

PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD

Board Meeting No. 287

March 3, 2021

Meeting number two hundred eighty-seven of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, March 3, 2021, via Zoom virtual meeting.

Members Present: Lola Richardson, vice chair, Louisa County
R. Madison Cummings, Jr., Albemarle County
Bruce Dotson, Albemarle County
Frank Gallo, Fluvanna County
Chinta Gaston, City of Charlottesville
Robert Hodous, City of Charlottesville
Alfreda Morris, Albemarle County
Janet Morrow, City of Charlottesville
Thomas Proulx, Nelson County
Fred Richardson, Greene County
PJ Rooney, Albemarle County
Joseph Scruggs, Buckingham County

Members Absent: Pam DeGuzman, chair, City of Charlottesville

Staff Present: Frank Friedman, president
Susian Brooks, marketing and media relations director
Melinda Clark, faculty senate co-president
Ben Copeland, vice president for finance and administrative services
John Donnelly, vice president for instruction and student services
John Gulley, Chancellor's faculty advisory committee representative
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

Others Present Media
VMDO Architects

Welcome and Call to Order

Ms. Richardson welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Guest introductions included Morgan Tanner, who recently joined PVCC as the administrative assistant to the President's Office; and Joe Atkins, Jonathan Moore, and Kim Smith from VMDO Architects.

Approval of Minutes

The proceedings of the January 6, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Dotson and seconded by Ms. Morrow.

Public Comment None

President's Report

State Budget

The outcome of the General Assembly session was very favorable for the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and PVCC. In an email to PVCC faculty and staff, which was copied to the College Board members, Dr. Friedman highlighted the elements of the budget in the email. A 5% salary increase for state employees was approved by the General Assembly. This is by far the largest raise in many years. The General Assembly approved full funding of the Governor's G3 proposal, which covers tuition and fees for students in career and technical education programs, both credit and noncredit. The college fully supports the G3 program.

The General Assembly provided additional money to the VCCS operations budget. The additional funds allow the VCCS to keep tuition at the current rate during these tough economic times. A decision about tuition will be made by the VCCS State Board at their next meeting. There will likely be no tuition increase for the fall 2021 semester.

The General Assembly also provided money to start addressing the shortage of advisors in the VCCS. Two years ago, a JLARC study was conducted. The study determined the VCCS fell well below the necessary ratio of students to advisors. The \$5 million in this budget will be a start. An additional \$50 million per year will be needed to address the full shortage. This money will help PVCC hire two additional advisors for next fall. We will not know for sure until VCCS distributes money to colleges.

The General Assembly approvals are not final until the Governor signs off on the budget. All indications are that he will support all elements of the budget.

Commencement

Given the Governor's latest guidelines on limiting gathering sizes to 25 individuals, it will be impossible to have face-to-face graduation. The Graduation Task Force Committee is developing plans for commencement. The committee members are the same as last year since the committee did such a great job. Dean Andrew Renshaw is the committee's chair. The committee will consider if there will be any face-to-face, if the graduation is entirely virtual or combination, or a drive-through like last August. The committee's recommendations are due soon. The commencement will be held in May.

College Budget

The budget picture is very positive this year and next year due to the infusion of one-time money from the Federal Government through the CARES Act. A second stimulus package, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) is providing additional money as well. These additional funds are not permanent but will get us through this and the next fiscal years in fairly good shape. Our priorities for use of these funds are:

- Priority 1 - Expand financial aid for students. We estimate as much as \$2 million of additional federal financial aid is coming through those programs. This is in addition to what we normally receive. College administration is coming up with ideas for how to package this additional aid for our students and how to market it to the public. Much more financial aid assistance is available for fall than ever before. We will get the word out to the community and make it easy to understand.
- Priority 2 - Recoup whatever revenues were lost. PVCC lost approximately \$500,000 in tuition revenue due to COVID-19, which does not include the loss of revenue from non-credit classes. All Workforce Services programs are hands-on and face-to-face. Although those classes were canceled, we had already budgeted that anticipated revenue. The federal money will replace that loss.
- Priority 3 – Expenses related to COVID. Federal money will also be used to help cover expenses related to COVID, such as cleaning and air filters, among others.
- Priority 4 - One-time investments to improve our technology infrastructure and improve our ability to provide courses online. Many hardware and software costs have been incurred. Dr. Donnelly and the deans are working to make improvements to upcoming semesters in online learning.

Dr. Friedman also mentioned planning for the summer and fall semesters. The class schedules come out toward the end of March. We need to make permanent decisions to ensure schedules are accurate. Dr. Donnelly will cover this more in his update.

