PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 223

March 3, 2010

Meeting number two hundred twenty-three of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in the W. A. Pace Jr. Board Room.

Present

Laila Bare
Stanley Cook
Vera Cooke-Merritt
Mary Loose DeViney
Leonard Gardner
Debbi Goodman
Peter Kleeman
Walter Levering
Suzanne Morse
Paul Newland
Ava Pippin
Donna Plasket

Absent

Deborah Harvey

Others

Frank Friedman, President
Tara Atkins-Brady, Director of Institutional Research, Planning & Institutional Effectiveness
Pat Buck, Assistant to the President & Special Projects Coordinator
John Donnelly, Vice President for Instruction & Student Services
Idalia Fernandez, SBCC Liaison
William Jackmeit, Vice President for Finance & Administrative Services
Mary Jane King, Director of Institutional Advancement
Anita Showers, Manager of Marketing & Media Relations
Kris Swanson, Chancellor’s Faculty Advisory Committee
John Walsh, Co-President, Faculty Senate
Brian Wisniewski, Chief Information Officer
Student Leaders: Roger Agbati, Nicole Gilliam, Jennifer Jones, Beth Russell, Jonathan Motlagh, Lee Stone
Robert Packard, The Forum reporter
Media

Welcome and Call to Order

Mr. Levering welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Board members introduced themselves to visitors.
Introduction of SBCC Liaison

Idalia Fernandez, SBCC liaison to PVCC, was welcomed to the meeting and made brief remarks. As a new SBCC member, she joined in particularly challenging economic times but takes delight in seeing students learn and accomplish their goals.

Program Highlight: Meet PVCC Student Leaders

Several of the college’s student leaders spoke about their goals and experiences at PVCC which are summarized below:

Jonathan Motlagh: Jonathan’s hometown is Alexandria. He spent 5 years in the Marines then moved to Charlottesville with the hope to transfer to UVA’s McIntire School. He originally intended to “get out of PVCC ASAP” and transfer, but his experience at PVCC has been one of opportunity, sacrifice and growth given so many opportunities for students. He particularly noted the math and writing centers, free tutoring, academic coaching and the group study initiative. He has become very involved with student activities, especially with leadership opportunities. Many clubs promote volunteerism and sacrifice and giving back to the community, which he reveres highly. The faculty and staff are sincere and make sure students learn and are prepared.

Nicole Gilliam: From Louisa County, Nicole is in elementary education, loves working with kids and hopes to transfer to JMU. She came to PVCC since she wasn’t ready for the 4-year college experience. She is focusing on academics at PVCC and likes being close to home. Her PVCC experience has been amazing and she is currently the president of the Black Student Alliance. The college promotes leadership, growth and volunteerism in the community. The faculty and staff are ready to offer assistance and really want students to succeed.

Roger Agbati: Roger is from Togo West Africa. He is the International Club President and is majoring in general studies and wants to transfer to UVA or VCU to pursue a degree in government. He didn’t have a chance to continue his education until he came to the U.S. He’d heard good things about PVCC and it was highly recommended to him. His PVCC experience has been wonderful—he’s involved in student clubs, is getting to know professors and staff, and feels proud to be a part of the PVCC community. There are so many opportunities for students here. He visited the General Assembly with Dr. Friedman and other students and also went as a representative of VA21.

Jennifer Jones: Jennifer is a Charlottesville native and chose to attend PVCC so she would not be in debt in her early years as a college student. She is a business administration major and hopes to go to UVA’s McIntire School. Her PVCC experience also has been amazing for her, with so many people at the college being caring and supportive. She also had the idea of “get in, get out,” but that changed as she became involved in college activities. She’s been a volunteer tutor in the learning center, is president of the Student Government Association and is editor of The Forum. Jennifer is impressed with the college’s diverse student population.

Beth Russell: Beth is from North Garden and has been attending PVCC since she was 12 years old. She plans to transfer to UVA next year to pursue bachelor’s and master’s degrees after graduating from PVCC.
with three degrees. All four of her sisters attended PVCC and she sat in classes with them since she was six years old, so she was really looking forward to attending the college and is happy to be here. The teachers go above and beyond to help all students. She works as a part-time college employee and as a work study student.

Lee Stone: Lee moved to Charlottesville three years ago due to life changes and a crossroads in life—he had recently lost his job as a restaurant manager. He plans to study nursing at PVCC then nursing anesthesiology at UVA. The college offers student aid in a variety of ways including career counseling. He has had a great experience this first year and is actively involved in student activities and projects and serves as president of the Volunteer Club.

