



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: September 14, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM

Present:

Thomas Jennings, Chair
Richard Balukas, Ed.D.
James Dancy
Broadus Davis, Ed.D. via Zoom
Blake Eisenhart
Frank Farry via Zoom
Jamie Fazzalore
Elizabeth Fineburg
Ronni Fuchs

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

Mr. Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM and led the pledge of allegiance.

Following the Roll Call, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2023 board meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Ms. Fuchs, the Board approved the minutes of the July 20, 2023 meeting.

The Chair then asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2023 board meeting

Upon motion by Ms. Shelly, seconded by Ms. Fuchs, the Board approved the minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting.

Chair Jennings announced that the Board met prior to the meeting, in Executive Session, to discuss contractual settlements and personnel issues.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Jennings reported that, for the past 12 months, the board has been actively engaged in all significant issues challenging the college. He said, when informed, the board acted, as is their legal duty to do so. They held ten regular public meetings, three specially convened meetings to deal with the audit, tuition, and environmental issues, 15 executive session meetings which were all reported on at the next public meeting, three trustee workshop retreat sessions, and over 30 committee meetings. On top of this, he said board members attended many meetings with the Administration as well as college events throughout the year. Mr. Jennings reported that, over the past six months, board members have received anonymous communications raising issues about College governance. He said the board does not respond to anonymous communications.

He noted that Board actions become part of the public record as reported once the work is complete. In the past year the Board has given close attention and informed direction to environmental issues, completion of the CAT building, Workday, getting the finance department back in order after the material weakness audit finding, and recommendation of critical appointments among other significant matters affecting the College. He said no one on the board is paid for their service, nor are any of them related to any vendors or project consultants. As the new academic year begins, he said the board will continue to be involved with the major business issues of the College.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ganther reported on several events that recently took place at the College:

She noted that the past month has been a busy one, with several activities to welcome students and families to the Bucks community, including hosting nearly 600 students and over 300 parents and family members at the New Student Orientations in August. She reported that we also held the 2nd Annual New Student Convocation at the end of the month, with nearly 250 students and over 100 faculty and staff in attendance.

Dr. Ganther welcomed the college's new Director of AD Nursing—Alex Aduboahen, who was hired after a very competitive search. Welcome Alex!

She then reported that the golf classic held on August 7 raised more than \$80,000 (gross) for Bucks programs and our students. She thanked the Board for their support and advocacy and Ms. Kahmar and Mr. States for their hard work.

Dr. Ganther noted that a local community group has selected Bucks' AACHIEVE program as beneficiaries of their first Tom Lewis Memorial golf outing proceeds. They are still accepting registrations for their golf classic on Sept 29 at Makefield Highlands.

The Zlock Performing Arts Center kicks off their Bucks Live season of events on Sept 28 with a series of engaging, entertaining, and enriching performances and programs. Dr. Ganther asked the board to please connect with Christina Kahmar for details.

The Gallery at Upper Bucks will be opening its first Art Gallery this fall with a reception to be held on October 6 from 6:00 to 8:00. The Gallery at Lower Bucks will hold an Art Reception on September 22, also from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

The Political Power Hour: Constitution Day will be held on September 21 at the Epstein Campus @ Lower Bucks. The theme is The Rule of Law: Is Democracy in Danger, and will be moderated by Bill Pezza, Social & Behavioral Sciences faculty member.

The Pair UP Society will be hosting its 2nd Annual PairUP for Unity 3K Walk/Run on October 7, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Upper Bucks Campus.

Dr. Ganther then reported that the 2nd cohort of the new Building & Construction Trades program started on August 28 with ten students. Students will prepare to apply for union positions in the field and learn from union representatives about the various trades that are available.

She also reported that the Center for Workforce Development was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the PA Dept. of Community and Economic Development to support three cohorts of Industrial Maintenance and was awarded an additional \$52,490 from the Workforce Development Board to support In-School Youth programs.

Dr. Ganther congratulated Dean Bill Hemmig whose first short story collection, *Americana: Stories*, was published in July by Read Furiously, an independent publisher out of Trenton. It's available at local bookstores, on Amazon, and directly from the publisher.

President Ganther announced the officers of the Student Government Association for the 2023-24 school year. Those elected include:

- Lateefat Adewale as President
- Mann Patel as Vice President
- Elena Solovyeva as Treasurer
- Anthony Semidey as Newtown Campus Liaison

President Ganther reported that, in July, Bucks Alum Anna Hipp was named the Bucks County Opportunity Council Coaches on Campus Coordinator. Bucks has a partnership with BCOC to operate part of their Economic Self-Sufficiency Program at our Newtown campus. This along with our other basic needs initiatives will ensure that our students continue to get the social and economic support they need to combat non-academic barriers that hinder success in the classroom.

