

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, February 22, 2021

Zoom/Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel

5:00 p.m.

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Marikate Murren, Chair
Jynai McDonald, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee
Alessande Anderson, Student Trustee (*joined after roll call*)
Vicky Crouse, Trustee
Eric Hagopian, Trustee
William Johnson, Trustee
Jeff Sattler - Trustee
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President

I. Call to Order

Trustee Chair Marikate Murren called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

The following Trustees were present at roll call: Trustee Chair Marikate Murren, Trustee Vice Chair Jynai McDonald, Alumni Trustee Maurice Lindsay, Trustee Vicky Crouse, Trustee Eric Hagopian, Trustee William Johnson, Trustee Elizabeth Sposito, Trustee Jeffrey Sattler, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Nine out of eleven present, constituting a quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes – Board of Trustees Regular Meeting – January 25, 2021

Trustee Bill Johnson moved to approve the minutes from January 25, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Betty Sposito and unanimously approved through roll call.

IV. Trustee Committee Reports

a. Committee on Ways and Means – Monday, February 8, 2021

i: Investment Sub Committee – Thursday, February 4, 2021

Committee on Ways and Means Chair Mac Starks referred to the meeting reports included in the packet to update the full board on highlights of both February 4th Investment Sub Committee and February 8th Committee on Ways and Mean.

The FY 2022 Budget planning process is underway and the first draft will be presented by administrators at the March 15th Ways and Means meeting. Included on this budget conversation is the impact of \$8.1million granted to STCC through CRRSAA (federal funding). A portion, ~\$2 million, is required to be used directly for students. Another point of discussion was Building 20, and the needed relocation of the School of Health. Part of the discussion was potential Trustee approval of funds via reserves to support the required certified study. The FY 2022 Capital Project lines include approximately \$4.8million (\$3.1m for facilities and \$1.7m for Information Technology). The Senior Director of Facilities, Deb Avery will present at the March 15th Ways and Means Committee Meeting, and the CIO/Assistant Vice President Mary Kaselouskas will present at the April 12th Ways and Means Committee Meeting.

Also provided was a summary of the CARES Act funding followed by the typical FY 2021 Budget details, including Cash Flow projections, Revenue and spending report through January 2021, Facilities projects report, and the FY 2021 2nd Quarter Trust Fund and Expenditure reports.

Committee Chair Starks concluded his report with an update on the Investment Sub-Committee report as discussed at the February 8th Committee on Ways and Means meeting. He acknowledged Mr. Michael Chase and the great service provided by the Fiduciary Advisors in managing STCC's investment portfolios and keeping us informed of the overall portfolio performances.

Trustee Jeff Sattler moved to approve the minutes from February 8, 2021 Committee on Ways and Means which also included the February 4, 2021 Investment Sub-Committee report. Motion to approve was seconded by Vicki Crouse and unanimously approved through roll call.

V. Old Business

As stated on the agenda, and as part of the governance engagement as noted in NECHE standard 3, Board Chair Marikate Murren announced that starting in March, AUC Leadership will be included as agenda item to the Internal and External Relations Committee meeting agenda. This is aligned to projections in the Accreditation/NECHE

Self-Study specific to governance engagement. Shared was how this model had been activated one year ago, with AUC presenting at an Internal/External Committee meeting pre-COVID. President Cook also shared specific to governance, how administration meets monthly with AUC Leadership, as well as MCCC (STCC-Professional Association) leadership, and each semester with student government leaders. Dr. Cook spoke about cross-functional collaboration of work, including the development of an Academic Plan for the college, the first of its kind.

Upon request for comments, Internal and External Relations Committee Chair Jynai McDonald added that she is looking forward to agenda topics from AUC Leaders and working together as shared governance.

VI. New Business: NECHE Accreditation visit, April 11-14; Trustee meetings TBD/Open Meeting Law

As consulted and affirmed by Legal Counsel, any meeting involving a quorum of the Board, or a Board Committee would need to abide by the Open Meeting Law. To enable Trustee engagement with the NECHE visiting team, a portion of the already scheduled Committee on Ways and Means meeting in March will provide a forum. All other non-committee Trustees will be invited to join. In addition to meeting with the full Board, it is also expected that the NECHE Team Chair will meet one-on-one with Board Chair Marikate, and other accreditation team members may request meetings with other Trustees. In regards to preparation for the NECHE visit, all Trustees are encouraged to review the Self-Study report.

