

STCC Board of Trustees
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS

Monday, November 6, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
Student Learning Commons / B19 / Forum

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

Also attending: Dr. John B. Cook, President

Presenters: Darcey Kemp, Vice President of Student Affairs
Mary Kaselouskas, Vice President and CIO
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 5:05 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call:** The following Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Committee Chair Jynai McDonald, Trustee Tonia Butler Pérez, Trustee William Johnson, and Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito. Four out of Five Trustees present, constituting a quorum.

III. MassReconnect – Darcey Kemp, VP of Student Affairs

Vice President of Student Affairs, Darcey Kemp shared all of the ongoing, proactive and diligent efforts specific to enrollment, including MassReconnect. Staff are utilizing all modes of communications, as well as auto-packing (a helpful evolution) financial aid. The STCC website has a designated page for [MassReconnect](#). Robust MassReconnect Webinars have been offered throughout the beginning of the fall semester, where 300+ students/prospective students have attended. Tuition Equity, focused on undocumented students is next, and will utilize guidelines from the Department of Higher Education (DHE). There are two “Stop Out” campaigns to engage students who previously attended STCC, but are no longer enrolled.

Trustee Bill Johnson suggested including the MassReconnect link as part of the Mass Unemployment webpage/information.

IV. Cyber Range / Union Station Outlook – Mary Kaselouskas, Vice President, CIO

Vice President/CIO, Mary Kaselouskas shared an update regarding the Cyber Center at Union Station and the key role of STCC. Details of funding sources, the phased capital project/build-out (late spring/early summer is estimated opening for the Range), and status was discussed. Other information shared was related initiatives happening at Bridgewater State University, and MassBay Community college. STCC has hired a Cyber Range Manager building stage is expected in late spring/early summer 2024.

V. Program Discontinuations – Dr. Chris Thuot, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Thuot provided an overview of recommended program discontinuations to the Committee, noting that program suspension had been shared previously with the committee. He reiterated that these program actions carry the support of faculty, and memos provided to the Committee detail the rationale. Dr. Thuot introduced the Dean/faculty members who worked on this research, and who attended including Lara Sharp, Tom Minor, Lineishia Rosario, and Ann Gervais. Today the Committee is presented with a motion to formalize program discontinuation for Committee approval:

[MOTION 2024-02] SUBJECT: Program Discontinuation Approval: BUSNO.AS, BTCMO.AS, CADM.COC, EDSE.AA, URBN.AA

Trustee Bill Johnson moved: That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Internal and External Relations, recommends to the Board of Trustees discontinuation of the following academic programs: Online Business Administration (BUSNO.AS), Online Business Administration Transfer (BTCMO.AS), Computer-Aided Design and Manufacturing Certificate of Completion (CADM.COC), Secondary Education (EDSE.AA), and Urban Studies (URBN.AA).

Seconded by Trustee Tonia Butler Perez, and unanimously approved.

VI. President’s Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook

a. 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 highlighted the hiring of Gene Kingsley, Cyber Range Manager. He also shared the appointment of Dr. Kiyota Garcia-Woods to the position of Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs / Interim Chief Equity Officer. Also shared that the search for our Assistant Vice President of Advancement is near conclusion. Dr. Cook alongside Trustee Tonia Butler Perez, who serves as liaison to the STCC Foundation have been participating in finalist interviews; hope to have a hiring announcement soon.

b. Annual Campaign with STCC Foundation

In partnership with the STCC Foundation, the FY 2024 annual fund/campaign has been launched, and donations are coming through – examples have been shared with the Foundation Executive Committee. Involvement of Trustees in this campaign and acknowledged donations received has been appreciated.

c. Governance (November/NECHE)

On November 16, President Cook will appear before the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) regarding the status of the college Notice of Concern

(governance). It is anticipated that the Board Chair (Chair Pro Tempore Jynai McDonald) will accompany Dr. Cook.

VII. Old Business

VIII. New Business

On November 14th, STCC Contingent is scheduled a visit/tour to Girls Inc., at their new headquarters located on Hampden Street, Holyoke.

IX. Next meeting date and time: Monday, February 5, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. (In-zoom)

X. Adjournment (Roll Call) – Committee Chair Jynai McDonald called to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 p.m., seconded by Trustees Tonia Butler Perez and Bill Johnson, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by,
Nanette Flores