

STCC Board of Trustees
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS
Monday, January 14, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Christopher Johnson (Chaired meeting in the absence of Franklin Quigley, Committee Chair), Trustee Steve Grande, Trustee William Johnson, Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito, Trustee Karolyn Burgos-Toribio, Dr. John Cook, Dr. Geraldine de Berly, and Kamari Collins.

Christopher Johnson called the meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations to order at 5:00 p.m.

President's Perspective

Personnel updates - Dr. John Cook presented personnel updates and opened the conversation with information on recently hired positions including Cyndee Shiveley – Director of Human Resources, Kelly Galanis – Director of Operations and Donor Relations for Institutional Advancement and Foundation, and Keith Paul, Director of Communications and Marketing. Also referred to the promotions happening in the Department of Public Safety/Campus Police, transitioning into a Deputy Chief Model. Ended with the most recent retirements by pointing out two significant retirements in the Department of Business Administration: Professor and Tri Chair Paul Thornton, and Dean Leona Ittleman.

Key updates in Academic Affairs by Dr. Geraldine de Berly, VP of Academic Affairs – Working on reconfiguring programs. Pre-Med/Pre-Dental transfer option directing students to Biology program, reconfigured to align with the statewide pathway in Biology. State approved the Urban Studies program option in General Studies. Ongoing articulation agreements with Worcester State, Westfield State and looking into other articulation opportunities for affordable transfer pathways. UMass Provost is hosting a meeting with western/central MA community colleges to have a discussion on establishing pathways. Note: UMass is not participating in all Mass Transfer Pathways.

State funding for Early Childhood Education is back. Dean Greco and the Grants Office are submitting proposals for a \$300K state grant for FY19 with a possibility of \$700k for next year.

Effective January 23, 2019 – The School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences will change to **School of Liberal and Professional Studies**.

- Office of Information Technologies and Business Administration falls in the School of Liberal and Professional Studies.
- Health Information Technologies falls in the School of Health and Patient Simulation.

Key updates in Student Affairs by Kamari Collins, VP of Student Affairs - Student services offices moved into the B/19 Student Learning Commons and continue working while moving and settling. This move creates an opportunity to review and develop best practices to ensure a positive student experience. On mid-February, the Office of Student Affairs will conduct a Process Improvement Workshop focused on determining “what’s working”, “challenges”, and “process for improvement” in order to avoid the “STCC Shuffle”.

VP Kamari announced that two part-time Student Success Coaches were hired. The Coaches are working at the Student Success Center and are assisting with getting students enrolled and are meeting with students on probation.

VP Kamari also updated on Athletics – Men’s and Women’s Basketball and Wrestling teams. Men’s Basketball team 6-8 record places them 8th in the conference. Women’s 9-9 record places them 2nd in the conference. STCC is the only Men and Women Junior College Wrestling program in Massachusetts. The men’s team is ranked fourth in the country and seeking its third consecutive Northeast Conference Championship. The team will be heading out to the National Duals Championship with a great chance to succeed. Athletics schedule available online. STCC hosting Men’s Wrestling – Northeast Conference Championship on Saturday, March 2.

Additional notes from Dr. Cook – VP Kamari expressed his appreciation to all who contributed donations and participated in the Holiday Party. Proceeds of \$1,500 will go towards STCC Foundation Scholarships. STCC Foundation is planning to launch a campaign in the spring.

Ongoing conversations with DCAMM in regards to B/20, identifying the needs and figuring out the cost of moving 14 – 15 programs, all with unique accreditations.

The Workforce Development Center is launching the Asphalt Academy, made possible thanks to equipment donated from the Massachusetts Aggregate and Pavement Association.

Dr. Cook also informed of ongoing conversations with a group of technicians in regards to water initiatives with the possibility of trying a non-credit model.

The next Town Hall meeting: Wednesday, February 6. Expecting questions in reference to enrollment and budget.

Included on March 18 Committee on Internal and External meeting agenda: Motion for Promotion and Tenure recommendations.

Old Business/New Business

Christopher Johnson, Board of Trustee Chair, announced that the January 28th Board of Trustee Meeting is being held in B/19.

Christopher Johnson expressed the challenges that the Board of Trustees will be facing in reference to trends influencing declining enrollment such as minimum wage increase and lower unemployment rates. In addition, on how declining enrollment result in potential reduction in staff. Now that the new Director of Communications and Marketing is on board we can carry on the conversation on perhaps a one-time investment in Marketing and reorganization plan to attract new students. In the past, we have talked about Billboards. STCC has a Billboard, surrounded by many others from other institutions. The question is, what will make STCC stand out from other institutions? STCC needs to continue making connections with High Schools. Bring students to STCC to show what STCC has to offer. Target parents with conversations on cost savings. Make connection with local business on advanced training for employees.

Next Meeting Date and Time: Monday, March 18, 2019

Adjournment: Trustee Steve Grande moved a motion to adjourn. Trustee Elizabeth Oleksak-Sposito seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nanette Flores