

# Meeting Minutes

## MECC Local Advisory Board

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 4:30 p.m.,

Kline Foundation Boardroom

### MEMBERS PRESENT

SCOTT COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	LEE COUNTY	DICKENSON CTY	NORTON
Adrienne Hood Keith Wilson	Mike Abbott Mike Hatfield Betty Cornett			

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyce Williams (Lee)	Scott Napier (Lee)
Carolyn Strouth (Dickenson) resigned	Kristi Taylor (Lee)
Emily Kinser (Lee)	Freda Starnes (Scott)
Joyce Williams (Lee)	Rodney Baker (Scott)
Teresa Adkins (Wise)	Roy Munsey (Wise)
Carol Caruso	

### Others Attending:

Dr. Clint Pinion – Vice President, Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions  
Ms. Kristy Hall – Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services  
Dr. Kristen Westover - President  
Peggy Gibson – Executive Assistant to the President

### CALL TO ORDER

The Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board met on Tuesday, July 16, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kline Foundation Boardroom. The meeting was called to order by chair, Mr. Mike Abbott.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to lack of quorum, meeting minutes for May 10, 2024, was approved via email. **(Exhibit 1)**

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Abbott reported on the following information items:

- Mr. Abbott welcomed Dr. Clint Pinion who recently accepted the Vice President of Academic and Workforce Solutions position here at MECC. Dr. Pinion is originally from Pikeville, Ky and was previously employed at Southwest Virginia Community College for several years. Welcome, Dr. Pinion!
- Please let Peggy Gibson know your Committee Preference at the end of this meeting or via email before our next meeting date. (Exhibit 2)
- The Fall College picnic is planned for August 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 p.m. in the Goodloe Center.

President's Report – Dr. Kristen Westover

Dr. Westover reported on the following items:

**Enrollment**

- The Spring Semester 2024 Final Enrollment is 1,840 compared to last year's headcount of 1,778: an increase of (3) percent. The College's FTE was 1,175 compared to last year's, 1,085 reflecting an increase of (8) percent. Preliminary Summer enrollment headcount is 494 compared to last year's headcount of 561, a decrease of (12) percent. FTE is 229 compared to last year's report of 250 at this time; a decrease of (8) percent. The 2024 Fall Semester Preliminary Enrollment is trending about the same as last year.
- The Summer Semester 2024 point-in-time headcount enrollment is 682 compared to last year's headcount of 656: an increase of (4) percent. The College's FTE is 312 which is the same as last year's reflecting (0) change.
- The Preliminary Fall 2024 point-in-time headcount enrollment is 1,308 compared to last year's headcount of 1,109, an increase of (18) percent. FTE is 867 compared to last year's report of 800; an increase of (8) percent.

**Other Updates**

- Dr. Westover reviewed with Board members her current community involvement that included a list of internal and external activities from May 10 – July 16, 2024. (**Exhibit 3**).

**Budget**

- Dr. Westover also shared information regarding the two FY24-26 budget bills that recently passed during the General Assembly.
  - \$20 million over two years for affordable access, retention, and degree production
  - \$14.6 million added back to the VCCS's base that was separated and available only through performance requirements in the introduced budget
  - \$9.2 million for New Economy Workforce Credential Grants ("Fast Forward")
  - \$24 million for workforce pipeline renovations for space conversion (more for renovations not new constructions)
  - \$250,000 for pre-planning for Southwest Virginia Community College's replacement of Buchanan and Tazewell Halls (in the capital planning pool)
  - Five new CIP (classification of instructional program on the credit side) codes added for eligibility for G3 financial aid
  - Additionally, the budget bills provide a 3% salary increase for eligible full-time and adjunct faculty and employees in each fiscal year. These increases are effective in employees' base pay as of June 10, 2024, and June 10, 2025.

The VCCS will allocate \$7,750,000 in general funds for workforce programs in regions with high labor demand and low supply for FY25 and FY26. These funds are intended for startup or expansion costs of new and existing program development, including employer partnerships, and may also support career and technical dual enrollment courses.

An additional \$24 million in capital funding is provided for FY25 for workforce pipeline space conversion. The Virginia Community College System-System Office will distribute these funds among the GO Virginia Regions based on the region's top priority as determined by the presidents. The funds can be used for various purposes, including 21st-century learning spaces, curriculum development, online learning expansion, work-based learning incorporation, and outreach materials related to the proposed project.

