

**SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 24, 2022

Zoom/Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel

Minutes of Meeting

Present: Marikate Murren, Chair
Jynai McDonald, Vice-Chair
Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Secretary
Maurice Lindsay, Alumni Trustee
Monique Selden-Riley, Student Trustee
Samalid Hogan, Trustee
William Johnson, Trustee
Norman Roldan, Trustee
MacArthur Starks, Jr., Trustee

Unable to attend: Jeff Sattler, Trustee

Also Present: Dr. John B. Cook, President
Dr. Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education
Dr. Eduardo Marti, Governance Consultant
Nanette Flores, Executive Assistant to the President & Board Clerk

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, Vice Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Secretary Elizabeth Sposito, Alumni Trustee Maurice Lindsay, Student Trustee Monique Selden-Riley, Trustee Samalid Hogan, Trustee William Johnson, Trustee Norman Roldan, and Trustee MacArthur Starks. Nine Trustees present, constituting a quorum.

III. Approval of Minutes – Board of Trustees Meeting – Monday, November 22, 2021

Trustee Norman Roldan moved to approve the minutes from the November 22, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting, seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson. Student Trustee Monique Selden-Riley abstained, and approved by majority through roll call.

IV. Welcome & Discussion: Commissioner of Higher Education, Dr. Carlos Santiago

President Cook introduced Commissioner Santiago to the Board of Trustees and Cabinet members present and provided brief remarks on Commissioner Santiago's trajectory.

Commissioner Santiago's discussion and presentation focused on "The Equity Agenda", and specifically addressed three things: Why a strategic plan around racial equity in Massachusetts? What does the plan look like and what is it becoming? And how are we doing? The Board of Higher Education launched this initiative in 2018.

Dr. Santiago discussed points based on data that validate the importance of addressing equity and on how solving equity issues benefit all students. The work consists of changing policies and organizations' practices, inverting the perspective of "how are we prepared to serve our students" instead of "are our students prepared for higher education?" We need to put students first in all changes made.

Upon a question in regards to timeline and how can the Board assist, Commissioner Santiago shared that most public colleges have embraced equity strategies and that most initiatives discussed have been launched. Example of initiatives discussed: the state is providing funds for Early College programs and is increasing MassGrant funds, and initiatives that address homelessness and students' overall daily/living needs. Hopefully and in time we will notice narrowing in gaps in five years or so.

V. Accreditation Update & Action Steps

- a) NECHE notification/continuation of accreditation**
- b) NECHE notice of concern (Governance) & Spring 2023 Evaluation/Visit**
- c) Introduction of Trustee/Governance Consultant: Dr. Eduardo Marti**

As noted in the first bullet NECHE's notification announced the news that the College's accreditation continues. Also as part of Accreditation is the issuing by NECHE of a Notice of Concern specific to Governance. Fundamentally, NECHE wants STCC to clarify roles, and codify responsibilities of internal shared governance. NECHE will follow up with an evaluation visit in the Spring of 2023. In response to the work that needs to happen in order to address this concern, Trustees have supported a Consultant to assist with clarification of governance.

Dr. Cook proceeded to introduce Dr. Eduardo Marti, governance Consultant contracted through the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). As noted in the bio/resume included in the meeting packet, Dr. Marti has many years of experience, including serving as a community college president at multiple northeast

institutions. Dr. Marti shared the work already taking place, and a brief overview of the plan of action and timeline.

Chair Murren reiterated the Board's awareness of the seriousness of the notice of concern. Board members are looking forward to working with Dr. Marti.

VI. Trustee Committee Reports

a) Committee on Ways and Means - January 10, 2022

Committee Chair MacArthur Starks referred to the January 10th Committee on Ways and Means meeting report to briefly point out the topics discussed. Topics included the FY2022 1st quarter trust fund and vendor expenditure reports. Also discussed was the 2021 Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (MOSFA) report and audit, which indicated a clean report with no audit findings. This report was followed by a motion recommending the Board of Trustees' approval of the MOSFA report and audit as presented; which was unanimously approved. The report continued with the FY2022 financial update and outlook, which included the regular cash flow projection, and revenue/spending projections. In addition to the FY 2023 budget timeline & stakeholder engagement process which is expected to be completed in May. This was followed by a facilities update lead by Trustee Sattler. Concluding with the President's perspective

