

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 284

September 2, 2020

Meeting number two hundred eighty-four of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, September 2, 2020, via Zoom virtual meeting.

Members Present: Pam DeGuzman, Chair
R. Madison Cummings, Jr.
Bruce Dotson
Frank Gallo
Chinta Gaston
Robert Hodous
Alfreda Morris
Janet Morrow
Thomas Proulx
Fred Richardson
Lola Richardson
PJ Rooney
Joseph Scruggs

Staff Present: Frank Friedman, President
Susian Brooks, Marketing and Media Relations Director
Ben Copeland, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services
John Donnelly, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Sue Haas, Chief Information Officer
Jolene Hamm, Director of Institutional Research, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness
Nicole Oechslin, College Senate Chair
Rebecca Parkhill, Assistant to the President and Special Projects Coordinator
Harry Stillerman, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Development
Teresa Willis, Human Resources Director

Others Present: New Faculty Members:
Callan Bentley, Assistant Professor of Geology
Jody Carlisle, Assistant Professor of Accounting
Kirk Gomes, Associate Professor of Engineering
Sal Moschella, Assistant Professor of Business
Keith Nabb, Associate Professor of Mathematics
Sushma Shukla, Associate Professor of Economics
Renee Van Bergen, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Welcome and Call to Order

Dr. DeGuzman welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Dr. DeGuzman welcomed two new board members representing Albemarle County: Madison Cummings, Jr., and Dr. PJ Rooney. Dr. DeGuzman also provided Zoom user information and thanked Dr. Friedman for his email regarding Jacob Blake.

Approval of Minutes

The proceedings of the May 6, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Dotson and seconded by Mr. Proulx.

Public Comment

None

Introduction of New Board Members, Faculty, and Vice President

Orientation for the two new board members occurred last week. Dr. Friedman asked Mr. Cummings and Dr. Rooney to provide the group with information about themselves. Dr. Friedman introduced Dr. Ben Copeland, the new vice president for finance and administrative services. Dr. Copeland started in late May and shared information about his previous experiences.

Dr. Donnelly introduced and welcomed new faculty members. Those in attendance were Callan Bentley, Jody Carlisle, Kirk Gomes, Sal Moschella, Keith Nabb, Sushma Shukla, and Renee Van Bergen. Each provided brief comments about themselves and were welcomed by the group. Dr. Friedman noted that the quality of PVCC is primarily based on the quality of our faculty. Ms. Morrow complimented the recruiter(s) for selecting a qualified group of professionals.

Program Highlight: Preparations and Response to COVID-19

Dr. Friedman recognized the interest and concern of those present regarding the handling of the pandemic. Ours is not as challenging as residential campuses since we do not have dorms. Beginning on March 13, our professional lives were changed. The spring semester changed from the classroom to online classes. The summer semester was exclusively online.

Dr. Copeland and Dr. Donnelly presented an update on PVCC's COVID preparations and response. In addition to the information in the presentation, Dr. Donnelly noted that the goal for fall was to reduce the number of people on campus without reducing the quality of our programs.

Mr. Dotson noted the number of hybrid classes in the presentation was 150 out of 1,000 classes and inquired about the number of online classes. Exact numbers were not available, but Dr. Donnelly noted the college is offering more synchronous than asynchronous courses. Summer enrollment trends were monitored, and changes were made for the fall. The demand for more asynchronous classes will lead to adjustments to the spring 2021 semester.

Dr. Rooney noted the importance of temperature screenings. In her experience, employees can have fevers and not be aware of the elevated temperature. An elevated temperature does not mean COVID, as Influenza B has been reported at her workplace for those who had elevated temperatures.

Mr. Dotson inquired about PVCC's plans when a faculty member tests positive or shows symptoms/exposure. Dr. Donnelly noted a plan is in place for that scenario. The faculty member is not to come to campus. If the case is mild, the faculty member has the option to continue online. Otherwise, another faculty member will be asked to help, or an adjunct instructor will be asked to cover the classes.

