

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

MINUTES

September 18, 2017

Meeting number three hundred thirty-seven of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, September 18, 2017, at NRCC Mall site in Christiansburg, Virginia.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Jack Brockway (City of Radford)
Mr. Steven Harvey (City of Radford)
Mr. Steven Kaylor (Floyd County)
Mr. Walter (Benny) Keister (Pulaski County)
Mr. James R. Loux (Pulaski County)
Mr. Lane Penn (Pulaski County)
Dr. Sue Thacker (Montgomery County)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Richard Chidester (Giles County)
Mr. Brian Kitts (Montgomery County)
Dr. Doug Martin (Giles County)
Mr. Mike Patton (Floyd County)
Dr. Sharon Scott (Montgomery County)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Peter Anderson, Interim Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Mrs. Debbie Bond, Interim Dean of Business and Technologies
Ms. Angie E. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation
Dr. Patricia B. Huber, President
Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Dean of Student Services
Mr. Tony Nicolo, Director Facilities Services
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
Mrs. Jill Williams, Director of Accountability and Student Learning Program

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

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

2. Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Harvey welcomed the new Board member from Floyd County, Mr. Steven Kaylor.

3. Agenda for Approval

The agenda was approved by consensus.

4. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of meeting three hundred thirty-six, held on Monday, June 5, 2017, were approved as distributed.

5. President's Report

Dr. Huber referred to a check for \$411,000 that Giles County presented to NRCC during their recent fundraiser – The Muddy ACCE Race for the ACCE (Access to Community College Education) program. Speaking about the race, she commented, “It was a proud day for Giles County students.”

Dr. Huber gave highlights of the activities she has been involved in as new president. Highlights included:

- Attended the New Presidents Orientation at the System Office
- New president mentor spent a day on campus (retired president from Florida)
- Met with all school superintendents in the service region
- Met or have scheduled meetings with area legislators
- Attended Workforce/Economic Development activities with Dr. Rowh
 - Input session for Onward NRV (formally NRV Economic Development Alliance) – part of their strategic planning process
 - Reception for business leaders at President Hemphill, RU President's home
 - Leadership NRV Program – will present with Dr. Rowh
 - Will present at the Business Council of Roanoke-Blacksburg Region in November with Dr. Rowh and Dr. Robert Sandel of VWCC
- Will present to the Pulaski County Retired Teachers Association
- Met with Dr. N.L. Bishop, State Board member and president of Jefferson College of Health Sciences
- Will work with consultant for advancement training/workshop soon
- Met with Dr. Hemphill on a stronger collaboration and pathways for transfer students to RU. A team will travel to RU in October to discuss more fully.

- Will co-chair the screening and interview committee for the VCCS search for president of Lord Fairfax Community College.

Dr. Huber briefly discussed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study released recently. There are five areas of focus in the report – student success (transfer perspective), dual enrollment, affordability, structure and workforce programs. There were 21 recommendations especially in areas of student success, transfer, and dual enrollment. She stated that NRCC is already addressing some of the points cited, particularly student success. On a related note, she informed the Board that a recent Roanoke Times article referenced NRCC as third highest in the VCCS for completion and transfer rates.

Dr. Huber discussed the SACSCOC reaffirmation process. The final reports, which included a focused report and the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), were mailed out this past week. The SACSCOC on-site committee will be on campus from October 31 – November 2.

6. Feature Presentation – Quality Enhancement Plan

Dr. Huber briefly discussed the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The QEP describes a carefully designed course of action that addresses a well-defined and focused topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. She introduced Mrs. Jill Williams who gave an overview of the plan. The tagline for the college’s QEP is “Navigate the River: Gather your crew, chart your course and go!” The focus is on students’ first semester experience, and the goal is to improve student persistence, retention, and, ultimately graduation rates through goalsetting/tracking and community building in the student’s first semester.

Goalsetting/tracking learning outcomes include:

- Students will articulate an active education goal.
- Students will develop a learning plan with a specific timeline for achieving the articulated goal.
- Students will meet targets specified in the learning plan timeline.
- When learning plan timeline targets are not met, new targets will be developed together with strategies to improve the likelihood of meeting the revised targets.

Community Building learning outcomes include:

- Students will know other students, faculty and staff.
- Students will ask for help when experiencing academic and personal challenges.
- Students will hold the belief that they are not alone in the fact that they have both academic and life challenges to overcome in order to succeed.
- Students will feel that others care about their success, failures and problems.
- Students will care about the success, failures and problems of others.

The four main components of the college’s Quality Enhancement Plan include an online orientation, orientation, open house kick-offs and a first-semester seminar. The first three components will start in the months leading up to the student’s first semester. The first-semester seminar is a four to nine credit seminar in the student’s first semester. These

will include classes the student is already taking but bundled together so students will have the same cohort. For the fall 2018 semester, the college is planning one online first semester seminar and two in-person seminars.

7. Instruction and Student Services

Mr. Anderson reported that the fall semester startup has been successful. He attributed a large part of this to the strong summer orientation program. On another note, he informed the Board that there will be a substantial amount of curriculum revisions due to the Math Pathways Project implemented by the VCCS. All programs that include a math course will be revised. These revisions will be presented to the Board for approval at the December meeting.

Mr. Anderson introduced Mrs. Debbie Bond, Interim Dean of Business and Technologies, who reported on the Pathways to the American Dream Grant. This is a four-year project funded by the Department of Labor (DOL) for \$6 million to Workforce Development Boards in the Southwest, New River, Mount Rogers and Western Piedmont regions. The grant focuses on building a pipeline of skilled workers to help businesses fill existing job openings and meet job needs for expansion as well as enabling the region to capitalize on the development of more value-added industries. Through this new grant, additional financial aid is available to individuals seeking credentials in manufacturing, information technology or the health care field. It serves students who are unemployed, underemployed, or who want to advance in their current job. It also serves students who are within nine months of completing their program. NRCC is one of eight community colleges participating in the grant. She referred to a flyer showing pathways identified by the DOL and programs the college has matched to those programs (see attached). The grant can provide up to \$1,800 for each student/individual. Ms. Bond stated that at this point, \$40,000 of the grant funds have been used for NRCC students.