Trustee Jynai McDonald moved to approve the minutes from the Committee on Ways and Means meeting held on January 10, 2022, seconded by Trustees Betty Sposito and Bill Johnson; Trustee Monique Seldon-Riley abstained and approved by majority through roll call.

i. [MOTION 2022-05] MOSFA Audit

Trustee Bill Johnson moved [MOTION 2022-05] MOSFA Audit

That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees, pursuant to the provision of Section 22, Chapter 15A, approves the FY2021 Massachusetts Office of Student Financial Assistance (MOSFA) Report and audit as presented (see attached).

Motion 2022-05 was seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito; Trustee Monique Seldon-Riley abstained and approved by majority through roll call.

VII. President's Perspective

Dr. John B. Cook

Dr. Cook noted that this year presents a great opportunity for STCC, and invited stakeholders broadly to see the possibilities from both strategic planning, and gaining clarity with shared governance.

a) Personnel Outlook & COVID Vaccination Requirement

Employees: 97.5% vaccination compliance with under 30 request for accommodations. Less than 25 employees (mostly part-time/non union-unit) terminated for non-compliance with the vaccine policy.

Students: Student taking online classes were not subjective to vaccination compliance. Out of approximately 2,000 students taking classes on-campus, approximately 92.2% complied with vaccine requirement. Approximately 90 students were provided accommodations.

b) Building 20/School of Health – DCAMM Submission & NECHE Outlook

The capital proposal for the relocation of the School of Health was submitted to DCAMM. Dr. Cook noted that this is a competitive process, with 20 public higher education institutions submitted proposals (11 community colleges). The expectation is that only five or six will be awarded, and those will likely occur in May or June. By way of a reminder, the college worked carefully to hone the submission, lower the overall budget, reinvent and reimagine on-campus space (Building 13), and that this project carries significant support from the regional legislative delegation (i.e. \$5 million earmark in 2021 Economic Development Bill).

c) FY 2023 Budget Process/Stakeholder Engagement

The STCC CFO is working inclusively with stakeholders on budget drafts, in addition to engagement with Trustees. A first draft will go before Trustees in March, and per past practice, subsequent drafts in April and May. Taking place will be clarity on items such as fees, an enrollment goal (as opposed to only a projection), an estimated state appropriation, and the need for Trustee support in the form of a Reserve request. Internally, the conversation is what can we truly afford.

VIII. Old Business

IX. New Business

a) [MOTION 2022-06] Sabbatical Leave – Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh

By a way of context: Dr. Cook referred to the materials included in the meeting packet and provided a brief distillation of Professor McGinnis-Cavanaugh’s trajectory in the area of STEM. Reiterated the support of Lara Sharp, Dean of STEM and his own full support.

Trustee Bill Johnson moved:

That the Board of Trustees of Springfield Technical Community College approves the sabbatical leave request from Beth McGinnis-Cavanaugh, Professor of Engineer and Physical Sciences, at a full pay, for the 2022 fall semester, contingent upon the Senate budget for Springfield Technical Community College.

Motion 2022-06 was seconded by Trustee Maurice Lindsay, and unanimously approved through roll call.

X. Chair's Report

Trustee Marikate Murren

Chair Murren concluded with comments recapping key points from the meeting. She noted the importance of equity presented by Commissioner Santiago, in addition to the governance consulting process led by Dr. Eduardo Marti. Dr. Marti is leading an inclusive process of meetings with stakeholders to gather the required information to create a shared governance proposal for final approval of the Board. Tied to all is the upcoming strategic planning process. An RFQ for Strategic Planning Consulting were sent out. The deadline for submittal is February 9th. There is lots of works to be done, including an effectiveness assessment of the Board itself.

XI. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022

XII. Adjournment:

Board Chair Murren called to adjourn the meeting at 6.16 p.m. Motion was moved by Trustee MacArthur Starks, seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito and unanimously approved through roll call.


Marikate Murren
Chair, STCC Board of Trustees


Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito
Secretary, STCC Board of Trustees