

**New River Community College Board  
(Region 10)  
Meeting Number Three Hundred Thirty-One**

***MINUTES***

**June 6, 2016**

Meeting number three hundred thirty-one of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, June 6, 2016, at the NRV mall site.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jack Brockway (Radford City)  
Mr. F. Brad Denardo (Montgomery County)  
Mr. Steven Harvey (Radford City)  
Mr. James Loux (Pulaski County)  
Dr. Douglas Martin (Giles County)  
Mr. Michael Patton (Floyd County)  
Mr. Lane Penn (Pulaski County)  
Mr. James Riffe, Jr. (Giles County)  
Mrs. Barbara A. Straub (Montgomery County)  
Dr. Sue Thacker (Montgomery County)  
Mrs. Karen Thompson (Floyd County)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Linda Claussen, Director of Distance Education and Off-Campus Services  
Ms. Angie F. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation  
Mr. Dennis DuBuc, Association of Administration of Justice  
Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Dean of Student Services  
Dr. Jack M. Lewis, President  
Mrs. Kathy T. Ridpath, Administrative Assistant, President's Office  
Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations  
Dr. Janice Shelton, Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Fritz M. Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research  
Mr. John L. Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology  
Mrs. Jill Williams, Director of the Accountability in Student Learning Program (ASLP)

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Brad Denardo, 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. Denardo welcomed everyone in attendance.

## **3. Agenda for Approval**

The agenda was approved as distributed.

## **4. Minutes for Approval**

The minutes of meeting number three hundred thirty, held on Monday, March 7, 2016, were approved as distributed.

## **5. President's Report**

Dr. Lewis introduced the special presentation speaker, Mr. Dennis DuBuc, Associate Professor of Administration of Justice.

Mr. DuBuc gave an overview of the Administration of Justice (ADJ) program. The ADJ program at NRCC provides students with the educational credentials necessary to enter police work and also serves those officers who wish to upgrade their education for career development and promotion. The degrees offered include the Associate of Applied Science Degree in both Police Science and Forensic Science. He discussed the strengths of the program, areas needing improvement, as well as the opportunities for improvement. He also reported on the internal and external challenges to the program which included:

- Both internal and external obstacles are partially responsible for the low numbers in enrollment and graduation rates.
- Internal Challenges
  - The economy and job availability are making working full time more advantageous to some program students than going to school.
  - In some cases, students are not completing a two-year degree before going to a four-year school.
  - Some program students are attending NRCC to get their GPA up so they can re-enroll in a four-year school.
- External Challenges identified by staff and advisory committee members
  - Adverse publicity regarding police tactics and use of force - Examples: Ferguson, MO; New York City; Phoenix, AZ and others
  - Controversies about police race relationships
  - Physical dangers of becoming a police officer. Police being targeted by criminal elements
  - Low Pay in comparison to other occupations
  - Changing attitudes and values in recent entry-level applicants
  - Candidates poorly prepared in basic writing, reading and basic math skills

Mr. DuBuc informed the Board that renovations have been done to all labs which include new equipment and storage.

## **6. Enrollment**

Dr. Streff reported on enrollment for the summer semester. Total headcount enrollment as of June 6, 2016, is 1,445. Total FTEs stand at 503, an increase of 1.6 percent over the same relative date last spring. He reported that the VCCS enrollment (FTEs) as a whole shows a decrease of almost 7 percent compared to this point in time last year. The fall semester headcount enrollment at this point is 1488. Total FTEs is 1117, an increase of 2.9 percent. He noted that Distance Education shows an increase of 11.2 percent at this point in time.

## **7. Industrial Advisory Committees**

Proposed membership lists for all industrial advisory committees for the Career Technical Education programs were distributed in the meeting packet. Dr. Shelton reported in Dr. Huber's absence and informed the board that program directors have contacted all members and confirmed service on the committees. She commented that there is broad representation for each committee, including representatives from outside the college's service region where appropriate. She noted that Instrumentation and Control Automation is the only program in the state, so representation out of the service region is necessary. Mr. Patton moved for approval of the advisory committees as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried by unanimous vote. Dr. Lewis stated that at any time during the year a member of the Board may recommend individuals to be added to any of the committees.

## **8. Finance and Technology**

Mr. Van Hemert presented one item for action:

Parking Lot Plan (Exhibit C): Mr. Van Hemert explained that the VCCS requires Board approval for the parking lot plan every two years. The Building and Site Committee met prior to the meeting to discuss this plan. Dr. Thacker presented a motion to approve the plan as presented. The motion received a proper second and passed by unanimous vote. Dr. Thacker on behalf of the committee commended Mr. Tony Nicolo on the work he has done on the plan.

