

Meeting Minutes

MECC Local Advisory Board

Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 4:30 p.m.,

Kline Foundation Boardroom and via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT

SCOTT COUNTY	WISE COUNTY	LEE COUNTY	NORTON	DICKENSON CTY
Rodney Baker	Bonnie Elosser	Gail Elliott	Tim Cassell	Les Ritchie
Freda Starnes	Mike Abbott	Gary Perdue		
Adrienne Hood	Roy Munsey	Emily Kinser		
Keith Wilson	Mike Hatfield	Elwanda Pillions		
	Betty Cornett			

MEMBERS ABSENT

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
Mr. Jake Gilly – President – Faculty Senate
Dr. Kristen Westover - President
Peggy Gibson – Executive Assistant to the President

CALL TO ORDER

The Mountain Empire Community College Advisory Board met on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 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. Mike Hatfield to accept the September 21, 2021, minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Betty Cornett and passed unanimously. **(Exhibit 1)**

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Mr. Baker reported on the following information items:

- MECC Christmas Luncheon – December 3rd at 11:00 a.m. in the Goodloe Center.

President's Report – Dr. Kristen Westover

Dr. Westover reported on the following items:

Activities Report

Most of Dr. Westover's meetings remain virtual with the exception of the following:

-  Community Colleges of Appalachia Fall Conference (CCA) – Corning, NY (October 27-29)
Dr. Westover is part of the CCA Board.

Enrollment

The 2021 Fall Semester Enrollment headcount as of November is 2,080 compared to last year's 2,241: reflecting a decrease of (7) percent. The College's FTE is 1,320 compared to last years, 1,435 reflecting a decrease of (8.5) percent. Overall, the VCCS is approximately 6.5% down.

COVID Update

- No current employees reported with COVID
- One lineman cohort was paused for one week due to COVID
- As of October 24th, three students tested positive for COVID

Event Updates

Dr. Westover shared that our 50th Anniversary Picnic was a huge success and felt like everyone enjoyed the day. She also mentioned that although there was some change in the Home Craft Days Friday night concert, she felt it went very well and was well attended. HCD weekend went very well also.

Other Updates

The college will soon be making disbursements to our students using the Coronavirus Relief Funding for the fall semester.

Dr. Westover discussed with Board members that during the last meeting of the MECC Advisor Board, a Resolution for the framework of filling the gap for our students in terms of tuition revenue was passed. As a follow up, she shared that the tuition gap was a little higher than what was initially expected, especially with some students receiving full Pell.

She shared the following:

- 2019-2020 the college served a total of 1,554 students with a tuition gap of \$802,957.05
- 2020-2021 the college served a total of 1,473 students with a tuition gap of \$878,928.32

She mentioned that the tuition gap consistently runs approximately \$800 - \$900k and shared the amounts for different localities:

	<u>2019-2020</u>		<u>2020-2021</u>	
Dickenson	182 students	\$59,300.76	181 students	\$75,584.34
Lee	321 students	\$122,941.32	286 students	\$147,911.78
Norton	82 students	\$27,172.54	81 students	\$28,139.06
Other Virginia	43 students	\$84,639.30	43 students	\$101,507.51
Out of State	41 students	\$59,519.87	43 students	\$93,830.46
Scott	245 students	\$101,065.60	226 students	\$90,149.26
Wise	640 students	\$348,317.66	613 students	\$341,805.91
TOTAL	1554	\$802,957.05	1473	\$878,928.32

Dr. Westover reported that the Presidents had received a system update yesterday, Monday, November 8th, regarding Virginia election results, System-wide DEI initiatives, and the VCCS funding priorities for the upcoming legislative session. The system should be receiving feedback soon regarding the system's One Virginia Plan. All colleges were asked to rate themselves on a 6-stage continuum. The goal of the One Virginia plan is to have all state agencies operating at stage 4 within 5 years. Colleges in the VCCS reported ranking between levels 2-4, with MECC reporting a ranking between 3 and 4 on the continuum.

The VCCS legislative priorities indicated that there will likely be approximately \$20 million in additional G3 expansion funding included in the Governor's proposed budget, however, the nursing expansion priority may not appear in the Governor's initial budget. If it does not, system level leadership will work to get funding included in the budget that supports expansion of nursing programs in the VCCS. The Chancellor also reported that at this time, the VCCS will not pursue the ability to offer bachelor degree nursing offerings.

Other initiatives that are priorities for this year are:

- Increase academic advising capacity system-wide
- Maintain access and affordability tuition moderation funding
- Address mental health barriers for community college students

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

Dr. Brownsberger reported on the following items:

Welding opportunity at Camp 18:

Dr. Brownsberger mentioned that the Camp 18 project is still underway. As reported in our last meeting, Dr. Brownsberger shared that MECC is starting a new welding program at Camp 18, located in Flatwoods, VA for nonviolent offenders. He mentioned that the Go Virginia grant is about to be finalized and is hoping to receive funds of support for this project. He also mentioned to hope to have a formalized curriculum in the future for this initiative so that student would have the opportunity to receive credit and the Second Chance Pell.