She also reported that the Accessibility Office is excited to announce the first Disability Honor Society Induction Ceremony. The ceremony will take place on October 10 at 5:00pm in the Gallagher Room. The Disability Honor Society is an academic honor society founded to recognize high-achieving students with disabilities who are attending colleges and universities.

Dr. Ganther reported on current Fall Enrollment:

- We are up 500 credits from last fall at this time.
- We have achieved 98% of the credit enrollment target for the Fall 2023 semester.

President Ganther said the Varsity Women's Soccer program is very strong this fall and has recovered to pre-covid numbers, and that Women's Volleyball has returned as a club sport with over 20 women joining the team.

Dr. Ganther noted that Christina Kahmar will be co-presenting with Erin Lukoss of the Bucks County Opportunity Council on non-profit/community college partnerships at the annual Community Action Association of PA Conference in October.

She then reported that the Foundation awarded more than \$600,000 in scholarship awards for the 2023-2024 academic year. This is another historic number that was made possible thanks to the collaboration of all areas of the college. Special thanks were given to the Foundation, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs teams for their hard work.

Dr. Ganther closed by recognizing the Financial Aid Department. She said, in order to maintain eligibility to participate in Title IV Higher Education Act student financial assistance programs, a school must obtain certification every five years. The process began in May and the college received approval in July that we were recertified until 2028. She thanked the Financial Aid team and other departments across the college for their diligence and commitment to the process.

NEW FACULTY INTRODUCTIONS – Dr. Kelly Kelleway

Provost Dr. Kelly Kelleway introduced the following newly hired full-time faculty members: Paula Raimondo – Department of Language & Literature, Bret Tokash – Health Sciences Department, Marc Winans – Business + Innovation Department.

REMEDICATION UPDATE – Mr. Eric Siddell

Eric Siddell, Project Manager, gave an update on the remediation efforts for Grupp and Founders Halls. He reported that the college engaged the professional services of Dr. Marilyn Howarth, a specialist in environmental toxicology from the University of Pennsylvania, to help identify and prioritize items in the two buildings. He said the administration is working with the Ad-hoc Building Safety Committee to review these recommendations and develop a comprehensive corrective action plan. Mr. Siddell reported that they are still working through the details, cost, and vendor involvement. It was reported that updates will be provided on the portal for faculty and staff. Mr. Siddell also reported that walk throughs will take place in all other buildings on the Newtown Campus, as well as Upper Bucks and The Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks to identify any further issues. Chair Jennings said the college will hear from Mr. Siddell during upcoming board meetings for further updates.

CAT BUILDING UPDATE – Mr. Eric Siddell

Mr. Siddell then gave an update on the CAT Building. He said, at this time, they are working to prepare the final documents and close out procedures. Project permits are under final review for

approval and acceptance. There is great anticipation that the final documents and certificate of occupancy will be scheduled and issued soon. Mr. Siddell closed by reporting that the bridge connecting the CAT Building to the Lower Bucks Campus is also finished and the roof improvement project is 90% complete.

FINANCE AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – Mr. Blake Eisenhart, Chair

Mr. Eisenhart reported that the committee met in August where they discussed the Workday project and other items on today's consent agenda. Mr. Niels Christensen, CFO, went through the agenda items, including four that were approved by the Executive Committee due to being time sensitive, and three others which are on the consent agenda.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – Ms. Elizabeth Fineburg, Chair

Ms. Fineburg reported that the Governance Committee will be meeting on the first Wednesday in October.

STUDENT AFFAIRS & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE – Dr. Richard Balukas, Chair

Dr. Balukas reported that the committee met a week ago and is planning a presentation at the October board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. Jennings, Chair

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

Upon motion by Mr. Maeglin and second by Ms. Shelly, the Board of Trustees approved all items as set forth on the Consent Agenda:

Ratification of Summer 2023 Executive Committee Approvals

- Parchment Higher Education Certificate Services
- Terminal Four Site Manager and Cloud Hosting
- Suitable
- One Login Authentication Platform

New Contracts

- Athletic Training Services – Kinesiatrix, LLC
- Automatic Door Services – Advanced Door Services

- Antivirus/Endpoint Protection – CrowdStrike Endpoint Protection

BOARD COMMENT

Trustee Mannherz commented that the Board is committed to the successful implementation of Workday. She said trustees went through a deliberate, technical analysis of ERP ISI systems in April and concluded that Workday is the best system for the college's future needs. She said the Board is committed to making sure the college has the resources for a successful implementation. Chair Jennings closed the meeting by thanking Trustee Fuchs for her involvement with the Workday contract and Mr. Steen, CIO for his tireless efforts.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Newtown Campus on October 12, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Elizabeth Fineburg, Secretary