



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: February 9, 2023

Time: 10:15 AM

Present:

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

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

Absent: Shamsul Huda, Carol Shelly

Mr. Jennings called the meeting to order at 10:16 AM. He introduced Mr. Colin Martin, who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Colin is a Business Administration major who has been at Bucks since fall 2021 and is a graduate of Council Rock South. He is a star both in and out of the classroom, earning a 3.8 GPA while also serving as a guard on the men's basketball team. He is taking 16 credits with us this semester and plans on finishing at Bucks next year with the intention of transferring to a four-year institution. Colin thanked the board for the opportunity and said he really enjoys being at Bucks.

Following the Roll Call, the Chair announced that, prior to the meeting, the Board met in Executive Session with Solicitor Garton and President Ganther to discuss matters of litigation and pending transactions.

Upon motion by Ms. Fazzalore, seconded by Ms. Fuchs, the Board approved the minutes of the December 8, 2022 meeting.

Upon motion by Ms. Fuchs, seconded by Mr. Eisenhart, the Board approved the minutes of the December 20, 2022 meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Mr. Jennings reported that substantial time was spent by him and other trustees on audit follow-up, confirming that the audit letter was received and sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education and others. He said the board is looking at various assessments with an outside firm, and they are expecting a debrief tomorrow from the firm, Maher Duessel. He thanked Trustees Maeglin, Fuchs, Eisenhart and Mannherz for their time and effort in this area.

He then reported that a midyear board discussion was held on January 12. This was an informal meeting to assess where the board is in terms of the middle of the year and to go over some possible metrics going forward. He thanked Trustees Mannherz and Balukas for their work to facilitate these discussions. The work will now go to Trustee Fineburg and the rest of the Governance Committee for review. Mr. Jennings said the Governance Committee also met to review some administrative policy revisions. This was on the agenda but will be deferred for a later date.

Mr. Jennings said he was happy to report that the Philadelphia Building Trades MOU and Project Labor Agreement were completed and signed.

He then reported that the board initiated the President's mid-year review and generated some action items. He thanked Trustees Fineburg and Mannherz for their assistance. Among the items discussed were the creation and updating of an events calendar on the board portal. One event Mr. Jennings said he attended last week was a forum titled Finding the Middle, facilitated by Professor Pezza at the Lower Bucks campus. He reported that there are also many Black History Month events on the list. Mr. Jennings reminded trustees that the April board meeting will be held at the Lower Bucks Campus, where the CAT building ribbon cutting will also take place. The March board meeting will be held in Newtown. He said, also added on the portal, are the facilities maintenance schedule, and the faculty contract for ease of reference.

Mr. Jennings reported that the Academic Affairs Committee met, and he thanked Trustees Wursta, Fazzalore and Balukas for participating. He also thanked Trustee Maeglin for his assistance with some litigation review. He closed by reporting that various introductions were made for Dr. Ganther, although he said these were not extremely necessary, as she is on the front page of the latest edition of the Bucks County Courier Times.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Ganther reported that she, Trustee Eisenhart and AVP Antoine attended the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC earlier this week. She said it was a great opportunity to network, and they were also able to meet with Congressman Fitzpatrick, Senator Fetterman and Senator Casey's policy advisor regarding topics that are important to our community college and others in the state. She gave a shout out to Trustee Eisenhart for the presentation he gave to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at the Conference on Saturday. She said she received great responses from around the country saying his perspective around diversity was refreshing and much needed in the organization. Dr. Ganther congratulated Trustee Eisenhart for representing Bucks on a national level. She said we hope to have him elected to the ACCT board in the near future.

Dr. Ganther reported in October that our AD Nursing students fourth quarter 2021-2022 NCLEX pass rate for first-time test takers was 89.83%. She said the State Board has now updated the

data for all programs in the state for 2021-22. The national average was 79.92% and the state average was 84.37%. Our students scored higher than both state and national averages, higher than most programs in the Commonwealth, and better than most of the BSN programs in our immediate area! Congratulations to our students and nursing faculty!

