



## BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: October 12, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

---

Present:

Thomas Jennings, Chair  
Richard Balukas, Ed.D.  
James Dancy  
Broadus Davis, Ed.D. via Zoom  
Jamie Fazzalore  
Elizabeth Fineburg  
Ronni Fuchs  
Shamsul Huda

Linda Mannherz, via Zoom  
William Maeglin, via phone  
Carol Mignoni-Ferguson  
Carol Shelly  
Philip Wursta  
Jeffrey Garton, Esq., Solicitor  
Felicia L. Ganther, J.D., Ph.D., President, via  
Zoom

Absent: Blake Eisenhart, Frank Farry

Mr. Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:09 A.M. and asked for a moment of silence for those affected by the recent tragedies around the world. The pledge of allegiance was then led by SGA President, Lateefat Adewale.

Following the Roll Call, Mr. Chris Seifert, Director of Student Life, introduced the SGA Executive Board Members

Lateefat Adewale – President  
Mann Patel – Vice President  
Elena Solovyeva – Secretary  
Morgan Hangey – Treasurer  
Anthony Semidey – Newtown Campus Liaison

He thanked the Board for their support of the Student Government Association.

Mr. Jennings then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2023 board meeting.

**Upon motion by Ms. Shelly, seconded by Ms. Fuchs, the Board approved the minutes of the September 14, 2023 meeting.**

Chair Jennings announced that the Board met prior to the meeting, in Executive Session, to discuss contract matters, legal, and personnel issues.

#### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ganther began by welcoming Brendan Harvie, who was hired as the new Manager of Alumni Engagement and Annual Fund.

She also reported that the Tom Lewis Memorial Golf Classic was held on Sept. 29. Seventeen thousand dollars was donated out of the proceeds to support our AACHIEVE program. She thanked Christina Kahmar, Karen Kaplinski, and Beth Tentilucci, for attending and representing the college.

Dr. Ganther said the Foundation is holding a scholarship donor luncheon on Wednesday, November 8. All board members are invited and should RSVP to the Foundation staff.

She also noted that The Gene Fickes Art Gallery at Upper Bucks Campus held its grand opening reception on Friday, October 6 with the unveiling of the new gallery. She thanked the Upper Bucks team, led by Kevin Murray, the Foundation Staff, and Mr. Jim Sells for their hard work.

President Ganther reported that payments consisting of financial aid federal payments, Foundation scholarships, and outside scholarships in the amount of \$4,296,578.00 were recently applied or transmitted to student accounts, and that FISAP was submitted to ensure that Bucks can continue to distribute Financial Aid to students.

The President was also proud to announce that the College received the pass rate for the NCLEX exam for the AD Nursing program, which came in at 96.9%. She congratulated Dean Corrigan and her team.

The Center for Advanced Technologies is partnering with the PA CareerLink to host a manufacturing job fair at the CAT today from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Dr. Ganther thanked the Workforce Development Team, led by Ms. Sue Herring. She also thanked Ms. Herring and Ms. Christine Harvie, as our new Building & Construction Trades program was approved as a registered pre-apprenticeship program with the state of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Ganther reported that on November 6 the College will host its first Red, White, and Blue Day. This event is to honor our military-connected students and staff for Veterans Day.

Dr. Ganther noted that our students are engaged at extremely high levels. One thousand three hundred students participated in an activity or event through Bucks+ in just the first six weeks of the semester. In addition, Dr. Ganther noted that our student organizations are also bustling with activity. Over 400 students are participating in our student organizations this semester.

#### REMEDICATION UPDATE – Mr. Eric Siddell

Eric Siddell, Project Manager, gave an update on the remediation efforts for Grupp and Founders Halls. He reported that they are holding bi-weekly meetings with the involved faculty and team to work on corrective action and improvements for both facilities. He said the meetings allow for reflection on what was accomplished over the prior two weeks as well as defining upcoming goals. He said, in Founders, they have engaged a licensed architect and building envelope

specialist to look at the interior and exterior building dormers. They will be utilizing the architect firm to develop specs to advertise to vendors related to corrective action and improvements. He reported that both buildings will have new water filtration systems installed as well as bottling stations in place of the water fountains. Mr. Siddell said that on October 7 a radon investigation service examined Grupp Hall. He said they are waiting for their proposal to be provided to the college. They also performed testing in Cottage I, and results were provided to the team and faculty that are meeting regularly. He closed by reporting that the HVAC systems in both buildings are now running continuously as recommended. Trustee Mannherz asked when Pemberton Hall will be evaluated. Mr. Siddell said this will happen when the collective group and ad-hoc committee implement their strategic improvement plan.

