

**PIEDMONT VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD**

**Board Meeting No. 292**

**January 12, 2022**

Meeting number two hundred ninety-two of the Piedmont Virginia Community College Board was held Wednesday, January 12, 2022, in the W.A. Pace Board Room. The meeting was also available virtually.

**Members Present**

Madison Cummings, Jr., Albemarle County  
Pam DeGuzman, City of Charlottesville  
Alfreda Morris, Albemarle County  
Fred Richardson, Greene County  
Lola Richardson, Louisa County  
PJ Rooney, Albemarle County  
Joseph Scruggs, Buckingham County

**Members Attending Virtually**

Charles Dassance, Albemarle County  
Leslie Fravel, City of Charlottesville  
Chinta Gaston, City of Charlottesville  
Janet Morrow, City of Charlottesville  
Thomas Proulx, Nelson County

**Members Absent**

Frank Gallo, Fluvanna County

**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  
Rebecca Parkhill, assistant to the president and special projects coordinator  
Brittany Resmann, director of institutional research, planning, and institutional effectiveness  
Tom Ruggeri, interim director of information technology  
Harry Stillerman, vice president for institutional advancement and development

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Chair Lola Richardson welcomed those present and called the meeting to order at 4 p.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was physically present.

### Approval of Minutes

The proceedings of the November 3, 2021, meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Dr. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Cummings.

### Public Comment

No public comment.

### Introduction of New Faculty

In attendance: Caitlin McCabe, instructor of Culinary Arts

Attending Virtually: Farid Uddin, Instructor of Nursing

Dr. Donnelly introduced faculty members who were unable to attend: Linda Peffley-Firer, associate dean of nursing; Melissa Hoover, associate professor of math; and JoAnna Wade, assistant professor of nursing.

The Board welcomed the new faculty members.

### President's Report

*Federal Funds for Students.* Due to Covid relief acts issued by Congress, colleges have received significant funds. For the Fall 2021 semester, PVCC distributed \$1.9 million directly to students. Distribution is determined using a complicated formula based on number of credits, financial status, and other variables. Distribution for each student was between \$300 and \$1,200. Students determine how they will use the funds.

For the Spring 2022 semester, another \$1.9 million will be distributed, which will exhaust all the direct-to-student money from the federal government. Per federal regulations, the college cannot market the availability of funding.

*Federal Funds for PVCC.* The college also received \$3.8 million in institutional funds, which will be spent in ways that help the college manage Covid and develop new responses to Covid. Much of this funding was used to reimburse the loss of revenue in Workforce Services. Additional funds were used to create eleven HyFlex classrooms to allow our faculty to provide instruction both in person and remotely. Another eleven classrooms are scheduled to be upgraded to HyFlex classrooms next year.

PVCC also purchased air purification machines for classrooms to prevent transmission of Covid. The entire HVAC system at the Giuseppe Center will be replaced using these funds. The replacement qualifies for these funds because it will address the air purification at that location.

We have also used the money to provide laptops, remote instruction, internet access, and other technology needs for students. We continue to work on ideas to spend wisely. Faculty and staff were asked to submit ideas, with eight to ten ideas being funded in December. More will be funded in the spring to exhaust the balance.

*Budget.* The General Assembly kicked off today and is surrounded by uncertainty. With the new Governor being sworn in on Saturday, there is a shift of power in the House from Democrats to Republicans. Governor Northam introduced his budget on December 16, but the priorities of Governor Youngkin are unknown.

The budget from Governor Northam includes salary increases. If it survives the General Assembly and the Governor, all state employees will receive a 5% salary increase this June and another 5% in June 2023. This is the best salary news in decades and college administration's top priority is to keep it in the budget.

VCCS has a major initiative to increase nursing programs such as CNAs, LPNs, and ADNs. The proposed budget is \$50 million per year and has a goal to graduate 1,500 more nurses every year throughout the system. Governor Northam did not put these funds in his budget. He placed them in the G3 program to help colleges expand or develop new G3 programs such as career and technical education. Some of that money could be used for nursing expansion. The Governor placed \$24 million in the first year and \$14 million in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his budget for G3. Distribution and programs are to be developed.

The college received funding this year to expand Network2Work (N2W) to other communities in the state. The funding is from Governor Northam through an executive order. Federal money flowing through his office was redirected to the VCCS. In his outgoing budget, he added state money for the next two years to fund N2W expansion to several other communities in the state, including Hampton Roads, Petersburg, Richmond, and the Shenandoah Valley. The dollar amount is between \$4 and 6 million, although it is unclear which communities will receive it. Since this is Governor Northam's project, colleges are unsure of how the General Assembly and the new Governor will view it. Dr. Friedman and Dean Schuyler spoke with General Assembly members and others in Richmond to maximize the opportunity there. If state funding is not available for N2W, this program will only happen in our region and will not be expanded. The college can support the program using grants and philanthropy support from the Educational Foundation. Answers will be unavailable until the end of March or possibly into April when Governor Youngkin brings his budget amendments.