MECC's E&G (General Fund) budget for FY25 is set at \$17,882,303. The E&G for FY24 was \$16,007,638.

VCCS update:

Dr. Westover shared the revised **VCCS Opportunity 2030 Goals** (updated February 2024). She mentioned that metrics have now been added to each Supporting Goal:

### Supporting Goal 1

Ensure that Virginia's Community Colleges are equipped to deliver on the promise of the equity goal by ensuring that all internal and external constituencies understand why the goal is necessary to provide a talent pipeline for Virginia employers.

#### SMART Objectives

- Increase cumulative enrollment in regionally aligned high demand fields to 20,000 students by 2031\*.
- Increase the annual number of students enrolled in Fast Forward by 20% by 2030.
- Increase annual application yield to 66% for Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, and low-income individuals by 2030.
- Increase annual percentage of program-placed students applying for financial aid to 75% by 2030.
- Increase the annual number of working age adults enrolled by 14,000 by 2030.
- Increase the percentage of military affiliated students to 15% of annual credit headcount by 2030.
- Increase annual number of incarcerated or formerly incarcerated students in FastForward by 25% by 2030 \*contingent on additional funding

### Supporting Goal 2

Provide all students with access to high impact practices that support educational excellence and equity in student success through the development of a world class cadre of diverse employees focused on equity-minded principles and practices.

#### SMART Objectives

- Increase various and multiple advertisements in sources targeting diverse populations by 25% by 2030.
- Increase the number of search advocates by 25% by 2030.
- Increase the number of faculty engaged in professional development opportunities to broaden understanding of relevant emerging topics for student success by 50% by 2030.
- All colleges will offer shortened sessions for courses included in the Passport and Uniform Certificate of General Studies (UCGS) by 2030.
- Increase average credit hour enrollment from 8 semester credit hours (SCH) annually to 12 SCH by 2030.
- All courses required by the Passport and UCGS will be available online asynchronously every semester by 2030.
- Increase annual online headcount by 8,000 additional students by 2030.
- Expand credit for prior learning options for all Fast Forward credentials by 2030.

### Supporting Goal 3

Provide all students with a culture of care that responds to the needs of our diverse student population and supports and inspires their educational career and success.

#### SMART Objectives:

- All colleges will offer individualized career planning approaches to guide students to the right educational choices for their career goals by 2030.
- Increase FAFSA and FANTIC application completion by 15% by 2030.
- All front-line support staff will participate in at least one professional development on financial resources to equip them to be able to respond accurately to most student inquiries by 2030.
- Increase opportunities for students to engage in paid internships and apprenticeships programs by 25% annually at every VCCS institution.

Increase usage of student wrap-around support services (i.e., SingleStop benefit review, TimelyMD, EAB Navigate advising management) by 25% by 2030.

#### Supporting Goal 4

Provide all students with the knowledge, skills, credentials, and degrees that enable them to thrive in dynamic and emerging 21st century careers shaped by the future of work.

##### SMART Objectives

Launch ten lab schools or new high school academies by 2030\*.

Increase annual concurrently enrolled students earning Fast Forward credentials by 20% by 2030\*.

Provide 12,500 cumulative meaningful postsecondary credentials to concurrently enrolled students prior to high school graduation by 2030. \*

Increase percentage of Fast Forward Completers to 95% by 2030\*.

Increase percentage of Fast Forward credential awards overall to 75% by 2030\*.

Increase IPEDS graduation rates to  $\geq 35\%$  for first-time, full-time Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and Asian Men by 2030.

Increase VCCS annual graduates employed in regionally high demand areas by 6,000 by 2030.

Increase graduates entering industries with the highest job growth in Virginia to 40% by 2030.

Increase the percentage of VCCS graduates who achieve upward mobility in Virginia to 50% by 2030.

\* Contingent on funding

#### Supporting Goal 5

Provide all students with access to affordable college educations that support their need for financial flexibility while also supporting the vitality and sustainability of our colleges.

##### SMART Objectives:

Approve and implement the VCCS model for including licensure and certification examination fees for credit programs by 2030.