#### CAT BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Eric Siddell

Mr. Siddell then gave an update on the CAT Building. He said they are continuing to make progress on the project closeout. He had a meeting this week with the civil site engineer that will be performing some survey work as well as investigating the new ADA pedestrian ramps installed at the intersection of Veterans Highway. He said these are required for the Certificate of Occupancy. He then showed pictures of the newly repaired roof, the completed night lighting and pedestrian bridge.

#### ARTS INITIATIVE UPDATE – Ms. Jean Konkel

Ms. Jean Konkel, Interim Dean of Arts & Communication, gave an update on the department. She first shared a list of department programs. She noted that an Associate of Fine Arts (AFA) is a specialized studio focused degree and is the professional standard in the arts. The Associate of Music (AM) is a specialized music focused degree. She said our transfer institutions value the focused concentration of the AFA degree as well as the rigor of our AM degree. Ms. Konkel reported that our arts programs are accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD) and that we are one of only three such accredited institutions in the Tri-State area. She added that our music program is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), and we are one of only 13 community colleges in the country to hold this accreditation.

Ms. Konkel then discussed the department's initiatives for Academic Year 2023-2024, which include outreach to the local arts community and alumni to increase enrollment, curricular updates to increase enrollment and reduce costs, and plans to increase revenue through facilities rentals and the review and adjustment of course fees and senior tuition waivers.

#### ENROLLMENT & FRONT DOOR REPORT – Dr. Rodney Altemose

Dr. Rodney Altemose, Interim Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, gave an enrollment and "front door" report. He reported that the college has, at this point, exceeded its targeted enrollment goal for the fall semester. He acknowledged Enrollment Services, the Registrar's

Office, and Financial Aid for their efforts in accomplishing this goal. He then showed a fall 2023 enrollment comparison with fall 2022 and since fall 2019. We are up 1.4% in credits since fall 2022, and down 21.3% in credits since fall 2019. He then shared some enrollment quick facts, showing we are enrolling more students under 18, dual enrollment students, students seeking a credit certificate and students of color.

Dr. Altomose then talked about student retention. He said our retention rates have increased and are the highest they've been in over five years, since before the pandemic. He said the students we are most likely to retain take at least one face-to-face class, are full-time, new students, and those who are 100% online, full-time students. He said there are challenges with retaining part-time exclusively online students, veteran, multiracial and black students. He noted that the more students are involved and engaged, the more likely the College will retain them.

Dr. Altomose then introduced Ms. Lisa Campanelli, Director of Enrollment Communications, to talk about our CRM (Customer Relation Management) System, and Campus ESP, which is the platform we use to help families stay engaged in their student's educational journey.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – Mr. Jennings, Chair

Mr. Jennings reported that the Executive Committee met on September 28 to authorize the Workday settlement, which is on today's Consent Agenda for ratification.

#### FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. Niels Christensen, CFO

Mr. Christensen reported that the Finance & Operations Committee discussed liquidity at the September 21 meeting, due to delays in state appropriations and remediation efforts. He said the College has explored funding, which is also on the Consent Agenda, along with the Fulton Bank signatory update. Mr. Christensen noted that the Fulton Bank account is the College's Investment Fund and the current balance is approximately \$7 million. It is designed to be our "rainy day fund".

#### GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Fineburg

In Ms. Fineburg's absence, Mr. Jennings reported that the Governance Committee met last week, where Dr. McCarthy presented the Strategic Planning process. He said action on the Naming Policy has been tabled for now.

#### HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Ms. Mannherz

Ms. Mannherz reported that the HR Committee chose to look at four different consulting firms to bring in an interim senior HR person. She said they hope to have this person in place within the next couple of weeks.

CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. Jennings, Chair

The Chair announced that all action items would be considered on the Consent Agenda unless a Trustee requested an item be removed for specific discussion and individual action.

**Upon motion by Ms. Fuchs and second by Mr. Dancy, the Board of Trustees approved all items as set forth on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Maeglin abstained from the vote on the Fulton Bank College Signatories Resolution.**

- Ratification of Executive Committee Resolution re: Workday
- Fulton Bank College Signatories Resolution
- State Public School Building Authority (SPSBA) Financing Resolution
- Active Environmental Technologies – Mold Abatement Services

CHAIR’S REPORT

At this time, Chair Jennings invited Dr. Ganther to speak to the group. Dr. Ganther said, it is with mixed emotions that she has decided to resign her position as President of Bucks County Community College at the end of the fall semester, due to personal reasons. She said she is proud of the strides the College has made during her tenure, including all the work that has been done for students. She said it has been an honor to serve the College. She thanked the Board of Trustees for their unwavering support and for welcoming her to the Centurion family. Chair Jennings said the entire Board wishes her well as she embarks on the next chapter in her career.

BOARD COMMENT

Chair Jennings closed by noting that the Board will indicate next steps for a Presidential Search next week.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:23 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Upper Bucks Campus on November 9, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.

---

Elizabeth Fineburg, Secretary