Board members posed two questions of the students: If you had a wish, what else would you wish PVCC could do? Responses included: better fitness room facility and more tutors. What about career counseling at the college? Responses included: Some had taken advantage of the services and received guidance. Others knew what their career plans were but got direction on how to accomplish it. One has taken advantage of the career center tests.

Board members heartily thanked the students for sharing their experiences.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ms. DeViney, seconded by Dr. Plasket, the proceedings of the January 6, 2010, meeting were approved.

President’s Report

Introduction of Dr. Donnelly. Dr. Friedman introduced and welcomed the college’s new Vice President for Instruction and Student Services, John Donnelly, who addressed the board. In his third week at the college, he is excited to be here. He has been spending a lot of time asking questions and listening. Most recently he was in Massachusetts and has worked at Germanna Community College, but is pleased to be back in Virginia. He has his Ph.D. from UVA’s Curry School and is now living near the downtown mall, enjoying all that Charlottesville has to offer.

Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates.

The House and Senate have each passed their own budgets which will be reviewed by the conference committee. The committee concludes its work by March 13 and will recommend a budget to the Governor who then has until April 21 to exercise line item vetoes. Conference committee members include Delegate Landes and Senator Houch.

When Governor Kaine proposed his budget before Christmas, it included a moderate reduction for higher education (5% or less is considered moderate for us). No additional cuts were proposed in either the House or Senate budgets, so if either budget or a similar version comes out of the conference committee,
it should be manageable for next year as we’ve been planning and preparing for this cut; it will be the fourth cut in two years and there won’t be drastic actions like layoffs. But the biggest challenge for the next two years will be funding for a number of new initiatives like programs and faculty in the Kluge-Moses Building and staff and faculty positions that are grant funded but the grants are coming to an end. The goal is to manage the budget while not cutting back on value to the students. Of major concern is the end of federal stimulus money in two years. The offshoot is that tuition is tied to state funding with state funding less and tuition funding more which will more than likely result in a tuition increase, pending SBCC action. Ms. Fernandez noted that the SBCC takes tuition increases very seriously, knowing the struggles students face to attend college and not wanting to discourage them from attending. Affordability is still part of the plan with community college tuition still much lower than four year institutions.

Neither the House nor the Senate plans include money for salary increases for the next two years for state employees which means four consecutive years with no increase. The good news is that they both included a 3% bonus for December 2011 with varied funding plans and only new state employees would have to contribute to the retirement system along with adjustments to retirement benefits. The Senate budget included language that would give colleges the authority to provide salary increases out of non-general funds. It is unclear if that would be applicable to the VCCS system as a whole or a college decision; PVCC is in a strong fiscal situation and would want to do it.

The House budget eliminated all furlough days but the Senate’s kept one day this year and added three for the next two years. The VCCS colleges are urging legislators not to implement furloughs but to allow the colleges to treat it as another budget reduction rather than burden employees with the cut.

If budget reductions had not taken place over the last two years, the college would not have the situation regarding funding new programs as we’ve been planning and budgeting for them. Enrollment increases over the last three years, tuition increases, and the Foundation all generated funds for new program development, but even with the cuts we should be able to administer most programs, if not all, that have been planned. National grants could be available, and we are positioning to submit as they are announced; there are also VCCS grants and private foundations for program development.

Discussions are ongoing regarding the Greene County facility, the Jefferson School project in downtown Charlottesville, and child care at PVCC.

College Updates

Dr. Jackamait

- Plans are moving forward on the expansion of parking lot 4 to add 146 spaces.
- Work continues on the Stultz Center; the bids came in at reasonable prices for the parking lot lights and the accessible ramp. The building will open early April but the ramp will not be ready then. Dr. Friedman noted that discussions are taking place with the Chamber on partnering with the Chamber Business Academy as there is some overlap with what we do. It will become the Chamber Business Academy at PVCC, housed in the Stultz building.
- Tree damage from the winter’s snowstorms has been cleared and damage was done to signs, curbs, etc. The grounds crew moved lots of snow, used lots of salt, and incurred lots of overtime.
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- The local budget requests have been submitted to the localities ($54,000 in total). For the first time in a number of years we are getting indications that some may not be fully funded; it will not create a budget problem.
- The flu clinic held this week on campus through the health department was open to the public and had a good turnout.
- Outside work on the Kluge-Moses building was stalled due to weather but the inside is really shaping up. The building is expected to be completed in April but the occupancy date will come sometime after completion. There will be limited use in the summer with full operation for the fall semester. He will be glad to schedule tours of the building for board members.
- The Higher Education Opportunity Act mandates full disclosure to students on the total costs to take classes, including fees and textbooks. It will be fully operational and on the college’s website in the fall. Students may purchase used books at the college bookstore, via the used book site on the college’s web page, and of course any other venue the student wishes to use.

