

Meeting Minutes

MECC Local Advisory Board

Tuesday, July 18, 2023, 4:30 p.m.,

Kline Foundation Boardroom

MEMBERS PRESENT

SCOTT COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	LEE COUNTY	DICKENSON CTY	NORTON
Rodney Baker	Mike Abbott	Emily Kinser		Carol Caruso
Freda Starnes	Mike Hatfield	Scott Napier		
Keith Wilson	Roy Munsey	Kristi Taylor		
Adrienne Hood	Betty Cornett			

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joyce Williams (Lee)
Carolyn Strouth (Dickenson)

Others Attending:

Dr. Bill Brownsberger – Vice President, Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions
Mr. Ron Vicars – Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services
Dr. Amy Greer – Vice President, Institutional Advancement
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 18, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kline Foundation Boardroom. The meeting was called to order by newly appointed chair, Mr. Mike Abbott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Keith Wilson to accept the May 12, 2023, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Hatfield and passed unanimously. **(Exhibit 1)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Abbott reported on the following information items:

- 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 College Fall Picnic is scheduled for August 16 at 12:00 p.m. in the Goodloe Center. Everyone is invited to attend.

President's Report – Dr. Kristen Westover

Dr. Westover reported on the following items:

Enrollment

- The Summer Semester 2023 point-in-time headcount enrollment is 656 compared to last year's headcount of 675: a decrease of (2.8) percent. The College's FTE is 312 compared to last year's 310, reflecting an increase of (2) FTE. Summer 2023 point-in-time credit hours per student is 7.14 compared to last year's, 6.89, reflecting an increase of (0.25) percent.
- The Preliminary Fall 2023 point-in-time headcount enrollment is 1,109 compared to last year's headcount of 944, an increase of (17) percent. FTE is 800 compared to last year's report of 666; an increase of (20) percent. Fall 2023 point-in-time credit hours per student is 10.82 compared to last year's 10.59; an increase of (2.15) percent. **(Exhibit 2)**

Dr. Westover mentioned that MECC has the second largest growth in enrollment compared to other colleges in the VCCS.

Other Updates

- Dr. Westover reviewed with Board members her current community involvement that included a list of internal and external activities from May 11 – July 17, 2023. **(Exhibit 3)**.
- Dr. Westover mentioned that she and other VCCS presidents had attended the Chancellor's Retreat in June. She stated that discussions included more input from the presidents in regard to student needs and strategic planning. She also shared several items that came out of those discussions that will be reflected in the six-year plan for the VCCS and will be presented for approval at Thursday's State Board meeting. One of those items is that our new Chancellor would like to take a more regional approach to delivery and reporting of graduates and numbers. She mentioned that the challenge would be regional delivery as it would affect students having to travel long distances between the southwest schools. She and other regional presidents (Dr. Hutchinson, Dr. Sprinkle, and Dr. Wright) met recently and have put together a plan they think will work for our region involving programs such as health care, industrial technology, energy, and other initiatives that are in our GO Virginia plan. Our Chancellor's wish is to align us more around the GO Virginia regions and to report more and to offer programing aligned with GO Virginia regions. Dr. Westover stated that will most likely be what our six-year plan will be based on, and Dr. Westover will give an update at our next Board meeting.
- Dr. Westover mentioned that during the pandemic the VCCS in 2021 began a new six-year strategic plan called Opportunity 2027 designed to run from 2021-2027. The first biennium of that strategic plan was built around implementing strategies that would then be able to measure during the next four years of the plan. Dr. Westover was assigned to goal two at the System level that was focused on the teaching and learning goal in terms of trying to get strategies in place that could then be measured. She mentioned that the Chancellor plans to discuss outcomes during the next ACOP meeting and what metrics will be used to measure some of these goals. She feels that is the one thing that is missing from the VCCS's Opportunity 2027 Plan.

Dr. Westover reported progress toward MECC's Strategic Plan and how they tie in to the bigger VCCS Opportunity 2027 Plan.

Below are goals that we have worked on this year in terms of progress toward the 2022-23 strategies from the MECC College Strategic Plan **(See attached report for details)**

In addition to the accomplishments listed in the following presentation, the strategies MECC has enacted in the last 4 years have resulted in a 16% increase in the graduation rate, from 28.65% in 2018 to 44% in 2022.

In that same period, MECC increased the number of degrees and certificates awarded by 50%, and increased fall-to-fall retention from 56% to 68% for all students and to 70% for first-time full-time students.

- Goal 2: The College will ensure representation of diverse populations to external stakeholders.
- Goal 3: All faculty will be supported and engaged in high impact strategies that focus on and incorporate the individual needs of our students and reflect research in the scholarship of teaching and learning, regardless of instructional delivery modality.
- Goal 6: MECC will provide all students with a culture of care that responds to the needs of our diverse student population.
- Goal 9: MECC will work with employers and Colleges both inside and outside of the service region to ensure usability of credits and degrees earned upon graduation.
- Goal 11: MECC will provide all students with access to affordable college educations that support their need for financial flexibility.

VCCS Opportunity 2027: MECC Progress

- Goal: Ensure student access to needed technology: The college will provide a robust and secure IT infrastructure that supports on-demand access to information.
- Goal: Protect the integrity of the college's information and IT assets by strengthening MECC's cybersecurity posture.
- Goal: Enhance collaboration across departments through digital solutions to inform and engage internal and external audiences.
- Goal: Align curricular content with the expressed business needs of employers, including periodic review and updates by business advisory groups; develop methods and schedules to update all credentialing programs to ensure alignment with industry changes.
- Goal: Create a sustainable model for funding free community college to all populations within MECC's service region
- Goal: Utilize a career concierge approach that guides students to the right educational choices for their career goals and upon which students may continue to rely over the course of their academic career.
- Goal: Evaluate effectiveness of 8-week terms, flexible hybrid course delivery, and online course delivery to respond to the changing needs of students; explore year-round scheduling to improve retention and persistence.
- Goal: Create a component within the existing Distance Education and Instructional Technology peer review rubric and within the full and part-time faculty observation form relating to diversity and inclusion in course content, delivery, and teaching practices.

As mentioned before, the State Board is meeting this Thursday to discuss the results of the Opportunity 2027 Strategic Plan to-date, an increase in tuition, and the adoption of the 6-year plan. The top three priorities for the 6-year plan are:

- ❖ Increase regional capacity (build state of the art career and tech programs & labs)
- ❖ Provide every high school student with a meaningful post-secondary credential.
- ❖ Pay for Performance (increase Fast Forward opportunities)

Dr. Westover will share more information regarding the 6-year plan at our next meeting.

- Dr. Westover also mentioned that there will need to be a change in language to the Code of Virginia to reflect definitions of dual enrollment which will be a legislative priority this year.

Vice President, Academic Affairs and Workforce Solutions – Dr. Bill Brownsberger

Dr. Brownsberger reported on the following items:

- Dr. Brownsberger shared an update from our last Board meeting regarding the RN NCLEX pass rate. The Virginia Board of Nursing requires an 80% pass rate or higher and shared that toward the end of the pandemic we had slipped a little below that rate (78.7%) which triggered a visit from the Board of Nursing. However, since then, we have had several students take the NCLEX and pass putting us above 80%. Three more students are expected to take the test toward the end of July and are hoping to bring that pass rate even higher.
- Personnel updates: Dr. Brownsberger mentioned that we have lost three out of our four deans this year; one through retirement, one moving to fill that position, and another transferring to another institution within the VCCS. At this time, those positions are not having to be filled since we have several employees that are filling those interim positions who may apply later. Two of those division deans (Arts & Sciences and Business Tech) will be working regarding Transfer VA which is streamlining key curricular changes making sure that classes at MECC will transfer to a four-year university per student's choice - mandated by the VCCS to streamline some of the titles we have for degrees. Deadline for submission is December 1, 2023.
- Dr. Brownsberger was happy to report that the first graduation class of 14-15 students took place at Camp 18 in June. The event was well attended – funding provided by GO Virginia.

Action Item(s): none

Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services – Mr. Ron Vicars

Mr. Vicars reported on the following items:

- Mr. Vicars mentioned the water and electricity in Lot B is currently in the process of being upgraded which will be a huge asset for our Home Craft Days event for vendors in regard to electricity and water usage.
- We are moving forward with the Pharmacy Tech lab – the same company that is doing Lot B is also doing the work in the Pharmacy Tech lab.
- Mr. Vicars mentioned that as soon as the amendments at the state level get approved, MECC will be the recipient of a grant for an electrical charging station which will be an extension of the Lot B electrical upgrade.
- FY23 budget year has been closed but we are still waiting for the State to pass the biennium budget. Mr. Vicars mentioned that the College is still working through some issues with the new Cardinal payroll system.

Local Funds Expenditure Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed with Board members the Local Funds Expenditure Report ending June 30, 2023. (See Exhibit 6 with details)

Personnel Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed the personnel report through July 2023 (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 reported on the following items:

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- Dr. Greear reported that all local municipalities have promised to support the MECC Promise Program in full of the amount requested for each locality. She mentioned that they continue to advertise, and specific ads have been done for each area. A press release was sent out today reminding folks of the deadline.
- The Foundation recently held two successful golf tournaments; My Town Golf Tournament raised approximately \$16,000 in revenue and are expecting good revenue from the Lee County Golf Tournament sponsored by Ballard Health. These proceeds will go to the Wise and Lee Endowed Scholarships.
- Several new scholarships have been recently added:
 - Appalachia High School Alumni Scholarship in the amount of \$5,000 matched by the Slemple Foundation and will be awarded to Union High School student that lives in Appalachia.
 - Wise County Scholarship in the amount of \$20,000 from the Rapha Foundation matched by the Slemple Foundation.

Amy mentioned that the Foundation continues to raise money for different scholarships such as adults wanting to return to school.

Dr. Westover added that a System wide campaign is getting ready to start called “Find Your Answer Campaign” promoting the VCCS. If a student goes to the Find Your Answer.com website and puts in their name and locality it will direct them to our college. It is the Systems way to promote the VCCS but to also get students connected to the college in their region.

COMMITTEE 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 19, 2023.

Peggy Gibson, Recorder

MECC Advisory Board Chair

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Westover, President & Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:

Michael D. Astor
Chair

9/20/23
Date