As Chair Jennings mentioned, we hosted a Political Power Hour: Finding the Middle: A Tri-Partisan Symposium on Reforms to Empower Moderates and Independents, at the Epstein Campus. The event was covered by the Bucks County Courier Times and was a featured front-page story.

Dr. Ganther reported that we will host the Show Some HeART Art Reception tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m., also at the Epstein Campus. This is the largest event held at the Epstein Campus annually and features live music, food, drink and over 250 pieces of artwork on display. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the artwork go to the BCCC Foundation Scholarship fund.

The President introduced Brian Grudzinski, who joined Bucks in January as the new Coordinator of Veterans, Military and Returning Adults Support Services. This position is part of the grant we received through the County of Bucks/ARPA Funding. Brian is an Army veteran who holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Arizona State University and comes to us with five years of experience in higher education as an advisor, recruiter, and program coordinator. A fun fact about Brian is that he was a contestant and winner on Wheel of Fortune!

Dr. Ganther then reported some promising news on enrollment. As of the beginning of the February start courses, we are up 689 credits, or 1.3% from last year. She said the last time we have seen any growth was Spring 2009/2010. She thanked our Student Affairs and Enrollment Staff, and recognized AVP Altemose, Dean Smith and Dean Nance for their work around enrollment and retention.

The President then announced that eighty students attended our New Student Orientations. In addition, Welcome Week activities were a huge hit with students, as they enjoyed an Ice Cream Social, Welcome Back Bingo (hosted by the SGA), Trivia and Taco Tuesday, and Ice Skating. There were also 833 activity completions from 350 students in Bucks+ during the first three weeks of the semester. Last year, we had 191 activity completions from 120 students. Dr. Ganther thanked Chris Seifert and Matt Cipriano for their work to support students and student athletes.

Dr. Ganther then reported that our Centurion Leadership Program continued with 27 students attending the kickoff session. She said they learned about time management and how to stay organized. Some of our Centurion leaders also participated in service last week as we helped Dr. Dekia Smith and our Student Services department fill nearly 300 bags to help feed students, staff, and community members at all three of our campus food pantries.

The President reported that, on MLK Day of Service, the Men's and Women's Basketball coaches and players hosted the very first MLK Day Skills and Drills event on campus for community youth. This two-hour program gave kids a chance to work with our coaches and student-athletes on various skills and was topped off with an inspirational coach speech.

She then noted that we welcomed 27 students from the Health Care Careers program of the Upper Bucks County Technical School to the Upper Bucks Campus for a full agenda including a tour and an engaging activity led by Health Sciences Dean Dr. Connie Corrigan.

Dr. Ganther reported that we kicked off our Entrepreneurial Mindset Program: "Turning Problems into Opportunities" on January 12th with 24 students. This 12-week program is sponsored by the Alice L. Johnson Foundation.

She then reported that CWD received a \$135,000 grant through the Bucks County Department of Workforce & Economic Development to launch a new Entrepreneurship Program in the County. This 2-year grant will fund the development and implementation of a 13-week non-credit program to provide the skills and knowledge needed to begin a successful new business.

Our CWD staff also conducted employability skills workshops to 80 William Tennent High School students, funded under the School to Work Grant. On March 7, CWD staff will also conduct targeted recruitment presentations to ELL students at William Tennent High School, discussing short-term non-credit and credit programs.

The President noted that the college received an additional \$ 621,500.00 of ARPA funds from the County for CWD's in-school youth program. This will be used to expand the number of schools served and cover services conducted through December 31, 2024.

She also reported that The Fred Beans Leadership Academy began in Upper Bucks on January 5 with cohort #1 and will begin in Newtown this Thursday with cohort #2 for a total of 30 students. The County of Bucks Leadership Academy cohort #2 began on January 6 at the County Administration Building to the delight of 18 county managers.

