

STCC Board of Trustees  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, February 5, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.  
Zoom / Live Streamed STCC YouTube Channel

**Present:** Committee Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Trustee William Johnson, and Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito

**Also attending:** Dr. John B. Cook, President

**Presenters:** Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs

- I. **Call to Order:** Committee Chair Jynai McDonald called the meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations to order at 5:01 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Committee Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee Zoya Plunkett-Brown, Trustee William Johnson, and Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito. Five out of Five Trustees present, constituting a quorum.
- III. **Enrollment Outlook/Update – Darcey Kemp, VP of Student Affairs and Dr. Chris Thuot, VP of Academic Affairs**

Vice President of Student Affairs, Darcey Kemp shared an enrollment management perspective including overall Spring 2024 head count and registered credits based on point-in-time. Enrollment is up compared to the Spring of 2023 (~18%), and this is great, but we are still down approximately 10% compared to Spring of 2020. Student Affairs in collaboration with Academic Affairs continues to strategically focus on Spring II/Flex Term (March start), including identifying students eligible for MassReconnect and encouraging them to enroll in a minimum of 6 credits.

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Chris Thuot shared an enrollment view focused on Academic Programs. For the School of Liberal and Professional Studies (LAPS), Dr. Thuot highlighted Criminal Justice showing an increase of 36%; Applied Psychology shows a 32% increase; Human Services/Social Work with an increase of 25%. Discussed faculty contributions as well as community engagement. Also highlighted programs in the School of Health and Patient Simulation (SHPS): Fire Protection and Safety with an increase of 89%; Health Information/Medical Coding-Billing with an increase of 30%; and Surgical Technology with a decline of 29%. Shared recent engagement with Cooley Dickinson – the need for policy change that allows Surg. Techs to serve as Surgical First Assistants.

For STEM: Engineering Transfer increase of 23%; Programmer (A.S. and Certificate) shows an increase of 66%; and Energy Systems Technology is at capacity (and has a waiting list) with an increase of 28%. Mechanical Engineering Technology shows a decrease of -13%. When looking into details we noticed that we might be offering courses at the wrong time. Looking into

making changes to the schedule, faculty are also working on changes to curriculum, and working with students to make sure they are taking required course at the right time/sequence.

Modality: In terms of online vs face to face sections, LAPS trends the highest percentage with 65% of fully online sections. SHPS requires more face to face, therefore the percentage of online is 19%. STEM has 46% fully online sections with some combinations of online lectures and face to face labs. The modality is heavily based on student demand, however, for the Fall we are planning more face to face sections. Regarding evening sections, we were intentional with adding more evening sections. However, noted that less than 10% of our courses are offered in the evening. We will continue to look into evening offerings.

#### **IV. Personnel Report**

The quarterly report with hires (full and part-time), as well as promotions, retirements and resignations/separations was shared with the Committee. Dr. Cook noted that at this time of year, the report is modest. It's too early to know about retirements, we will know more by May and June. Tenure promotions will be presented at the April Committee meeting.

#### **V. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook**

##### **a. Outlook from ACCT Legislative Summit in Washington DC**

Dr. Cook and Trustees highlighted details of the first days at the National Legislative Summit, including close to 45 people in the Massachusetts delegation and the opportunity to meet with Congressman Neal.

##### **b. Outlook on FY 2025 Budget/Governor's Submission (MassReconnect)**

##### **c. Shared Governance Council Meeting on February 21**

Dr. Cook shared that he is hoping that some recommendations are formalized by way of the Shared Governance Council. One, for a smoke-free campus, if it comes forward, would be put in front of Trustees for a formal vote.

#### **VI. Old Business / New Business**

##### **a. April 27<sup>th</sup> Community Dental Day @STCC**

Trustees invited to attend the Community Dental Day on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

#### **VII. Next meeting date and time: Monday, April 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (in person)**

**VIII. Adjournment (Roll Call)** – Committee Chair Jynai McDonald called to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m., seconded by Trustees Tonia Butler Perez and Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved via roll call.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Nanette Flores