Seek additional FastForward funding investments from the Commonwealth to address the ongoing annual growth of the programs by 2030.

Seek additional annual funding for capacity building efforts in regionally identified high demand programs.

Increase the funds available for student emergency needs at all 23 VCCS institutions.

Complete assessment of facilities and make recommendations for remodeling or retirement by 2030.

Seek funding support for renovation and replacement of facilities exceeding useful life by 2030.

Review current student fee structure and identify opportunities to remove restrictions by 2030.

Review current pay for performance model and current funding model by 2030.

Dr. Westover mentioned that colleges will learn this fall what our part will be in meeting the numbers and will be held accountable for next year in her evaluation.

**Vice President, Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions – Dr. Clint Pinion**

Dr. Pinion shared some of his background and mentioned that he has scheduled one-on-one meetings with his direct reports over the next two weeks.

**Action Item(s): none**

**Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services – Ms. Kristy Hall**

Ms. Hall reported on the following items:

- Ms. Hall mentioned that there is a Life Safety Project going on in Godwin Hall and that the area is currently closed. The project includes removing all the ceiling tile in that building in order to upgrade the sprinkler system, install emergency lighting and a new generator. All employees and classes held in that building have been moved to a new location. Phase 1 of that project should be completed by mid-October and employees should be able to move back into their offices. We will most likely not be able to have classes in that building until January 2025. Phase 2 is scheduled for next year.
- Ms. Hall mentioned that beginning with the Fall 2024 term, MECC will launch a new online bookstore platform for course materials and branded merchandise. Going forward, faculty will be able to easily evaluate and select their course materials through the new portal while students will review and order course materials through the MECC bookstore website and have their items sent to them on an individual basis. Akademos was selected as our exclusive vendor. Students will be able to go to one source to review their full course list and assigned course materials prior to the start of the term. The new platform is designed to provide them with affordable course materials, convenience, and choice.

Ms. Hall shared that after several retirements in that area, the College decided to move forward with this model. She mentioned that everything seems to be running smoothly and that they will be assisting students through the transition by providing services at the beginning of the semesters and walking students through the on-line process. She mentioned that Akademos does not cost the college anything and students are able to use their financial aid.

Local Funds Expenditure Report – Ms. Hall reviewed with Board members the Local Funds Expenditure Report ending June 30, 2024. (See Exhibit 6 with details)

Personnel Report – Ms. Hall reviewed the personnel report through July 2024 (See Exhibit 7 with details)

There were no questions or comments regarding the reports.

#### Vice President of Institutional Advancement/Foundation – Dr. Amy Greear

Dr. Greear was unable to attend this afternoon's meeting. Dr. Westover provided the following Foundation update on behalf of Dr. Greear:

- The MECC Foundation is set to review the initial expenditure of \$350,000 for the MECC Amphitheater Design and Environmental Study. The Foundation is working with the VCCS Vice Chancellor of Facilities who has contracted Hurt & Profitt of Roanoke to complete the study. Once the study is completed, a final site for the amphitheater will be selected. The hopes are that we will be able to break ground on phase one of the amphitheater construction in spring 2025, to include the site work and seating. The Foundation has raised more than \$2M for the project, with a total project cost expected to be around \$6M.
- The Foundation has held several successful events in the last month, including the Lonesome Pine and Ballad Health golf tournaments. These tournaments have raised more than \$10,000 for student scholarships.
- The Foundation was recently awarded a \$240,000 Workforce Training grant from the Virginia Tobacco Commission which will also support scholarships on campus. The Foundation plans to award more than \$1M in scholarships in 2024-2025, the highest amount on record.
- The MECC Foundation has announced a Slemp Foundation gift supporting the Appalachia Alumni, Lee County, East Stone Gap Alumni, ATCB Alumni, and Wise County Endowed Scholarships. In addition, Dr. Herb Ladley, a physician at Norton Community Hospital, recently established the Ladley Family Healthcare Endowed Scholarship.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS – no reports

- Executive Committee (did not meet)

- Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee – (did not meet)
- Finance and Facilities Committee: (did not meet)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS


OTHER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m. Next meeting date will be September 24, 2024.

Peggy Gibson, Recorder

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Westover, President & Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:

  
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September 24, 2024

  
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