PVCC administrators are aware of between six and twelve COVID concerns that were brought to their attention. These situations were individuals either testing positive or self-reporting exposure. Once PVCC receives this information, it is reported to the health department. The health department is very cooperative and will work with that individual for contact tracing, symptom tracking, etc. PVCC leaves

this process to the experts at the health department. One person from the college was hospitalized due to a positive COVID test. Necessary adjustments were made. That individual has fully recovered.

Professor Oechslin commended the college for the tremendous amount of professional development offered to the faculty. Asynchronous instruction has never been better. Synchronous instruction is taking place for the first time for many instructors. Administrators have also made space on campus for students to use Wi-Fi hot spots. It is apparent that many people worked very hard this summer.

Ms. Gaston presented a concern regarding the self-reporting individuals' names being shared with the health department. The concern is this might create a situation where people do not want to report. An option of facilitating students to get free COVID testing that is less intrusive than name reporting was discussed. Dr. Donnelly noted if the concern is minor, e.g. sore throat or coughing, it is not reported to the health department. However, if the student/employee mentions exposure to a positive reporter and/or is diagnosed with COVID, these scenarios are reported. To report, there must be a direct link to COVID. With regard to testing, Dr. Friedman noted that our students live in the community, and PVCC is not a residential campus. We advise students to seek testing within their community, and we communicate with students, faculty, and staff when we are aware of COVID testing locations.

The group discussed the Assumption of the Risk form. Online students are not required to return this form. Faculty are ready for in-person classes and are flexible with alternate work locations. They are fully aware of and understand the risks and have not brought up any concerns. The college provides support with protective measures. The faculty appreciated the mask requirement to keep the PVCC community safe.

Ms. Gaston stated she was very impressed with the work done over the summer. Dr. Friedman noted if there are concerns from employees, the employee is to work through the Human Resources Department to initiate a process of accommodations. Ms. Willis stated the procedure is to start a dialogue with the employee, receive documentation from a health care provider, and have a dialog between the manager, employee, and a human resources representative regarding accommodations.

PVCC is not using the COVID-Wise app.

President's Report

A. Introduction of College Representatives

Dr. Friedman recognized the shared governance structure within PVCC and named the members of PVCC's shared governance: Nicole Oechslin, College Senate Chair; John Gulley, Chancellor's Faculty Advisor; Melinda Clark and Wendi Dass, Faculty Senate Co-Chairs; and Shawn Anderson and Patsy Rose, PASS Co-Chairs. The SGA will meet soon and hold an election for the SGA President.

B. Budget/VCCS/PVCC Updates

Dr. Hamm presented information regarding enrollment. In addition to enrollment, Dr. Hamm's presentation included a SACSCOC update and information regarding the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF.)

Dr. Friedman discussed the upcoming budget situation and noted we are coming into this budget year in a most uncertain position. The potential budget impact can vary from minimal to catastrophic. Tuition encompasses 57% of our budget, with state funding providing 43%. When enrollment is

down, we receive less tuition revenue. Summer enrollment was very good and resulted in \$84,000 more tuition revenue than was budgeted. However, enrollment is down 5-6% for the fall semester. This means the college will take in approximately \$250,000 less than what was budgeted. Since the spring semester typically follows the fall semester pattern, the same loss is expected. This results in a total tuition loss of \$500,000.

The state is taking in less revenue due to increased unemployment and reduced sales tax revenue, among other reasons. The chancellor told college presidents to brace for a 5-15% reduction in state funding. A 15% reduction for PVCC would result in a loss of \$1.5 million. Coupled with the tuition loss of \$500,000, the college would have anticipated a total loss of close to \$2 million, which would have been catastrophic.

However, there is good news. The General Assembly began rewriting the budget on August 18. The governor proposed the revised budget eliminate new money, but does not decrease the base budget, including the higher education base budget. Unfortunately, no new money equates to no funding for the G3 program and no salary increase for state employees for the next two years. The tuition stabilization fund, which was to allow colleges to keep tuition flat, and new financial aid funding, has also been removed.