Dr. Richardson asked about the cutoff for federal funds spending. The federal government's fiscal calendar is usually October 1 – September 30. We anticipate annual spending ends September 30.

The new education secretary has been focused on K-12 education. Very little has been mentioned regarding higher education. It is difficult to know what the Governor's priorities are for higher education.

A recent article in the Chronicle was discussed. The article mentioned an imbalance in males versus females dropping out during the pandemic and Dr. Richardson asked if the same is true at PVCC. College administration is aware of an enrollment decline in male students versus female students. With male dominated, hands-on curricula such as engineering, welding, and trades being canceled due to Covid, the Chronicle's research study indicated colleges with many of these programs experienced a higher decline. PVCC administration has not looked at that level of detail. Ms. Resmann will research whether that happened here by researching institution specific data program by program.

<b>College Updates</b>
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*Dr. Copeland*

- Due to a spike in the Omicron variant, PVCC held virtual classes for the first two weeks. This allowed the college to get through the heightened number of cases and come back when the number of cases was down. Faculty are reporting students when they are made aware of a positive case by a student, and self-reporting by faculty and staff has led to an increase in reporting.
- Masks are still required on campus. K95 masks are being acquired and should be distributed to employees next week.
- The college employee vaccination rate is 97%. Those who are unvaccinated are still required to get tested every week.
- Covid tests have been ordered. Each employee will receive one or two tests to take home.
- The recent snowstorm created difficulty. The campus drive, parking lots, and most sidewalks were cleared by Monday afternoon. The campus became a Dominion Energy staging area. The power went out on Monday, and we did not get partial power back until Thursday. Full power was restored at 7 p.m. Thursday evening. Boilers were turned on to prevent pipe problems. The power issue on campus did not lie within the campus. Power comes out of the neighborhood just below the campus.
- VMDO architects submitted another round of plan reviews for the new building in December. Dr. Copeland is hopeful this set of reviews will be the final ones and that we will get approval for the bid package to go out.

*Dr. Donnelly*

- Kudos to faculty for transitioning quickly and seamlessly to online learning for the first two weeks of class. Spring classes are currently in the first week, and this is not an ideal way to start the semester. Faculty prepared students effectively and are giving quality education to our students.
- Enrollment is up compared to other VCCS schools. PVCC has significantly increased enrollment. Dr. Donnelly attributed the increase to the PVCC4U financial aid package and the ability to do what we do so well.
- An outreach tool for mental health has been implemented. The telehealth option, TimelyMD, was secured at the system level and started Monday. Students can sign in at any time, 24/7, to get help. A press release went out to faculty, staff, and students. Information is also in syllabus templates. TimelyMD is free of charge to students.
- The nursing program expansion is going well with 50 new students at the Giuseppe Center this semester. The labs and classrooms were prepared. Dr. Donnelly thanked the nursing faculty, administrators, and UVA for the implementation. Nurses will now graduate two times per year instead of one. These students will graduate in December two years from now with an associate degree in nursing.

- The college recently announced the new Student Activities Director, Mr. Rory Lee Washington. Rory was already working at PVCC in Student Success. A new Assistant Director of Financial Aid, Nathanael Riddle, was also hired. Upcoming faculty position needs are two English positions due to retirements, a computer science instructor, and a medical lab technology director. A director of disabilities is also being sought due to a retirement.

Dr. Richardson asked about tutoring services. PVCC services are offered in person and virtually. Students can be tutored remotely or can make appointments to meet with a tutor on campus.

Dr. Richardson asked if TimelyMD was a permanent solution and how it is being paid. It is a system-wide initiative and there is a cost to all colleges. PVCC is currently using ARP funds to cover the first year. The 12-month contract cost is \$40,000 per college. When the federal money runs out, we will seek feedback and take action to make a mental health telehealth option available to students. From the college administration standpoint, telehealth options for mental health is a permanent option.

*Ms. Resmann*

The enrollment report is positive. Head count for the end of the fall term is 3% above 2020. The FTE count is down 2.5% for non-dual enrollment FTE. VCCS was down about 6%.

Spring 2022 enrollment is also positive. Head count is up 7.5% and FTE is up 4.5%. This semester is targeted to be even with spring 2021. PVCC is already above that target while the VCCS is down 7.5%.

Dual enrollment is down slightly due to fluxes in dual enrollment faculty. PVCC's numbers are not significantly down, but dual enrollment has been down for fall and spring.

Correctional facilities in Fluvanna and Dillwyn stopped classes due to Covid until January 28 with the possibility of returning January 31. If the facilities do not reopen, the college will lose 40-50 FTEs.

*Mr. Ruggeri*

- Mr. Ruggeri's use of ARP funding includes laptops for students in need and extending wireless coverage to outside areas.
- Security is the current focus. CarbonBlack is an end point detection software to protect workstations and servers. Mr. Ruggeri is also sending phishing tests to faculty and staff. Many employees emailed Mr. Ruggeri prior to opening the phishing email, which shows progress is being made.
- The Computer Lab will be kept open to match the hours of classes so any student who cannot Zoom from home can come to the lab.
- External access points will be added to the back patio and other outdoor locations near the buildings. These access points cannot be located far from the building since the signal coming back from the laptop still needs to be within reach of the internal access points.