The Second Chance Pell Grants is offered to incarcerated students in postsecondary education programs in state and federal prisons. The program was expanded in 2020 to allow up to 67 additional programs to participate. Lawmakers expanded access to Pell Grants once again to include students who are incarcerated, as long as they are enrolled in prison education programs that are approved by their state corrections departments or the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and that meet other requirements. This expansion of the Second Chance Pell experiment will allow for opportunities to study the best practices for implementing the reinstatement of Pell Grant eligibility for incarcerated students

Other updates:

Dr. Brownsberger also mentioned that he has been working with Solar Biotech, Inc., which is located in our region and is looking to increase operations, bringing more jobs to our area.

He mentioned that there has also been some discussion regarding what skills are needed in order to develop a Bioprocessing Sciences Certificate - which could be a modification of our current Chemical Operators certificate.

He also mentioned that there have been some conversations with Eastman Chemical as well as Solar Futures regarding new programs and how the college might be able to address their needs as well.

Dr. Brownsberger shared that they have recently explored the possibility of offering a career studies certificate in Agricultural Entrepreneurship which is an opportunity that would encourage landowners/producers in our region to learn some specialized training in crop production and livestock.

ACTION ITEM(s): None

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

Mr. Vicars reported on the following items:

Mr. Vicars reported that his area continues to work with the reporting and distribution of the different Coronavirus Relief Funds that have been made available and will continue to monitor funding heading into January 2022 as the State budget is made available.

Local Funds Expenditure Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed with Board members the Local Funds Expenditure Report ending October 31, 2021. **(See Exhibit 3 with details)** Mr. Vicars brought to Boards attention that due to the October 31st cutoff

o there are several items for Home Craft Days that had not yet been paid out but will reflect in the January Local Funds report.

Personnel Report – Mr. Vicars reviewed the personnel report ending November 9, 2021. **(See Exhibit 4 with details)**

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

ACTION ITEM(s): None

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

Dr. Greear reported on the following items:

Foundation Update:

Dr. Greear provided an update on fundraising for this year and specifically the college's 50th anniversary effort. She shared that the Foundation Board has set a goal to raise \$2M for the 50th anniversary with funding priorities being with 1.) scholarships, 2.) infrastructure (amphitheater) and 3.) unrestricted funds. To date, the Foundation have raised more than \$127,000 specifically for our 50th anniversary, with more than \$1.6M in pledges thus far. Overall, the MECC Foundation has raised \$855,755 in 2021. She mentioned that they are working toward meeting our \$500,000 match request from the Slemp Foundation for our amphitheater project. Dr. Westover and Dr. Greear have met with two foundations in the last several weeks regarding funding requests.

The Foundation recently partnered with Southwest Community College, Appalachian Voices, and VCEDA to apply for a solar installation initiative grant that will help train individuals to install solar panels in our region. Dr. Greear mentioned that, if awarded, the grant will bring more than \$100,000 for this effort.

The Foundation has kicked off the employee giving campaign at MECC. A special soup event raised more than \$500 in employee donations for the amphitheater project. The campaign will extend through November with a goal of 100 percent employee participation.

The Foundation applied for and received an Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to support the purchase of turkeys/hams for 200 students for Thanksgiving.

Two new endowed scholarships have been created – the Bob and Dorothy Isaac Scholarship in memory of long time Advisory and Foundation Board member Bob Isaac and the Roger Daugherty Buccaneer Endowed Scholarship honoring our 2021 Hall of Honor Recipient Roger Daugherty, a longtime member of the MECC Foundation Board and the originator of the Buccaneer Endowed Scholarship.

The Foundation presented two major public art projects as part of the recent 50th anniversary HCD event – at the lower parking lot in front of Godwin Hall is a new glass art installation by local glass artist Ray Moore. The piece represents the mountains in the fall and is a beautiful permanent edition to the campus. Welding students helped install the piece led by Instructor Jimmie Pitman. In addition, welding students and instructors created a life size or larger than life size replica of the Home Craft Days logo. This was a temporary installation and will are working to find a permanent home for this piece.

ACTION ITEM(s): None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Executive Committee: (did not meet)
- Finance and Facilities Committee: (did not meet)

- Curriculum & Student Affairs Committee: (Dr. Bill Brownsberger)
 - 2021-2022 Curriculum Advisory Committees

ACTION ITEM: The Curriculum & Student Affairs Committee met this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. to discuss and review the recently updated list of the 2021-2022 Curriculum Advisory Committees.

Mr. Keith Wilson, Chair of the Curriculum & Student Affairs Committee, mentioned that there are two Committees that did not meet the minimum number of 6 which is required and was deleted from their discussion. Those Committees are:

Childhood Development
Real Estate

Mr. Wilson presented and recommended for approval the remaining list as presented, with the exception of the two Committees listed above.

A motion was made by Ms. Bonnie Elosser to accept the updated list of the 2021-2022 Curriculum Advisory Committees and seconded by Mr. Roy Munsey.

NOTE: Pharmacy Tech was inadvertently left off this list and will be sent via email for approval. The other two Committees without sufficient committee members will also be included for approval via email.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

OTHER COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m. Next meeting date will be January 18, 2022.

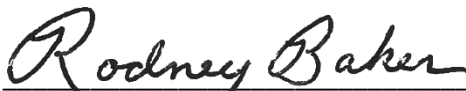
Peggy Gibson, Recorder

Respectfully Submitted,



Kristen Westover, President & Secretary to the Board

APPROVED:



Chair/Vice Chair of the Board

1/18/22

Date