Funding for the Advanced Technology Training Center (ATTC) is unresolved. The money for the building and the solar component, which is in the capital-funding budget, has not been discussed in the General Assembly. It is unclear if the General Assembly will decide now or delay that decision until next year. PVCC will continue working with the architects until the current funding is exhausted in November 2020.

Uncertainty still exists around the CARES Act. Almost \$1 million of federal funding was given directly to PVCC students. This funding put checks directly into the pockets of approximately 1,000 PVCC students and helped them survive during the first months of the pandemic. The CARES Act incorporates two more parts of funding, Institutional Relief funds of nearly \$1 million and Strengthening Institutions funds of just under \$100,000. These funds reimburse the college for expenses and lost revenue due to COVID.

One question was raised regarding the budget. The House recently signed legislation for more funding for the U.S. Post Office. Will this include more funding for higher education? If it does include more funding, it will take some time for institutions to receive the money since guidelines, criteria, and regulations would need to be created by the Department of Education.

At this time, Dr. Friedman requested Agenda Item #7 be moved up to this position on the agenda. There were no objections.

Review the Appropriateness of Community College Facility Names

Dr. Friedman introduced Attachment #3 and noted the July 16, 2020 resolution by the State Board for Community Colleges. The State Board has asked local boards to review the appropriateness of college, campuses, and classroom/facility names and report to the State Board with any recommended name changes. PVCC has 17 facilities named for an individual. Within the attachment, a recommendation was made that the College Board shall:

Establish a committee to research public statements and actions of these individuals to determine if there is any evidence of discrimination or racism inconsistent with the mission and values of PVCC

and the Virginia Community College System. If such evidence is found, to recommend to the College Board at the January 2021 meeting, which names should be removed from PVCC facilities.

Dr. DeGuzman asked the board members if this was a reasonable request and asked for discussion. Some members brought up a concern regarding the investigation going too deep into the personal lives of the individuals. Others felt it was worthwhile to check the backgrounds of the individuals to ensure no evidence of discrimination or racism exists. One member stated this was not an inquisition and would be a dereliction of duty if the board chose not to do the research.

Additional information provided by the president indicated 15 of the 17 namings were strictly donation-related. The college does have a policy in place for naming college facilities, and gift agreements do include the legal right to remove the name from the facility. Background checks were not completed at the time of the donation. To date, the college has received no complaints about the naming of any facilities at PVCC. Mr. Stillerman has contacted these donors to make them aware of the situation.

Other community colleges within the VCCS are named after known slave owners, i.e. Lord Fairfax, Thomas Nelson, John Tyler, Patrick Henry, and Dabney S. Lancaster (a known segregationist). The State Board recognizes this is difficult work. Dr. DeGuzman noted the intent is to look at what is in the public record, not to dig into information that is not publicly available. The board members agreed due diligence is needed in this necessary process.

On a motion by Ms. Gaston and seconded by Ms. Richardson, The PVCC College Board unanimously accepted the recommendation.

The recommendation includes two members of the College Board to serve on the committee. The following individuals volunteered to serve on the committee: Robert Hodous, Lola Richardson, Chinta Gaston, Tom Proulx, and Madison Cummings. Alfreda Morris will serve as an alternate. There were no objections to this number of board members serving on the committee.

Mr. Dotson pointed out a vast majority of these donors came through the Educational Foundation, and it would be important to have a link with someone who will see from a “foundation lens.” Mr. Stillerman was recommended as ex-officio and accepted the charge. He pledged the process would be transparent, and he would keep the board members informed.

Dr. Friedman will work with Dr. Donnelly to find appropriate faculty with expertise in historical research. The faculty members will be paid a fair and appropriate stipend, as they are being asked to do a considerable amount of extra work on top of an already difficult year.

