 23, 2018 meeting, seconded by Trustee William Johnson and unanimously approved.

**VII. Trustee Committee Reports:**

**Committee on Ways and Means – meeting held May 7, 2018**

Chair of Ways and Means Committee, MacArthur Starks updated the Board of Trustees on cash flow projection, FY 2018 Revenue & Spending Reports through April 2018, FY 2018 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Trust Fund and Vendor Expenditure Reports and the FY 2019 Budget Update. Trustee Starks stated that Vice President DaSilva presented a revised version of the proposed FY 2019 budget. The latest version includes an additional \$144,000 in both the Health Programs Fee Revenue line as well as the Operational and Other Expense line in anticipation of the approval of the A.S. in Health Science Program. Two motions will be put forth: 1) A.S. Health Science Course Fee and 2) FY 2019 Budget. Minutes from the Investment Subcommittee meeting held on May 3, 2018 were also presented by Trustee Starks.

Trustee Starks reported that Dr. Cook shared his perspective on the fee structure as well as the FY 2019 budget process. He stated that discussions are taking place on how best to inform students of the upcoming fee increase as well as how the increase in the Pell grant amount will impact them. He will ensure that there is a plan to include meeting with student government to discuss the fee increase.

Trustee William Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approve the report of the Committee on Ways and Means meeting of May 7, 2018. Trustee Vicky Crouse seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

**[Motion] 2018-05 - A.S. Health Science Course Fee**

Trustee Steven Grande moved that the Springfield Technical Community College Committee on Ways and Means recommends to the Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Chapter 15A, Section 22, the authorization to take any and all prudent steps necessary to establish a Health Sciences course fee at a rate of \$200 per course, effective for the Fall 2018 Semester. This course fee is contingent on the approval of the new A.S. Health Sciences program by the

Department of Higher Education. The motion was seconded by Trustee Franklin Quigley and unanimously approved.

Dr. Cook explained that he had a conference call on May 10, 2018 with Commissioner Santiago, Department of Higher Education staff and Holyoke Community College leadership, to discuss the new Health Sciences degree program. If approved the College will need to build a fee structure that allows a learning model similar to the other allied health programs.

**[Motion] 2018-06 – FY 2019 Budget**

Trustee MacArthur Starks moved that the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Ways and Means, pursuant to the provision of Section 22, Chapter 15A, recommends the approval of the FY 2019 College Spending Plan and the FY 2019 Trust Fund Budgets, and further authorizes the President of the College and/or his designee(s) to take any and all prudent steps necessary to award contracts for capital projects. The motion was seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito and unanimously approved.

President Cook explained that the budget was thoughtfully managed and reflects the declining enrollment. Chair Johnson also noted that Vice President DaSilva presented the fourth version of the budget to the Ways and Means Committee predicting enrollment trends.

**Committee on Internal and External Relations – meeting held May 14, 2018**

Chair of the Committee on Internal and External Relations, Franklin Quigley reported on the meeting held on May 14, 2018. He stated that President Cook presented the Committee with a personnel update. Of note, Inder Singh has filled the CIO/AVP position on a permanent basis. He will report directly to Dr. Cook and join the Cabinet in June, 2018. In addition, Jose Rivera joined the College recently as the new Chief of Police – Sr. Director of Public Safety. He previously worked at Holyoke Community College where he served as Chief of Police for the past three years and previously served as a Lieutenant while employed at STCC. President Cook also introduced Dr. Geraldine deBerly, Vice President of Academic Affairs to the Committee. Although the numbers are not final, President Cook presented the 2018 graduation report. At present there are 1,064 prospective graduates eligible to participate in commencement. In 2017, the College was up 2% over the prior year. Dr. Cook updated the Committee on his recent conference call with Commissioner Santiago to discuss the status of STCC's Health Sciences degree program application. Dr. Cook reminded all that the STCC Commencement is on Thursday, May 31 at the Mass Mutual Center.

Trustee William Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approve the report of the Committee on Internal and External Relations meeting of May 14, 2018. Trustee MacArtur Starks seconded the motion and was unanimously approved.

**VIII. President's Report – Dr. John B. Cook**

President Cook reported on the following:

- Dr. Geraldine deBerly, Vice President Academic Affairs, met with her counter-part at Holyoke Community College, Monica Perez, for a conversation on the Health Sciences Degree.
- Visit by Trudy Bers of “Achieving the Dream” (ATD) on May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. She was one of the presenters at Professional Development Day. Dr. Cook explained that the College has been connected with ATD from pilot to scale.
- Professional Day held on May 17<sup>th</sup> with approximately 400 faculty and staff attending. There were various breakout sessions to choose from and Dr. Cook informed the Trustees that he was also one of the presenters on the topic of preparing a course syllabus. Chief Jose Rivera facilitated a session on campus safety.
- Dr. Cook provided the Trustees with his self-assessment report for FY2018. Chair Christopher Johnson will appoint an ad-hoc committee to begin the evaluation process. The ad-hoc committee will provide their recommendation for approval to the full Board. This will be done via public/open meeting.

**IX. Chair's Report – Christopher C. Johnson**

- Chair, Christopher Johnson thanked the Trustees for their upcoming participation in Commencement as well as other related events.
- He noted the tour of Building 19 and the significance this facility will have for the students as all services will be housed under one roof.
- Chair Johnson mentioned that the tours taking place during the Board of Trustees meetings allows the Trustees to see how programs operate as well as touring the facilities and the progress that is being made.

**X. Old Business – None**

**XI. New Business – None**

**XII. Date of Next Meeting – June 25, 2018**

**XIII. Tour – Building 19**

Chair, Christopher Johnson adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m., to participate in a tour of Building 19 Learning Commons as it is still undergoing construction. The tour was led by Maureen Socha, Assistant Vice President of Administration and Facilities. Chair Johnson reconvened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

**XIV. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:05 p.m., seconded by Trustee William Johnson and unanimously approved.



Christopher C. Johnson  
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees

# Students First Community Colleges: Latinx-White Gaps