*Mr. Stillerman*

- The Educational Foundation has received approximately \$4.7 million in new gifts and commitments in 2021. Three million dollars will be split between student success and workforce initiatives.
- When the Pathways campaign planning began in 2019, the planners determined PVCC had the ability to raise \$8-10 million. As of today, the campaign has received \$12.2 million in total commitments.
- Of the \$12.2 million, \$4.5 million will be used for construction and facility enhancement.
- The College Board Service Award announcement has been shared with faculty and staff. The Board will determine the recipient at the March 2022 Board meeting.
- At the November Foundation Board meeting, the Board of Directors approved \$50,000 for the Teaching /Learning Grants Program. Both faculty and Staff will be encouraged to submit ideas.
- PVCC is officially in its anniversary year. A committee is being organized for formal planning. Fall of 2022 will represent the beginning of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, with celebrations during the 2022-2023 academic year.
- The College Board Community Relations Committee is planning a special retirement celebration May 5, 2022, for Dr. Friedman. More information will be shared soon.

#### Presidential Search Update

Board Chair Richardson reported that the search is ongoing and there is nothing new to report.

#### Committee Reports

*Curriculum Committee*

On behalf of the committee, Board member Chinta Gaston reviewed the proposed Medical Lab Technology associate degree program, which is included in the Board packet. The program information is very thorough and committee members are excited about the program, which allows students to become certified lab technicians. UVA Hospital and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital are both supporting it. UVA has committed \$300,000 over three years for salary and benefits and is giving PVCC microbiology lab equipment. If approved, the program will start in fall 2022. The program is a small cohort of ten students. The size is due to the clinical aspect of working one-on-one with one program director. If another faculty member is brought on, the enrollment can increase. Some training will need to take place at clinical sites. A recent student survey showed high student interest. The program will not have a competitive admissions program, although more than ten students are likely to apply. Similar programs are located at Laurel Ridge (formerly Lord Fairfax) and J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College. UVA Hospital and Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital experience difficulties finding this level of technician. Students who do not make it into the nursing program may be interested in this course as they will already have the entry level prerequisites. This program is not for someone straight out of high school.

The Curriculum Committee recommends to the full Board that the Medical Lab Technology associate degree program be approved. On a motion by Dr. Richardson and seconded by Ms. Morris, the College Board unanimously approved the Medical Lab Technology associate degree program.

**Program Highlight: Student Financial Resource Center (SFRC)**

Ms. Amanda Key, coordinator of the SFRC, introduced Ms. Ravel Hasel, assistant in the SFRC. Ms. Key provided a presentation containing an overview, SFRC's purpose, services provided, target population, success stories, and data to support the SFRC. The goal of the Center is to help students remain enrolled in classes by removing financial barriers. In addition, the SFRC provides financial education to assist students with financial stability. These goals are met by educating students about resources, expanding access to benefits, and assisting with navigating services.

In April 2021, the Singlestop program was adopted by the VCCS. This online tool will make it easier for students to access social services and other benefits they are eligible to receive. The SFRC is also identified as a SafePlace. The SafePlace symbol identifies the SFRC as a place where students are welcome and belong.

On average, SFRC services are used by 500-600 students per academic year. More students were served in 2021 due to the changes in SNAP guidelines. Students received over \$643,000 in assistance in 2021, according to Single Stop data. Textbook purchases were made thanks to the assistance of PVCC4U. The new nursing program at the Giuseppe Center led to an increase in textbook purchases

Funding comes from various sources, including the Educational Foundation, the 25 Days of Giving Food Drive in November, and the significant food discount the college receives from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (BRAFB). During the pandemic, the college received food at no cost from the BRAFB. Ms. Key also has relationships with other local food banks. Using grant funds, \$2,000 in Harris Teeter gift cards were purchased. A food drive within PVCC titled Boxes for Break was successful, serving over 200 students. The Kathy Hudson Emergency Fund is used less frequently since the SFRC can direct students to other resources.

Dr. Dassance congratulated Ms. Key on a fantastic program. Ms. Morrow asked how the Board could assist. Needed items not covered by the BRAFB include hygiene items, light bulbs, cleaning supplies, etc. This year, the SFRC received a grant from Anthem that allowed the SFRC to purchase dish detergent, laundry detergent, shampoo, and soap for distribution to PVCC students.

Dr. Friedman noted that when the SFRC opened, we were one of only a few colleges with this idea. Now this is mainstream at community colleges. Several other colleges, including UVA, have reached out to PVCC for guidance to start their own program.

**Chair's Report**

No updates.

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Ms. Gaston and seconded by Dr. Richardson, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Friedman".

Frank Friedman  
President and Secretary to the Board

APPROVAL

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lola Richardson".

Lola Richardson  
Chair