VII. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook

Next month represents one year of meeting remotely, and operating as a college in a very different and dynamic manner. A recent All-College Town Hall meeting was held, and the most prominent question was “what are we doing for fall”? A good deal of the outlook depends on Massachusetts gathering size regulations, as well as vaccine distribution. Registration opens in April for Summer and Fall Semester. The goal remains to be on campus to the greatest degree possible knowing there is a keen demand by students, and a desire by many faculty and staff.

In regards to programs reinstatement, legal counsel and STCC administrators met with MCCC. Faculty recall notifications are being prepared in line with the collective bargaining agreement. A meeting with the Department of Higher Education is also scheduled to seek clarity on reinstatement process. Marketing plans are in development for reinstated programs.

In regards to budget, we will have a robust process to finish up this FY 21 and prepping for next FY 22. Through Ways and Means you have seen the bounds of enrollment decline. We are projecting 22% of decline in this second spring session, which represents a total cumulative decline of 18% across the fiscal year. With the

budget presented, we will be able to absorb the decline. Community Colleges are all being affected and declines in all are in the double digits. When it comes to finishing up this year, we still have \$500,000 of CARES Act money that we are working on the best way to spend.

Deb Avery, Senior Director of Facilities, will be presenting on specific Facilities projects at the March Ways & Means meeting. In regards to the Campus Green, we just learn that besides the lead contamination, the grounds also have arsenic. Relocation of the Campus Police was part of the next phase of Campus Master Plan moves, and was on the 5-Year Facilities at \$1.7m. The recently student placed the project cost at \$7m; further value engineering will take place, and this is an example of the escalating factors that come with public procurement projects.

In regards to our equity initiatives as aligned with the Board of Higher Education, our lead Consultant, Dr. Pamela Felder Small, continues to work with the STCC Antiracism and Inclusion Alliance (AIA@STCC). We are seeking a conversation with the STCC Foundation to underwrite an Innovation Fellowship model that would elevate a faculty/staff member to develop and implement an equity project to help the college change and reform systems.

Unfortunate news: Trustee Steve Grande issued a resignation letter and effective February is no longer a member of the Board. Steve needs to focus on other priorities, and he has been a tremendous member, particularly in his representation of the manufacturing sector. Filling this vacancy comes via appointment by the Governor; as a Board, the quorum is still based on the full board figure.

To end on a positive note: in the Workforce development area, we are offering a House Flipping training and it capped out at 20 registrations. Thanks to one of our Full Faculty of Architecture/Building Technology, Jen DeForge who is hosting this program. With appreciation also to our AVP of Workforce Development, Dave Buonora and his team for working on this.

Final questions came up in regards to the Campus Green and the cost associated with the remediation of the lead and arsenic. President Cook has met and will be following up with Kelly Fellner, Superintendent of the Springfield Armory/National Park Service regarding possible federal funding. The college also reaching out to Congressman Neal to update his office on the latest news.

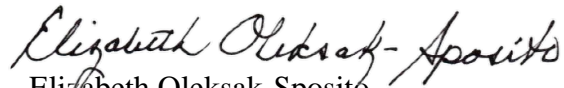
VIII. Chair's Report - Trustee Marikate Murren

Chair Marikate Murren followed up in regards to reviewing the bylaws as part of our NECHE projections commitments. Nanette will email the Bylaws as a working document.

IX. Date of next Board of Trustees meeting – Monday, March 29, 2021

- X. Adjournment** – Meeting called to adjourn at 5:41 p.m. moved by Trustee Vicky Crouse, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito, and unanimously approved through roll call. Marikate Murren, Jynai McDonald, Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Maurice Lindsay, Alessande Anderson, Vicky Crouse, Eric Hagopian, William Johnson, Jeff Sattler, and MacArthur Starks.


Marikate Murren
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees


Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees