

Meeting Minutes

MECC Local Advisory Board

Tuesday, November 15, 2022, 4:30 p.m.

Kline Foundation Boardroom

Zoom was made available for those traveling for Thanksgiving Holiday

MEMBERS PRESENT

SCOTT COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	LEE COUNTY	NORTON	DICKENSON CTY
Rodney Baker Adrienne Hood	Kalen Hunter Mike Abbott Roy Munsey Betty Cornett	Emily Kinser (Zoom)	Carol Caruso	Connie Stallard

MEMBERS ABSENT

Freda Starnes (Scott)
Keith Wilson (Scott)
Joyce Williams (Lee)
Kristi Taylor (Lee)
Scott Napier (Lee)
Mike Hatfield (Wise)

Others Attending:

Mr. Ron Vicars – Vice President, Financial and Administrative Services
Dr. Amy Greer – Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Dr. Bill Brownsberger – Vice President of Academic and Workforce Solutions
Mr. Jake Gilly – President of Faculty Senate
Ms. Vicki Rutledge – President of Association of Classified Employees
Peggy Gibson – Executive Assistant to the President

CALL TO ORDER

The Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board met on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. in the Kline Foundation Boardroom. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodney Baker, Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Roy Munsey to accept the September 27, 2022, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Adrienne Hood and passed unanimously. **(Exhibit 1)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Baker reported on the following information items:

- Mr. Baker reminded Board that the MECC Christmas Luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, December 1st in the Goodloe Center.
- Mr. Baker welcomed the following new Board members recently appointed to the MECC Advisory Board:

- Ms. Carol Caruso – Representing the City of Norton and filling the unexpired term of Tim Cassell.
- Ms. Connie Stallard – Representing Dickenson County

President’s Report – Dr. Kristen Westover

Enrollment

The Fall 2022 semester enrollment 1,216 compared to last year’s 1,313: down (7) percent in total FTE.

Total headcount is 1,928 compared to last year’s 2,080; down (7) percent.

Other Updates

- Dr. Westover shared with Board members some discrepancies in higher education funding after reviewing data they received at the October ACOP meeting found here:
<https://www.schev.edu/about/additional-activities/cost-study-for-higher-education>
For us to be level funded with Richard Bland College (which is the only other community college that is not part of the VCCS) it would take an influx of \$236M into the VCCS. We are the lowest funded in the higher education system and lower funded per FTE than our peers in the United States by several hundred dollars. These discrepancies are a part of the SCHEV survey that was conducted as part of the Joint Legislative Audit Review Commission (JLARC) to look at the new funding formula for higher ed in Virginia - which had not been reviewed for over twenty years. Dr. Westover shared that they are trying to create recommendations around what should change in the funding formula.
Chancellor Sharon Morrissey shared with the Governor’s office that if they want to impact the 300K open jobs in Virginia, then we must be able to grow programs - if they fund us incrementally then they will get incremental results.
- The President’s Institute class will be attending the VCCS State Board meeting on Thursday.
- The Legislative Reception is January 17th.

Legislative Priorities for 2023 HIRE Virginia

- Increase Workforce Credentials Grant Funding: 2.7MM, Recurring (original ask was 24M)
- Provide Start-up and Capacity Building Funds for High-Cost, High Demand Workforce Programs with Employer Match: \$12M, non-recurring (original ask was \$100M)
- Provide Funding to Support Internship and Career Placement Opportunities: \$10M, Recurring
- Expand Healthcare and Behavioral Health Dual Enrollment Pathways: \$10M, Recurring
- Increase Academic Student Advising Capacity: \$6.3M, Recurring
- Address Mental Health Services: \$2.4M, Recurring
- Marketing
- The Forum on Education is scheduled for March 9, 2023, in conjunction with UVA-Wise.
- Dr. Westover reported that we are moving forward with our MECC Promise Program. As you recall, last year, the MECC Advisory Board approved a Resolution to provide a tuition free “promise” program for recent high school graduates and the Foundation Board acted on that resolution. Over the last couple of months, Dr. Westover reported that she and Dr. Greear have been working with all the localities in our service region (Wise, Norton, Lee, Scott) with request to assist in closing the tuition gap for high school graduates from their counties. Dickenson County already has a mechanism for funding the promise program through the Columbus Phipps Foundation.
So far, Norton, Wise, and Scott have indicated that they will plan to fund the gap for their regions. Dr. Westover plans to reach back out to Lee County as they begin to build their budget.
- Dr. Greear and Dr. Westover will be speaking during this Friday’s High School Counselor luncheon to gather feedback for MECC’s Promise Program.

- The new Marketing Director, Justin Barker, began November 7.
- Dr. Westover shared that MECC's Home Craft Days and 50th Anniversary Gala was held last month - both events went well. The 50th Anniversary campaign currently has raised approximately \$7.8M and just this year alone raised \$5.67M.

ACTION ITEM: None

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

Local Funds Expenditure Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed with Board members the Local Funds Expenditure Report ending October 31, 2022. (See Exhibit 3 with details)

Personnel Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed the personnel report ending November 14, 2022. (See Exhibit 4 with details)

There was no discussion or questions from the Board regarding these reports.

ACTION ITEM(s): None

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

- Dr. Brownsberger reported that we continue to engage with our community. Mr. Peter Wessell, from Boeing visited our campus yesterday regarding possible manufacturing internships for Community & Technical Colleges in drafting, mechatronics, HVAC, etc. Starting wages would be approximately \$50 an hour.
- Dr. Brownsberger shared that we have been mandated by the VCCS to discontinue the Associate of Arts & Science degree. He mentioned that findings are that an Associate of Arts & Sciences does not meet requirements for students who plan to transfer to a 4-year university. He mentioned that this will involve a lot of curricular work for us and will most likely take a couple of years to complete. Deadline is 2025.
- Dr. Brownsberger mentioned that MECC has started a new precision machining program in coordination with Komatsu. He mentioned that Komatsu has agreed to provide equipment, consumables, and coordinate instruction. Currently, we are now in the process of approving the curriculum. Precision machining is all due to a grant we received from the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

ACTION ITEM(s): None

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

Information Item(s):

Dr. Greear shared the following updates regarding fundraising:

MECC's 50th Anniversary fundraising started last year in July of 2021 and will conclude in October 2022. At that time, the Foundation Board set a fundraising goal of \$2M with primary objectives of (1) raising funds to support scholarships, (2) amphitheater project, (3) unrestricted giving. Below is the breakdown in terms of donations and grants for our 50th Anniversary:

- Donations \$2,222,724.80 (private gifts and donations)
- Grants \$5,673,433.00 (See breakdown below)

Total Grants Cumulative	\$5,673,433.00
HRSA	887,676.00
Tobacco Workforce 1	240,000.00 (workforce training tuition training)
VCEDA	200,000.00 (certifications for students)
Tobacco Special Projects	419,732.00 (KOMOTSU precision machining program)
Slemp Foundation	1,500,000.00 (Amphitheater project)
RAPHA Foundation (1)	500,000.00 (Amphitheater project match)
RAPHA Foundation (2)	225,000.00 (Title III strengthening institutions grant)
AMLER	960,000.00 (renovation of CWIA)
VCEDA Solar	115,000.00 (solar initiative project)
Go Virginia	101,025.00 (Project Weld – Camp 18 welding project)
Opportunity Appalachia	50,000.00 (funding for engineering and design of amphitheater)
Evolve Capp	50,000.00 (project through Virginia Tech critical minerals)
GENAN	750,000.00 (support MECC Promise program)

Total Raised \$7,896,157.80

- Dr. Greear mentioned that she and Dr. Westover have visited with each county Board of Supervisor (with the exception of Dickenson County) regarding MECC’s Promise Program and thanked MECC Board member Keith Wilson for joining Dr. Westover at the Scott County Board of Supervisors Meeting. Dr. Greear mentioned that they feel confident that at least two of our counties will support the MECC Promise effort and are hopeful that the others will also include funding in their 2023 budgets. Follow ups are planned for each county administrator.
- The Virginia Tobacco Commission approved a request for \$419,000 for an expansion of the CWIA to include moving a part-time CDL program instructor to full time to provide for another four cohorts of students annually, or 30 students annually, and the development of a precision machining program in coordination with Komatsu. Komatsu has agreed to provide equipment, consumables, and coordinate instruction. In addition, the college was notified last week that we have received a \$960,000 AMLER grant to renovate the CWIA, to include HVAC, electrical and roofing upgrades. These are exciting developments for the college and are included within our 50th anniversary fundraising.
- Dr. Greear mentioned that a new marketing coordinator has been hired who began Nov. 7. One of the first projects is for the coordinator to create a marketing plan and strategy for the MECC Promise Program. This position is paid for by the college but will be under the direction of Dr. Greear.
- We have received two additional grants from the VCCS in the last week (about \$13,000) provided by Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield to support student emergency assistance needs.
- Foundation personnel is working to complete the annual report and in the next month will begin the process of sending all scholarship donors an update of their scholarship holding, recipient names, and thank you letters. A notification of the administrative fee will also be sent with that letter.
- The Foundation was able to utilize Title III funds to purchase a used school bus for \$5,500 from King Moore Supply to support the CDL instruction for school bus drivers in the region. Changes in DMV CDL law required bus drivers to receive additional training that MECC could provide (similar to our current program). This training is geared to begin soon both at CWIA and campus.

ACTION ITEM(s): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee: (did not meet)
- Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee – Dr. Bill Brownsberger
 - **(Career Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Education, Special Needs Concentration)**
(See Attachment #5 for details)

Dr. Brownsberger shared that the Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee meet previously to review and discuss the attached Career Studies Certificate (CSC). Dr. Brownsberger mentioned that the Committee unanimously voted to approve the CSC as presented and to present for full Board approval The Special Needs Concentration Career Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Education.

This CSC allows persons working in early-childhood development and K-6 educators to gain valuable strategies for educating a special (and growing) population of underserved students and to earn special-needs credentials. Additional training is often requested by area schools since, at present, there are few that focus on this population. Potential partnerships include the Scott County Head Start Program, Blue Mountain Therapy, and Norton City Schools.

Ms Betty Cornett, Chair of the Curriculum and Student Affairs Committee, recommended that the full Board approve the new Career Studies Certificate in Early Childhood Education, Special Needs Concentration, as presented. The recommendation was unanimously approved by the MECC Advisory Board.

- Finance and Facilities Committee (did not meet)

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

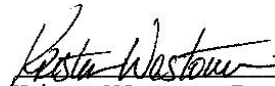
OTHER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m. Next meeting date will be January 24, 2023.

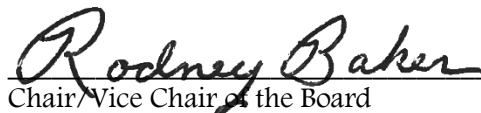
Peggy Gibson, Recorder

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Westover, President & Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:


Chair/Vice Chair of the Board

January 24, 2023
Date