College Updates

Dr. Donnelly

- Fall Semester
The fall semester is in its second week of classes. Students are receiving online support and have been provided classroom space to Zoom from the campus if internet access is an issue at their home or in their community.
- Personnel
 - The passing of Eric Breckoff was difficult for our community. Eric had been with PVCC since 2013. A scholarship has been established in his name. If there is interest in donating to the scholarship, please contact John or Harry.
 - Brian Flick retired suddenly in early August, and we are seeking to fill his position as Police Science Instructor.

- The 2nd Chance Pell Grant has been paused due to outbreaks in the correctional facilities. We continue to be in communication with the Department of Corrections.

Dr. Copeland

- While planning for the return to campus, a COVID task force was established. Dr. Copeland recognized Teresa Willis, the chair of the task force, for her hard work.
- FY20 closeout took place this summer, as did the FY21 start-up. The transition has gone smoothly.
- The facilities staff has remained busy with multiple COVID-related projects, including building the wellness shields.
- Both the Facilities Department and the Police Department worked hard on the drive-through graduation.
- A new custodial contractor will begin before October 1.
- VCCS is helping with ongoing issues in the Dickinson Building.

Ms. Haas

- PVCC has six reserved parking spaces in Parking Lot 2 for students seeking Wi-Fi access without entering the building. The parking lot at the Giuseppe Center is also available for the same purpose. Students can also use the computer lab in the Main Building. The students will need to follow social distancing and mask guidelines. The stations are sanitized after each use. The lab is open from 8:30 a.m. – 7 p.m. Monday – Thursday and 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Friday. An overflow lab, room M834, is available if needed.
- We have also started offering “Rooms to Zoom” for students. These rooms are located in the library and have become very popular. We will be expanding into the First Quadrant Math Center as well.
- The GOAL laptop loaner program is also very popular. The library has loaned out all 60 of the laptops earmarked for the GOAL program. A total of 75-80 laptops are on loan. The Information Technology (IT) Department will be ordering 30 more for the fall semester, resulting in 90 laptops for the GOAL program. TJACE and N2W are also loaning laptops.
- The IT Department has been working with staff and assisting with processes such as creating online documents, leveraging Zoom, and teleworking tools. A resource document will be created for Dual Enrollment instructors using Zoom and/or Canvas.
- Mr. Cummings asked if Ms. Haas has worked with localities regarding hot spots. She is aware of these opportunities. She and the IT Department are focusing on what we can do for our students at our physical location.

Harry Stillerman

- Mr. Stillerman reported on PVCC4U, an innovative tuition program guaranteed to cover 100% of tuition and fees for the fall semester for eligible students. If the student re-enrolls full-time (at least 12 credit hours) for the spring 2021 semester, 100% of the tuition and fees will continue to be covered.
 - Students are required to enroll full-time for the semester, apply and complete the financial aid process, be an in-state resident, and have an income of less than \$65,000.

- Financial Aid has seen an increase of 300 students applying for aid due to PVCC4U, which is 30% of the total financial aid population. Currently, 435 students are eligible. The full cost of tuition and books were paid for 317 students. Some institutional funds will be used to make up the difference.
- PVCC4U allows us to increase scholarships. Last year, 175 were awarded, for a total of \$320,000. This year, 284 have been awarded for a total of \$415,000. This program has been wonderfully successful.
- In July, the Educational Foundation received an anonymous match gift of \$2 million from a local individual. This individual is a previous donor. The donor provided this gift because their child came to PVCC, graduated, and went to UVA. The donor is proud to support PVCC.
- The Foundation needs to raise \$1 million this calendar year. The Foundation is working with the Curtis Group on an \$8-10 million campaign. The campaign is in the silent phase. Without any formal campaign, the Foundation has already secured \$6 million in commitments.

Chair's Report

2019-20 Performance Report. Dr. Friedman created the report, which is for informational purposes.

Chancellor's Virtual Summit, October 14, 15. Dr. Friedman will share more information on this summit as it becomes available.

Next College Board Meeting: November 4, 2020, at 4 p.m. Dr. DeGuzman will assign committee members before the November 4 meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Frank Friedman
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL



Pam B. DeGuzman
Chair