President's Staff Updates

Dr. Donnelly, vice president for instruction and student services

- The PVCC community lost a full-time faculty member, Beryl Solla, who passed away in late February. Beryl was a professor of art and department chair. Beryl was well known around the community with Let There Be Light and gallery showings and was a wonderful person.
- Full-time faculty searches are underway in Art, Information Technology, and Nursing. Please send any qualified candidates our way.
- COVID-19 cases are trending similar to the community and are declining precipitously. Our health science students have received at least the first shot of vaccinations. Many have been fully vaccinated. This is good news as we want them to get back to the clinical sites and clinical experiences.
- PVCC recently received several awards:
 - a. The college has been designated once again as a Military Friendly School for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are a Top 10 as a small college.
 - b. The Network2Work program received national recognition from the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, earning the award of Outstanding State Innovation of the Year.
 - c. The RN program received full accreditation from the Virginia Board of Nursing.
 - d. The student loan default cohort rate is steadily declining, which is good news. It is down to 11%, which is significantly lower than in previous years.

- The AARP and United Way will continue to offer tax services at PVCC this year for community members. The college will also offer tax services to our students through the Student Financial Resource Center. Single Stop will offer direct assistance to our students with their taxes.
- Due to interest from currently employed LPN's in our area, PVCC is starting an LPN-to-RN transition program this fall.
- TJACE now offers a program for individuals without a high school diploma to earn a GED for free.
- The summer semester will be similar to the current semester with mostly online courses, both asynchronous and synchronous. Science courses are slowly transitioning back to more synchronous options with a lecture and in-person labs, as it is essential to have hands-on learning for these courses. We are not quite ready to go back to normal but feel the sciences need to transition back.
- For fall, we are planning for a return to normal. We are receiving positive signs we can resume operations as normal in the fall. We will continue with all three types of courses; asynchronous, synchronous, and in-person. The mix of class types is not yet determined. Dr. Donnelly is anticipating the class schedule will resemble pre-pandemic scheduling.
- We are planning to restart the prison programs in the fall. The Department of Corrections cannot host summer classes as the vaccination efforts will not be ready for the summer. We are hoping for enrollment in fall 2021, when we will also implement the 2nd Chance Pell program.

Ms. Haas, Chief Information Officer

SIS upgrades and modules have been tested and the upgrades were launched last weekend. The upgrades were system-wide and went smoothly with a few minor issues Monday and Tuesday. The second phase of upgrades will be user interface upgrades.

The three piloted high flex classrooms are finished. The deans and many faculty members were shown the classrooms and were pleased with the setup. The new CRRSAA funds are being used to expand the number of high flex classrooms. The rooms can be completed in phases or all at once. High flex classrooms allow in-person teaching alongside Zoom students in the same classroom. This will allow for flexibility around the pedagogy. Furniture updates will be made along with the technology and infrastructure changes. Ms. Haas is working with Dr. Donnelly, Dr. Copeland, and Mr. Kingsley.

CRRSAA funds will also be used for computing and technology infrastructure projects that need to be updated.

Ms. Haas will be leaving PVCC. Her last day is April 11. She thanked the Board for their support.

Mr. Stillerman, vice president for institutional advancement and development

The Pathways campaign is experiencing great success. The goal has been increased from \$10 million to \$11 million. To date, the college has received \$8.6 million in commitments and/or gift pledges. The success of this campaign reflects the PVCC community's hard work and standard of excellence.

Four new members are now part of the Educational Foundation Board. Janet Morrow is serving as the liaison for the PVCC College Board. Kelly Palmer, Paula Newcomb, and Elsie Thompson have joined the team and will attend their first meeting in March.

The Teaching and Learning Grants program is underway. Over the past nine or ten years, the Foundation has awarded \$300,000 to faculty and staff for their grant requests. This year's budget is \$50,000 and 18 applications have been received. Those will be reviewed next week and grants will be awarded after the Board meeting in March.

Dr. Hamm, director of institutional research, planning, and institutional effectiveness

The final full-time equivalency (FTE) for Fall 2020 is 2,604. This is a 3.82% decline from the Fall 2019 FTE. The VCCS experienced a 3.95% decline in FTE during the same reporting period.

To date, Spring 2021 FTE is 2,161. This is a 5.23% decrease from Spring 2020. The VCCS is currently experiencing a 5.81% decline.

Dr. Friedman, President

President Evaluation. The Board evaluates the President every May and gives the information to the Chancellor. Another step has been added to the process. All 23 presidents are undergoing a complete evaluation by all full-time faculty and staff of the college. An email went out Monday containing an evaluation survey from the Chancellor's Office surveying Dr. Friedman's job performance at the college. Results will be available at the end of March or early April. The results go to Board members and the Chancellor. The Board is free to use whatever evaluation process they determine but should take into consideration the feedback received from the faculty and staff survey. The same survey was distributed at all VCCS colleges. The college just learned of the survey a couple of weeks ago.

Major Announcement. Be on the lookout for a media announcement this Friday. This will announce a major new initiative between UVA and PVCC. It is wonderful news. President Ryan and President Friedman will present it to the UVA Board of Visitors on Friday, and the press release will go out shortly thereafter.

