

**New River Community College Board
(Region 10)
Meeting Number Three Hundred Fifty**

MINUTES

March 1, 2021

Meeting number three hundred fifty of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, March 1, 2021, via Zoom videoconference due to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Christopher Calfee (Radford City)
Mr. Craig Chancellor (Floyd County)
Mr. William (Bill) Cunningham (Pulaski County)
Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Dewald-Link (Floyd County)
Mr. Steven Harvey (Radford City)
Ms. Jessica Littlejohn (Montgomery County)
Ms. Bobbie Potter (Montgomery County)
Dr. Sharon Scott (Montgomery County)
Mr. Jonathan Sweet (Pulaski County)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Richard Chidester (Giles County)
Mr. Cameron Peel (Pulaski County)
Mr. James Wheeler (Giles County)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Melissa Anderson, Director of Human Resources and Business Operations
Dr. Peter Anderson, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Ms. Debbie Bond, Dean of Business and Technologies
Ms. Angie F. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation
Dr. Patricia B. Huber, President
Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Dean of Student Services
Dr. Graham Mitchell, Faculty Assembly President
Mr. Ronnie Nichols, Facilities Services Manager
Mrs. Kathy T. Ridpath, Administrative Assistant, President's Office
Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations
Dr. Fritz M. Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research
Ms. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, Dean of Arts and Sciences
Mr. John L. Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Steven Harvey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed and published.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Harvey welcomed everyone in attendance.

3. Agenda for Approval

Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the revised agenda - Exhibit D, Local Funds Budget (under heading Budget and Finance Committee was changed from FY21 to FY22).

Motion: Dr. Peggy Dewald-Link made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with revision. Mr. Bill Cunningham seconded the motion.

Action: The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

4. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of meeting number three hundred forty-nine, held on Monday, December 7, 2020, were disseminated in the meeting packet. No questions were posed. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Mr. Bill Cunningham made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Jonathan Sweet seconded the motion.

Action: The motion carried unanimously via roll call.

5. President's Report

Dr. Huber introduced Mr. Ronnie Nichols who gave an update of the fire incident in the Automotive Lab in Martin Hall that occurred on February 23. Questions were posed and discussed. Highlights of the report included:

- Photos of the damaged areas were presented and discussed
- Claim filed with Risk Management Services in Richmond
- ServPro will provide the cleanup

Dr. Huber reported that through a complicated chain of events, the Machining Department has received a Mazak horizontal milling machine through the NRCC Educational Foundation. The machine had previously been in the Center of Excellence in Abingdon (which was funded by the Tobacco Commission). She stated that the college is excited about the expanded opportunities for students and for serving the training/educational needs of the region's industries. Highlights of the report of the donation of the new machine included:

- Other machines in the lab are made by Haas.
- The Mazak machine provides students with programming experiences in another format.
- Mazak machine is twice as fast as the highest-grade Haas machine in the lab and is used in industry for heavy duty machining.

- Kohlmorgan is an industry in the service region that has Mazak machining.
- Value of the machine is between \$200,000 – \$250,000.

Dr. Huber informed the Board that Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Dean of Student Services, recently received the Distinguished College Administrator Award by Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society. PTK is the national honor society for academic achievement for two-year college students. Dr. Kennedy was nominated by the NRCC Omega Eta chapter. She was the only administrator receiving this award in Virginia. Dr. Huber noted that Dr. Kennedy began as a NRCC student and received an Educational Foundation Scholarship during her time as a student.

Dr. Huber provided an update on the spring semester. The spring semester is following similar procedures as the fall semester. Majority of the classes are online. There are minimal on-campus, hands-on, face-to-face labs in primarily the career/technical areas. Approximately 20 – 25 percent of students are on campus with 75 – 80 percent online. She noted that a typical semester is about 60 percent on-campus students with approximately 40 percent online. She stated that she continues to be pleased with and is appreciative of the campus community with their adherence to CDC and VDH guidelines. She stated that there is concern about the pandemic’s impact on the mental and emotional health of students and employees, but the college is managing well and remains focused on providing positive learning experiences and support for students. She noted that New River is a mission-driven institution.