8. Enrollment

Dr. Streff reported that the headcount enrollment for the fall 2017 semester at present is 4,468. Presently, FTEs show an increase of 2.43 percent over this time period last fall; after discounting dual enrollment, FTEs show a decrease of 3.9 percent. He noted that the mall site shows an increase of 8.6 percent and a decrease in Distance Education of 5.8 percent. The projection by the end of the semester is estimated to be an increase of 1 percent. He commented that NRCC is ahead of the VCCS as a whole.

Dr. Streff briefly discussed retention. He commented that the biggest opportunity the college has in terms of growing enrollment is in retention. The retention over the last five years shows an increase in the categories reviewed. Fall to spring retention this last year was 66.4 percent (all students with the exception of dual enrolled students). When we look at the proportion of students who attend from spring to fall, that number shows an increase and remaining at about 48 percent. Approximately 48 percent of the students who did not graduate in spring 2016 returned in the fall. The fall-to-fall retention is approximately 41 percent.

Dr. Kennedy discussed some of the enrollment strategies the college has employed to help increase the enrollment numbers. These include:

- Career Coaches doing a wonderful job to recruit students.
- More community outreach beyond the high schools.
- Initiatives used to follow up on retention from one semester to the next include:
 - Outreach for students currently enrolled and yet to enroll for the next semester
 - Outreach for students who were enrolled in two previous semesters and have not had subsequent enrollment
 - Outreach for students who have a financial award but who have not enrolled
 - Outreach for students who have taken placement tests but have not enrolled
 - Outreach for students who have been placed on financial aid warning
 - Outreach for students who are eligible for Foundation scholarships and who have not applied
 - Notification for students with a tuition balance prior to the enrollment cancellation/back-out date
 - Notification for students who have been dropped for nonpayment with an offer of assistance in re-enrolling

Dr. Kennedy commented that the college is continually looking at ways to better engage students as well as looking at other subsets of populations of students or prospective students as to how the college can assist them with enrollment and onto a successful path.

9. Workforce Development and External Relations

Dr. Rowh gave an update on the happenings in Workforce Development. WD will offer customer service training to all Town of Blacksburg employees in the near future. He briefly discussed the meeting with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership that was recently held on the college campus. He commented that virtually any time an economic development announcement is made in the area, the college has something to do in the background. Many of the businesses reach out to NRCC for a tour of the campus, labs and to express a need for short and long-term training opportunities.

Dr. Rowh gave an update on the SACSCOC reaffirmation of accreditation process. The next steps will include a visit of the on-site committee from October 31 to November 2. These individuals will visit with students, faculty, staff and Board members. The information the committee collects will be presented to the SACSCOC Board of Trustees for review. The reaffirmation process will end in June 2018.

10. NRCC Foundation

Ms. Covey gave an update on the recent Giles County Access to Community College Education (ACCE) fundraiser – Muddy ACCE Race. There was over \$30,000 raised by over 600 runners with an additional \$62,000 raised in sponsorships. In addition to the funds collected during the race, Giles County contributed an additional \$411,000 to the Giles' ACCE program. She noted that every person manning an obstacle was an ACCE student. Ms. Covey expressed gratitude to Mr. Richard Chidester and Dr. Doug Martin for their work for the Giles County ACCE program.

Ms. Covey gave updates on the ACCE program in the other counties. Montgomery County has fully funded ACCE and the Foundation Office is in the process of meeting with parents and students at each of their four high schools. At the request of Mr. Benny Keister, Ms. Covey recently presented information about the ACCE program to the Randolph House Foundation Board of Directors. As a result of this meeting, the Foundation pledged \$25,000 for the ACCE program in Pulaski County. In addition, at the request of Mr. Greg East and Mr. Lane Penn, she presented to the Pulaski Town Council. A motion was made at the meeting to contribute \$50,000 to the ACCE program in Pulaski County. Ms. Covey stated at the request of the County Administrator, she will present to the Pulaski County Board of Supervisors in October. The estimated cost for the ACCE program in Pulaski County is \$200,000. Ms. Covey informed the Board that Mr. Steve Kaylor invited her to speak to the Floyd Rotary Club and has also created opportunities for her to visit with the Floyd County Sheriff to discuss the ACCE program.

Ms. Covey gave an update on new contributions received, which included:

- Anonymous donation of \$50,000 for the math department
- Anonymous donation of \$10,000 for student success

The annual Scholarship Brunch is scheduled for October 11. Approximately 200 students have received regular scholarships and an additional 130 students have received ACCE scholarships. There will be separate events for the ACCE scholarship recipients – Giles County on October 24 and Floyd County on November 16. The City of Radford event will be held in the spring. She invited all Board members to attend any of the events.

Ms. Covey informed the Board that the Foundation audit is complete. The final asset number is \$13,289,000. This is an increase of almost \$900,000 from the previous year.

11. Standing Committees for 2017-2018

The roster of standing committees for 2017-2018 was approved unanimously.

12. Open Discussion/Q&A Session

Mr. Harvey asked the Board if they would like to change the dates or times of future meetings. It was decided to keep the meetings as is.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for **Monday, December 11, 2017**, in Edwards Hall, room 117.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Steven Harvey, Chair



Dr. Patricia B. Huber, Secretary