Dr. Donnelly

- Summer and fall registration will start soon (April 12) and the summer schedule will be on the web the middle of March with the fall schedule to follow shortly thereafter.
- The Choose or Lose senior outreach program, an American Idol-type experience in which high schools compete against each other related to programs the college offers, received good feedback. There are two sessions scheduled.
- In partnership with UVA, the radiologic technology and sonography associate degree programs will commence fall 2010.
- Faculty searches are underway for four full-time positions in business management, health technology management, math and psychology, all replacement positions.
- The college has recently applied for two grants. 1) Through the Dept. of Education, Trio Student Support Services program: a five-year, $220,000 grant for low income/first generation and disabled students to improve key academic outcomes and 2) a National Science Foundation, Advanced Technical Education Small Grant designed to build up our information systems technology and electronics and computer technology programs to meet growing demand for technicians. It is a two-year, $150,000 grant.
- Dr. Kleeman commented that there are a number of non-PVCC students attending Dickinson events and that he hopes Dr. Donnelly will enhance such opportunities for potential students.

Dr. Atkins-Brady

- We are expecting to finish spring semester with over 5,100 students, about 365 more than last spring. It will be another enrollment record.
- The final report has been submitted to SACS. The college will receive official notification of reaffirmation after the June meeting of SACS.
- The board will be briefed on the strategic plan at either the May or summer board meeting. The Planning and Budgeting Committee is putting together initiatives for the next plan and will be getting feedback from community leaders, board members, and the college community.
Mr. Wisniewski

- This weekend upgrades to PeopleSoft PeopleTools will be implemented, which positions the college for the human resources module implementation over the next 18 months.
- Successful tech integration continues in the Stultz building in preparation for classes and is being completed in the Kluge-Moses building.
- To support broadband expansion in service regions, Dr. Friedman will be sending letters of support in their efforts to bring broadband to rural areas, a necessity for distance learning students.

Ms. King

- Grand openings for the Kluge-Moses and Stultz Center are scheduled for September 16 and June 14 respectively.
- Board members are welcome to attend the Richmond Ballet performance and attend a reception with the dancers afterwards; she will be glad to provide tickets.
- This Sunday at 3 p.m. a Black History Month presentation will be held in Dickinson and tickets are available.
- The Ballyshannon Fund Forum is bringing Matthew Crawford to Dickinson as part of the Festival of the Book on March 18 at 7 p.m.
- Seeking funding for the LPN program continues for future years. Ms. King welcomes suggestions of individuals to approach.
- The Perry Foundation match for the Stultz Center is at $80,000 of the $100,000 match.

Recommendation for Awarding PVCC Medallion

Dr. Friedman recommended to the board for action and approval the awarding of the PVCC Medallion to UVA President John Casteen, the college’s highest non-academic honor. President Casteen was recommended by the college’s awards committee. On a motion by Dr. Plasket and seconded by Dr. Morse, the motion was unanimously carried. The award will be presented to President Casteen at a college event and he will be given an opportunity to give a short presentation. This action is confidential until the recipient is notified and it has been announced.

Committee Reports

Community Relations Committee. Dr. Bare reported for the committee, recommending that Kim Hoosier be presented with this year’s College Board Community Service Award. Due to the generosity of the board, there will be a $300 monetary award this year as well as a plaque, with enough donations for another award in the future. The board unanimously approved the recommendation of the committee. This action is confidential until the recipient is presented with the award at the May 3 awards event.
Bylaws Committee. Drs. Morse, Plasket and Ms. Loose are reviewing the College Board Policy and Procedures Manual, last revised in 1994. Only minor changes are anticipated. The manual is closely aligned with the VCCS policy manual. A proposed revision will be provided to the board prior to action on adoption.

Chair's Report

Legislative Reception. Several board members attended the reception with Dr. Friedman on February 17, hosted by VCCS, at the State Library in Richmond. They were able to meet with members of the general assembly and their staffs. Mr. Levering, Drs. Cook and Donnelly, and Ms. King attended the event. Recognition was given to the Virginia Wizard on the VCCS website and two student scholarship awards were given at the event.

Next College Board Meeting and Discussion of Agenda. The next meeting of the College Board is scheduled for 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 5, with Albemarle County representatives at PVCC, Dickinson Building. Invitations will be going out in the next few weeks to Albemarle County leaders. Dr. Friedman welcomes suggestions for topics for discussion.

Information Items

The following items were provided for information: January-February Media Highlights.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Friedman
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

Walter Levering
Chair