Dr. Huber gave an update on plans for a Commencement Ceremony. The college is close to making a decision regarding Commencement. She stated there will not be a traditional ceremony like in the past, but there will be some type of observance. Options include a virtual ceremony or a drive-through ceremony. She stated that the President’s Staff and deans recently had an in-depth discussion on plans for the ceremony. A planning committee will discuss this issue and make a final recommendation to the President’s Staff in the next couple of weeks. The Governor plans to issue guidelines regarding commencement ceremonies soon. More information will be forthcoming.

Dr. Huber reported that no announcement has been made at this point regarding fall semester. The fall schedule was released and contains more face-to-face classes. She commented that the hope would be to see a more “normal” fall semester. The caveat will be vaccinations. Higher education faculty and staff are not in the current protocol for vaccines. Currently the state is in Phases 1a and 1b. Higher education faculty and staff fall in Phase 1c. She stated that the college is hoping for the best but is preparing for whatever conditions might occur. She stated the college is “mastering” flexibility and patience.

Dr. Huber provided a report on the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act Fund Grant for Colleges and Universities (CRRSAA). Highlights of her report included:

- Direct aid for students in the amount of \$829,000
- Institutional aid in the amount of \$2.8 million
- College is waiting for System decisions/guidance before releasing aid to students
- Top priority for Institutional Funds is relief for lost revenue due to enrollment decline
- Regulations regarding how funds are spent

- John Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology, manages the funds
- Audits will follow funds

Dr. Huber reported that the State Board is scheduled to review and approve the next six-year strategic plan for the VCCS. The current plan included only one goal: “Triple the number of credentials.” The new plan is built on the theme “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.” A copy of the plan will be forwarded to the Board once approved by the State Board.

Dr. Huber provided a follow-up report on work done last summer and discussion and action held during the September Board meeting on the review of college buildings and facilities. She stated that advisory boards of three VCCS colleges are recommending to the State Board the change of names of their colleges. These include John Tyler Community College, Lord Fairfax Community College, and Thomas Nelson Community College.

6. Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research

Dr. Streff provided a report on enrollment for the fall semester. There was an overall change of a 1.66 percent decline over the relative time last year. The VCCS showed a decline of 3.17 percent. For dual-enrolled students, there was a decline in enrollment of 9 percent with the VCCS showing a decline of 6 percent. For the spring semester, there is a decrease in enrollment of 7.68 percent (discounting dual enrollment – a decrease of 16.4 percent). The college is about 2 percentage points down below the VCCS overall FTE change and about 9 percentage points down in non-dual enrolled students. NRCC is ranked 20th overall discounting dual-enrolled students and 13th overall in FTEs. At this point, the summer enrollment shows a decrease of 26.8 percent in FTEs.

7. Workforce Development and External Relations

Workforce Development/External Relations Update

Dr. Rowh stated that despite the pandemic, the Workforce Development Office has been able to keep the offerings of the short-term, FastForward courses. Enrollment in these courses shows an increase of 47 percent over last year. He reported on the REV (Re-employing Virginians) program that was implemented at the end of 2020. This program has been extended until the end of 2021. These funds are targeted to those who are unemployed or underemployed due to jobs changing during the pandemic.

Dr. Rowh informed the Board that in early January Volvo requested to use the college’s facility in Edwards Hall to train and orient about 300-500 new employees. He noted that the college has not been able to meet the community demand for use of facilities due to the pandemic. However, the college was able to respond to Volvo’s request given the nature of the college’s mission, which includes training for industries. Volvo has been using the bottom area of Edwards Hall and is providing their own cleaning and facility maintenance needs.

General Assembly Update

Dr. Rowh provided a summary report of actions taken by the General Assembly in the 2021 session as it affects the VCCS. Highlights included:

- Virginia economy doing better than expected

- New resources expected going into the biennium were \$1.26 billion
 - An additional \$735 million in new resources
- Total spending of \$135 billion over the biennium
- \$36 million for the G3 (Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back) grant (includes \$1.5 million for marketing and outreach and \$34.5 million for the program)
- \$15 million in operational funding
- Earmarks \$2.5 million of the \$15 million operational funding for advisors in support of the G3 program for a total of \$5 million to expand advising
- Includes a 5 percent salary increase for staff, faculty and adjunct faculty (effective July 1)