Dr. Copeland, vice president for finance and administrative services

- Preparations have begun for the new budget. Meetings with all budget managers are underway and funding estimates will be determined for the next budget cycle. The process is ongoing through June. In April, the College Board Finance and Building Committee will meet to prepare for local budget approvals at the May meeting. The paving work previously approved by the committee will begin this month and will include curb replacements and storm drain improvements.
- The Facilities Office continues to repaint and conduct general maintenance on the buildings, and they are in good shape.
- The Business office will be filling 2 accounting positions and the search for an HR director is in the interview stage.

Program Highlight – VMDO Architects Presentation: Advanced Technology and Student Success Center

Mr. Atkins presented an informative overview of the new building. The presentation showed updates made since the last Board meeting in September. Development and interior design progress were

shared, as was a brief description of the pathway to achieving net-zero energy. A schedule/timeline was included in the presentation.

Following the presentation, several questions were asked.

- *Handicap Accessibility.* Dedicated handicap parking is available near the lower door entrance. Accessible ramp sidewalks and automated doors are included in the design. The elevator will be immediately adjacent to the lobby near the stairs. Access to the elevator will remain open, even if parts of the building are closed due to events, etc.
- *Net-zero Buildings.* This project will be the first for community colleges in the state. Although many net-zero buildings can be found across the country, only five or six exist in the region. It is a novelty and a very exciting model, particularly for the community college system and higher education. This will be the first net-zero building in the VCCS system. There are some net-zero buildings at universities in Virginia, but not a large number. VCCS is very excited and envisions this as the future for new buildings.
- *Energy Dashboard Concept.* Success can be monitored, and adjustments can be made in 1 year, 2 years, and 5 years. This offers a great learning experience for students. There has been discussion about how college programs can plug into solar energy and use this as a teaching tool. Dashboards will be available in the next few months.
- *Cost of Renewables/Payback Period.* The \$3.3 million is the delta between the original design and the net-zero building. Half will be for PVs and half will be for improvements to keep energy down. Payback of the full amount is estimated at between 20-22 years.
- *Longevity of Equipment.* The geothermal approach is arguably longer-term heating and cooling that has a bit less maintenance than above-ground units. The longevity of the PV panels and roof membrane was also discussed. Net-zero buildings retain a renovation timeline of 12-15 and 20-25 years. Replacement for the water heat pumps is 20-25 years. The PV Panels do degrade over time, but that fits into normal renovation cycles. A regular roof maintains 18-20 years. Real maintenance for the new building is on a 20-year horizon.
- *Energy Supply.* The building is self-sustaining. The energy being generated does not supply power to other buildings.
- *Steps.* The steps leading to the second floor are more generous and expanded, with intermediate landings (resting) spaces.

Dr. Copeland thanked the team of VMDO. The team has been more than patient with changes and bringing viable options into the design. The design is being finalized and a bid should go out this summer.

Resolution

There is no real need for a Board resolution on this item. The naming of the Distinguished Service Award in honor of Ms. Buck was a decision that rests with the President and does not require Board approval. The President made the decision and announced it to the college, so no further action is needed. This was added as a ceremonial gesture since the Board worked so extensively with Pat Buck. The resolution's wording is bare bones. If the Board wants a resolution, this might not be the one. On the

other hand, the Board may want to delete it from the agenda and move onto the next agenda item. This was a placeholder of sorts to see if the Board wanted to go on record with something like this.

Dr. Dotson thinks it would be nice to support a resolution. Ms. Buck spent so much time with the Board, being cordial under a whole variety of circumstances. It would be a nice gesture to have a resolution. No opinion on this one or a slightly different resolution.

On a motion by Ms. Morrow and seconded by Ms. Gaston, the Board unanimously approved supporting this award.

Committee Report

Community Relations Committee. On behalf of the committee, Mr. Scruggs made the motion to approve the committee's selection of student Ana Doder as the 2021 College Board Community Service Award recipient, seconded by Mr. Cummings, and unanimously approved. Ana is an outstanding individual and is highly deserving of this award.

Chair's Report

Terms of Office. Mr. Proulx is up for reappointment to the Board. After serving two consecutive four-year terms, Dr. Dotson and Mr. Hodous are ineligible for reappointment. Mr. Proulx will let Dr. Friedman or Ms. Parkhill know if he wishes to be reappointed. The college will notify the Board of Supervisors regarding reappointment and the Board of Supervisors will take action.

Dr. Friedman mentioned the May meeting will be the last for Dr. Dotson and Mr. Hodous after eight years of service on the College Board.

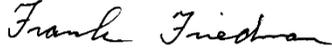
The next College Board meeting is May 5, 2021, at 4 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment

Mr. Proulx moved to adjourn, Ms. Gaston seconded. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

[Signature Page Follows]

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Friedman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Frank Friedman
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pam DeGuzman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Pam DeGuzman
Chair