## **9. Accountability in Student Learning Program**

Mrs. Jill Williams reported on the Accountability in Student Learning Program (ASLP) and the intentional engagement model of student support which included an update on CLAS (Connecting Learning Assets and Students). All students have been assigned to a connection specialist or another ASLP team member. The team fielded approximately 10,000 referrals over the course of the 2015/2016 year. CLAS will begin to replace SAILS as the early alert system through which faculty raise flags when students need interventions. Intentional engagement in tutoring has focused on two areas: 1) creative interventions in high-risk courses (courses with 30 percent or higher unsuccessful completion rates in the previous year); and 2) moving more from invitational to intentional engagement (reaching out to students when faculty indicate tutoring is needed). Some initiatives that have been implemented include a tutor/connection specialist in Anatomy

and Physiology, embedded tutors in Statistics and additional online tutorials in other high-risk courses. Mrs. Williams reported that there is an increase of 87 percent in one-on-one tutoring hours from 2014/2015 to 2015/2016. A member of the Board asked if Calculus was considered a high-risk course and stated a parent of an NRCC student had informed him that no tutor was available, and the student had to withdraw from the course. Mrs. Williams informed him that the college offers tutoring in this course and it could possibly have been a paperwork issue. Further discussion was held at the conclusion of the meeting.

Mrs. Williams gave an update on the new student orientation program. In Fall 2015, 70 percent of incoming students who were required to attend orientation did so; in Spring 2016 over 90 percent who were required completed an online or in-person orientation. Data showed that students who completed orientation in Fall 2015 were 43 percent less likely to withdraw from a course and 23 percent less likely to withdraw from a course in the spring term. Mrs. Williams reported that the orientation program continues to evolve. There will be 30 smaller sessions offered this summer which will allow students to get to know each other better and will also permit the Advising Center to meet with students needing this service on a one-on-one basis. She gave a brief overview of the agenda for these sessions. Dr. Kennedy informed the Board that there will be an advising workshop at the conclusion of each orientation session. The orientation sessions begin in July.

Mrs. Williams reported on the Graduation Acceleration Program (GAP), an accountability program that offers short-term financial incentives to students who are prepared and motivated to complete their programs of study within an ambitious timeframe. There were 23 students who participated in the program for the spring semester. These students were required to attend monthly meetings, maintain a full course load, attend tutoring sessions if referred and respond to their connection specialist. Dr. Streff reported that he conducted informal group interviews with the GAP students during their last scheduled meeting. His findings included:

- Students were highly consistent in their reports
- These were students who were motivated to succeed
- All the students seemed to derive a great deal of benefit from their participation in the program and would repeat it again
- The financial incentive was an important component, but most reported they would continue without the incentive
- Students reported the key benefits were both social and psychological

Dr. Streff reported that initial follow-up ideas from the students for the future include:

- Incentive is necessary for first term especially as a recruiting incentive
- Meetings could be more frequent and shorter
- Program is valuable enough that it could be extended to larger segments of the college

## **10. Workforce Development and External Relations**

Dr. Rowh referred to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) document that was previously disseminated. He encouraged all board members to read this important material.

Dr. Rowh provided an overview of the New Virginia Workforce Credentials Grant Fund Program. He commented that this groundbreaking program is being implemented and more information will be forthcoming.

#### **11. NRCC Educational Foundation**

Ms. Covey gave an update on the Access to Community College Education program (ACCE), a public/private partnership between Giles County and the NRCC Educational Foundation that provides the opportunity for Giles County graduates to attend NRCC tuition free for two years. The update included:

- Fundraising event at the Palisades Restaurant (a sold-out event at \$75 per couple)
- \$27,000 contributed by Lhoist North America
- Approximately 80 students will enroll for the fall semester
- Photo of all ACCE students will be mailed to all contributors along with an update on the program

Ms. Covey informed the Board that the Blacksburg Police Department has initiated a program similar to ACCE that would include recruiting students for the Administration of Justice program. Books and Badges, as the program is called, will begin Fall 2016. She noted that at this point \$15,000 has been raised to support this initiative.

Ms. Covey reported that she met with representatives of Floyd County to drive interest in the ACCE program. A grant proposal will be submitted to The Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission in July with the goal of beginning the program in Fall 2017. On a related note, Ms. Covey met with representatives of the City of Radford to provide information on the ACCE program and to discuss the opportunities it could provide for their area.

#### **12. Schedule of Meetings 2016-2017**

The schedule of meetings for 2016-2017 was presented.

#### **13. Report of the Personnel Committee: Evaluation of the President**

Mr. Denardo informed the Board that he along with Mr. James Loux, and Mrs. Barbara Straub served on the Personnel Committee for the evaluation of the President. He referred to the copies of the letter that was written and sent to the Chancellor along with supporting information.

#### **14. Report of the Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee recommended that Mr. Steve Harvey be elected chair and Mr. James Loux vice-chair for the upcoming year. The recommendation received unanimous approval.

**15. Open Discussion/Q&A Session**

Mrs. Barbara Straub commended the staff for all of the work that is going on at NRCC at this point in time.

Mr. James Riffe expressed gratitude to Dr. Lewis and other staff for providing a location and proctor to take the National Funeral Director's Certified Preplanning Consultant Exam.

No other items were presented for discussion.

**16. Special Recognition**

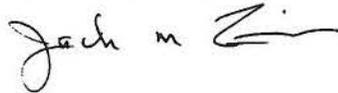
Dr. Lewis recognized Mr. Denardo, retiring board member, for his service and presented him with a plaque of an engraved certificate of appreciation.

The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for **Monday, September 12, 2016**, at the Mall site. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. F. Brad Denardo, Chair



Dr. Jack M. Lewis, Secretary

Attachments