8. Instruction and Student Services

Dr. Peter Anderson provided a description of the G3 and REV funds and how they work at NRCC. REV is a program the Governor's Office initiated for Virginia's community colleges to provide workforce/career training to Virginians who are unemployed or underemployed due to the pandemic. It covers the cost of tuition and fees for specific programs. These individuals must certify that they are unemployed or working in a part-time position with an hourly wage under \$15. This funding pays for short-term Workforce FastForward programs and some credit programs in the areas of Early Childhood Education, Healthcare, Information Technology, Manufacturing and skilled trades, and Public Safety. This funding will also allow for two REV advisors who will be responsible for connecting and assisting individuals who inquire about the program. These advisors will support enrollment and enhance the students' success. Dr. Anderson commented that they would play a key role in bringing in new students into these career programs. Questions were posed and discussed.

The G3 grant (Get a Skill, Get a Job, and Give Back) would pay for tuition and fees for low-and-middle-income individuals to fill jobs in Nursing, Advanced Manufacturing, Industrial Maintenance, Cyber Security, Information Technology, and Child Development. In February 2019, the college received \$119,000 from the VCCS and the Department of Labor to develop career pathways in the areas listed above. Due to the pandemic, this initiative was put on hold. Beginning this fall, students will be able to receive G3 funding. Dr. Anderson commended the academic deans, Ms. Debbie Bond and Ms. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, for their work in obtaining approval for all Associated of Applied Science degrees, certificates, and career studies certificates in the approved sectors. Questions were posed and discussed.

Dr. Anderson provided a report of the SNAP 50/50 benefits. This initiative provides funding to NRCC based on the number of students who are receiving any type of food assistance. It provides the college more opportunities for outreach to get the word out to students and to connect them with resources. Ms. Gwen Houston is the college's newly appointed SNAP 50/50 point of contact.

9. Finance and Technology

Mr. Van Hemert referred the Board to Exhibit B, Tuition Revenue Deficit Reserve Fund Status. No questions were posed.

Exhibit C, Local Funds Statement of Receipts and Expenditures, was distributed and reviewed. Questions were posed and discussed.

Mr. Van Hemert presented two items for action. The Budget and Finance Committee met prior to the meeting.

- (1) FY22 Local Funds Budget (Exhibit D)
- (2) Student Activities Budget (Exhibit E): The sources of funds for the budget are local funds and student activities fees. The total budget request is \$100,000.

On behalf of the Committee, Ms. Jessica Littlejohn recommended approval of the two action items above. Questions were posed and discussed.

Action: Both Exhibits D and E were unanimously approved via roll call vote.

10. NRCC Educational Foundation

Ms. Covey provided an update on the ACCE program in the New River Valley. The application deadline was February 1. The Foundation Office is going through the process of assisting the applicants and ensuring they complete all requirements for the financial aid application. On a related note, Ms. Covey informed the Board that the deadline for applications for the Foundation scholarships was February 15, and a good number of students have applied for these scholarships. She stated that the Foundation made a decision to extend the scholarship opportunity to students to three years instead of two years.

Ms. Covey expressed appreciation to Dr. Sharon Scott and the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for continuing to financially support the Montgomery County ACCE program. She noted that Dr. Scott was one of the individuals who was instrumental in getting the ACCE program started in Montgomery County.

11. NRCC Board Terms of Appointment

Referring to the chart of appointments, Mr. Harvey encouraged members to make note of expiration of terms. Four terms will expire this year with three being eligible for reappointment.

12. Evaluation of the President

The Personnel Committee of the Board normally assumes the role of preparing an evaluation of the president. With the Board's concurrence, the committee will begin working on the evaluation using report information provided by Dr. Huber and her staff, including a report of goals/achievements and evaluations completed by college employees.

13. Appointment of Nominations Committee

Mr. Harvey appointed the Personnel Committee to the Nominations Committee for 2021-2022. The committee will need to present a slate of officers (Chair and Vice Chair) at the June meeting of the NRCC Board.

14. Open Discussion/Q&A Session

There was no further discussion.

The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for Monday, June 7, 2021. Plans are being made to conduct the meeting outside on the Dublin campus. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Digitally signed by Steve
Harvey
Date: 2021.06.08 09:03:09
-04'00'

Mr. Steven Harvey, Chair



Dr. Patricia B. Huber, Secretary

Attachments