

**Springfield Technical Community College
Committee on Internal and External Relations
November 21, 2016**

Present: Chair Franklin Quigley, Trustee Christopher Johnson, Steven Grande, William Johnson, Rosa Moldonado-Brown and Monica Pryzbyla. Also present President John Cook, Joseph DaSilva, Michael Suzor, Kamari Collins, Jeremiah Riordon and Arlene Rodriguez.

The meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations was called to order by Trustee Quigley at 5:00 p.m.

Student Perspective

Student Trustee Monica Pryzbyla presented the committee with an update on recent events including a random student survey she recently conducted. Parking continues to be the number one student complaint. Trustee Pryzbyla and VP Collins met with the Advising Office to discuss specific issues student were having with their office. Trustee Pryzbyla also spoke of the Statewide Trustees Conference she attended with Trustee Quigley on October 27, 2016. Trustee Quigley found the passion of the student trustees enlightening. Trustee Pryzbyla was able to network with five other community colleges who were also in attendance at the meeting.

President's Perspective

Dr. Cook informed the committee that he has been appointed to the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) board. MassCEC is a publicly-funded agency dedicated to accelerating the success of clean energy technologies, companies and projects in the Commonwealth. In addition, he is in talks with the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts (EDC) and hopes to become a board member for that organization as well. Dr. Cook also noted that a signing ceremony will take place November 22, 2016 between Springfield Technical Community College (STCC) and Elms College. The agreement will allow students in Healthcare Management, Computer Information Technology, Social Work and Graphic Designs to transfer into the baccalaureate program at Elms and carry over their credits from STCC.

Academic Affairs Perspective

Vice President of Academic Affairs Arlene Rodriguez presented the committee with an update on the Occupational Therapy (OT) program at STCC. Dr. Rodriguez showed a brief video which highlighted some of the current OT students and their work in a clinical setting. Dr. Rodriguez noted that a majority of our students have the language skills needed to communicate with patients in Spanish which is a big advantage. The projected demand for Occupational Therapists is expected to grow by 40% between 2016 and 2024. The STCC program currently accepts 12 students per year with an average of 60-70 applications received.

Student and Multicultural Affairs Perspective

Vice President of Student and Multicultural Affairs Kamari Collins gave an overview of the Center for Access Services (CAS) at STCC. The CAS staff works to connect students with federal and state financial resources and other support services to help them stay in school. In addition, for students in need of immediate services CAS operates the RAM cupboard, distributes meal cards which allow students to eat at the café here on campus and works in conjunction with the Business Office to distribute student vouchers to be used at the Farmers Market to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables. The committee requested that the office track students who use this service if possible. The goal is to find out if these services are helping students stay in school.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 23, 2017 at 5:00.

Adjournment: Trustee Quigley moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. seconded by Trustee Johnson and approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by: Carolyn deliefde