In addition, Dr. Ganther reported that we are in the process of registering 4 individuals for OSHA instructor certification, which will result in 2 new OSHA General Industry instructors to keep up with our legacy demand and 2 new OSHA Construction instructors to enter the construction safety training market.

In conclusion, Dr. Ganther reported that the White House Task Force Movement is featured in the local newspaper, showing the work we are doing with our CDL program for veterans and Afghan refugees. She thanked Donna Kirn for the work that she is doing with that movement. She also thanked AVP Timby, who presented with her at the recent Workforce Development Institute in California. She said they were inundated with questions about how we have moved the institution into greater opportunities around workforce development and occupations. She

said this would not have been possible without the partnership with Interim Dean of Business and Innovation Greg Luce, as we take a look at how to make sure students reach their goal of getting the job of their choice.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE – Phil Wursta, Chair

Dr. Kelly Kelleway presented the faculty sabbatical report for the 2023-2024 academic year. She said the purpose of the sabbatical is for faculty members to pursue personal professional development and enhance service to the College's mission. To become eligible, faculty must have completed seven years of full-time teaching and must meet established deadlines in the process. Currently, no more than six persons may receive a half-year leave at full salary, and no more than two persons may receive a full-year leave at half salary. The proposals must be approved by the Department Dean, the Faculty Federation, the Provost and the Board of Trustees. Dr. Kelleway presented sabbatical proposals for the following faculty members: Professors Maria McGrath, Matthew Rusnak, Mark Michalovic, Regina Hierholzer, Colleen Dunn, Jean Konkell, Cynthia Barris, and Scott Bradshaw. Dr. Kelleway also reported on last year's sabbaticals completed by Professors Denise May, Kim Witham, Max Probst, and John Petito.

Dr. Kelleway then presented on the revisiting of out-of-state tuition. She said our current out of state rate stifles enrollment growth potential outside of PA. She reported that our current out of state rate is \$495/credit and is proposing a \$250/credit out-of-state rate to make Bucks more competitive across the country.

Lastly, Dr. Kelleway presented on the Health Science Program Tuition & Weekend College Fee Proposals. She said the Practical Nursing Program has not had a tuition rate increase since 2015. A search of other programs in PA identified that our current tuition is clearly below other programs. Nurse Aide Training has also not seen a rate increase since 2015. For Weekend College Program Fee, Dr. Kelleway reported that the requested fee is \$75 a semester and will be used to host monthly breakfasts for students within the cohort to encourage greater community, expose them to opportunities via speakers and other presentations, and cultivate opportunities for networking with peers and local employers.

Dr. Kelleway responded to questions and comments from the Board after each presentation.

FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE – Bill Maeglin, Chair

Mr. Maeglin reported that the Committee has not met since the last board meeting. They did get the audit issued and letters submitted to the state as required. He also reported that the mailroom equipment refresh, which is on the consent agenda, is a standard refresh of needed equipment. CONSENT AGENDA – Mr. Jennings, Executive Committee Chair, Mr. Maeglin, Finance & Operation Committee Chair, Mr. Phil Wursta, Academic Affairs & Workforce Development Committee Chair, & Elizabeth Fineburg, Governance Committee 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. There were no requests .

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

Executive Committee:

- Ratification of Executive Committee Action Engaging Maher Duessel for Professional Consulting Services

Finance & Operations Committee:

Other Contracts

- Mailroom Equipment Refresh - Quadient

Academic Affairs & Workforce Development Committee

- Sabbatical Leave Requests for Academic Year 2023-2024
- Tuition Fee Increases for Health Science Non-Credit Programs, The Weekend College Program Fee & The Out-of-State Tuition Tier

Governance Committee

- Email Whitelisting & Quarantine Access Policy

BOARD COMMENT

Dr. Ganther reported that there would be a pep rally for the Philadelphia Eagles starting at 12:30 p.m. in the Links Pavilion.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held at the Newtown Campus on March 9, 2023, at 10:15 AM.

William Maeglin, Secretary