

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING – PROGRAMS DISCONTINUATIONS**

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Zoom/Live Streamed in STCC YouTube Channel

5:00 p.m.

**Minutes of Meeting**

Present at Roll Call: Vicky Crouse, Committee Co-Chair, Trustee  
Jynai McDonald, Trustee, Committee Co-Chair, Trustee  
Elizabeth Sposito - Trustee  
Eric Hagopian - Trustee  
Bill Johnson, Trustee  
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee  
MacArthur Starks, Jr, Trustee

Unable to attend: Jeffrey Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President;  
Dr. Renae Gorman, Professor and Chair, STCC-PA (MCCC)

**I. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Vicky Crouse called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Seven out of eight Committee members present, constituting a quorum.

**III. Commentary – Dr. Renae Gorman, Professor of Physical Therapy; and STCC-PA (MCCC) Chapter President**

Dr. Gorman thanked the Board for recognizing the importance of including the faculty, staff and all stakeholders' voices in this conversation. She proceeded to point out the objectives of her commentary: to inspire the committee to actively restore programs and to highlight the need for Trustees to be engaged in the conversation.

Dr. Gorman discussed restoring the discontinued programs by first recognizing concerns that affect not only the discontinued programs but the remaining programs as well. She acknowledged the well-known high cost of managing a historical site. A number of arguments offered specific to programs, which include, but are not limited to:

**Automotive:**

The program review indicates that it is inadequate to expand, it does not refer to its then current status. Program curriculum met graduate expectation without immediate expensive investment and spoke about the high demand for automotive technicians in the market.

**Civil Engineering:**

This program has the most longevity than the Architect and Building Technology (ABT) Faculty worked on developing a new curriculum that does not overlap with the ABT program. The program was discontinued before implementation of the newly developed program.

**Cosmetology:**

This program was facing a costly move, however, the move is scheduled in two years, which allows time for planning. This program is unique since it is one of two programs in the area that accept financial aid.

**Dental Assisting:**

This was the only direct patient care program impacted by discontinuations. Dr. Gorman claims that the faculty in this program were the most experienced, therefore, the most expensive. Had successfully met accreditation as of last year and enrollment aligned with the national average.

**Landscape:**

This program has generated over \$52k in cash through its programs activities, in addition since 2016 has saved the college over \$40k in material and labor costs on landscape projects upon facilities' request.

**Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering Technology:**

This is one of the youngest programs, started in 2018 with a grant from the MA Life Science Center. The current pandemic creates a potential for growth and demand for biotechnology equipment such as ventilators.

When asked by Trustees about specific implications given financial impacts facing the college, Professor Gorman stated this was not her area of expertise.

#### **IV. President's Presentation – Dr. John B. Cook**

Dr. Cook noted that a memo was provided in advance per request of recommendations on what it would take to reinstate programs back. He stated his appreciation to Trustees for being on the receiving end of strong rhetoric and difficult conversations. Also spoke about decision making in difficult times. He appreciates Trustees wanting to support and fund solutions. In addition, Dr. Cook stated that he will not hesitate to seek an executive session to discuss collective bargaining. Dr. Cook assures that he continues to engage and listen to faculty and staff's concerns.

Dr. Cook proceeded to refer to the memo sent in advance to Trustees, also shared in advance with shared governance bodies: MCCC, AFSCME, and the All Unit Congress. Specific recommendations included financial support, including use of reserves if needed, to fund required Certified Studies of Cosmetology for the move to Building 27, and a Certified Study of Automotive/Building 25. Trustee Starks commented: the approach seems more about buildings than programs. Dr. Cook explained that given the condition of infrastructure, the facilities needs go together with program function, need to be addressed together.

Trustee Crouse commented that the amount of money stated is shocking, and did the college already know this information. Dr. Cook noted that the Campus Master Plan is clear with respect to deferred maintenance costs by building; that Plan was reviewed with Ways & Means, including a 5-year Facilities Plan, and the Campus Master Plan carries endorsement by the Board of Trustees. Dr. Cook also noted that standing up in 2018 comprehensive academic program review, the first time at STCC for this approach, has been a key platform to engage with faculty to discuss details of the programs, including the significance of facilities and equipment needs to meet industry standards.

Asked when he was aware of these concerns, President Cook pointed to the Master Planning process, and how from his start facilities have been a disproportionate issue for the college. There have been facilities emergencies, including flooding in Building 20, and Dr. Cook responded that the current pandemic has exacerbated these existing issues and concerns. The President was declarative: STCC as a technical institution, should have an automotive program, but to offer a program that meets industry expectations, and that faculty and students teach and learn in not simply a make-shift building, and not a "Cadillac" building, but one that addresses significant and existing issues related to its function.

Trustee Johnson offered a comment in regards to the automotive industry. The automotive shops are willing to train employees. Twenty, ten years ago, this was not happening.

With the smaller programs as a point of discussion, including Civil Engineering, Biotechnology, and Biomedical, President Cook noted that the translation of these

programs returning, is full-time faculty teaching very small classes (average class sizes under 8 students).

Upon question from Trustee Lindsay in regards to foreseeing a permanent solution to structural issues. Dr. Cook gave the example of the ongoing efforts of moving building 20. We have been working intently and intensively with the Commonwealth, Legislators, and DCAMM, for over three years. The problem dates back to when the Armory conceded this property, and there was not formalized plan to convert old and outmoded buildings to a college function.

Trustee Sposito requested clarification in regards to the cost of consultation. Dr. Cook explained that STCC can use the process of RFQ – Request for Quote – which caps quotes at \$50,000, and the example shared was Value Stream Consultant. Dr. Cook also clarified that Massachusetts requires Certified Studies for capital projects in excess of \$300,000, and this consultant/RFQ would not address that requirement.

Committee Co-Chair called for a motion

MOTION 2021-05

*That the Ad Hoc Committee on Program Discontinuations recommend to the Committee on Ways and Means the reinstatement of all programs except for Cosmetology and Automotive, which will need an extensive review. Recommending to reinstate other programs in Fiscal year 2021-2022 with the use of unrestrictive funds.*

Trustee Mac Starks, seconded the motion. The motion was approved through roll call:

Voting “yes:” Trustees Crouse, Starks, MacDonald, Sposito, Lindsay

Voting “no:” Trustee Johnson

Not present for vote: Trustee Hagopian

Committee Chair Vicky Crouse called for a second motion:

MOTION 2021-06

*That the Ad Hoc Committee on Program Discontinuations require further review of the cost associated with reinstating and operating the Automotive and Cosmetology programs. To bring a consultant through a RFQ or RFP for further assessment.*

Note: Upon discussion of calling for a motion without a dollar amount, it was stated that this motion is to request cost associated with the review. A motion to approve consultant and cost associated will be presented at Ways and Means for approval.

Trustee Mac Starks, seconded the motion. The motion was approved through roll call:

Voting “yes:” Trustees Crouse, Starks, MacDonald, Sposito, Lindsay

Voting “no:” Trustee Johnson

Not present for vote: Trustee Hagopian

**V. Other Business**

**VI. Date of Next Meeting: Not determined**

**VII. Adjournment:** At 6:19 p.m. Trustee Jynai McDonald moved a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Betty Sposito, and unanimously approved through roll call.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nanette Flores