MINUTES OF THE FIVE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Board of Trustees Room #Z-203
La-Z-Boy Center
7:30 p.m., April 25, 2011


Members absent: Marjorie A. Kreps, Mary Kay Thayer

Also present: David Nixon, Randell Daniels, Suzanne Wetzel, Grace Yackee, Barry Kinsey, Brian Lay, Molly McCutchan, Jim Blumberg, Dan Schwab, Kristine Gerlach, Jim Ross, Bonnie Welniak, Dawn Lymond, Jean Ford, Mark Hall, Cynthia Roman, Edmund La Clair, Denise Robinson, Tracy Vogt, Joe Verkennes, Steve Mapes, Vinnie Maltese, Melissa Grey, Maris Fonseca, Deputy Steve Yeary, Cody Pickard, student, and Victoria McIntyre (recording secretary)

1. Chair Bacarella called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. It was moved by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Ms. Lauer that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2011, be approved as presented.

The motion carried.

3. Cody Pickard, student, presented each board member with a hand-made ceramic vase to thank them for receiving the Board of Trustees scholarship.

B. 3. a. (1) 4. It was moved by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Ms. Lauer that the following resolution of commendation for Alumnus of the Year be adopted:

WHEREAS, Mr. Darrick Whitaker is an avid supporter of Monroe County Community College, exhibiting outstanding community leadership, exemplary service to the College, and distinction in his chosen field, and

WHEREAS, he is a 1969 graduate of Monroe County Community College and continued his education earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toledo in 1984, and

WHEREAS, he currently serves as Principal Engineering Specialist in Major Enterprise Projects at DTE Energy and is recognized as an innovator who
was instrumental in the selection of MCCC as a site for DTE Energy’s SolarCurrents project installation, and

WHEREAS, he has been awarded the distinction of Monroe Power Plant Employee of the Year, and

WHEREAS, he is an MCCC instructor in the Industrial Technology Division, developing technology classes for electronics and electrical technology, assisted in obtaining a DTE Foundation grant to develop renewable energy classes, and serves on MCCC’s Electronics and Electrical Engineering Technology Advisory Committee, and

WHEREAS, he is a man of great character and integrity who exemplifies the best of Monroe County Community College.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes and congratulates Mr. Darrick Whitaker on his accomplishments and awards, and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees honor him with the 2011 Monroe County Community College Alumnus of the Year Award and expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation on this Monday, April 25, 2011.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (2) 5. It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mr. Bellino that the following resolution of commendation for College Supporter of the Year be adopted:

WHEREAS, DTE Energy has been a major contributor to Monroe County Community College’s efforts to provide a skilled workforce for the 21st Century playing a major role in the development of our nationally accredited Nuclear Engineering Technology program. DTE Energy has provided both instructional support and financial resources to help launch the initial program with resources from the DTE Energy Foundation for distance learning equipment; Fermi 2 student internships, training, tours and hands-on learning for faculty; subject matter experts to assist in curriculum development as proctors, lecturers and speakers; and funding for student scholarships, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy enhanced MCCC’s Alternative Energy curriculum by choosing the MCCC campus as the site of Michigan’s premier SolarCurrents photovoltaic project, the largest such installation on a college campus in Michigan, and
WHEREAS, DTE Energy’s relationship with A123 Systems, the largest manufacturer of lithium batteries and energy storage systems in North America, resulted in the location of a renewable energy demonstration project on the MCCC campus, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy is an annual Season Sponsor of MCCC’s campus/community events series, bringing high quality arts and entertainment to the region, and has provided sponsorship for many additional MCCC special events, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy was a partner in the development of the Construction Management Technology Certificate Program with a specialization in heavy and industrial construction providing assistance in curriculum development and outreach, including serving as lecturers and providing tours, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy regularly donates important instructional supplies to MCCC including scrap steel for welding and solar panels for renewable energies instruction, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy employees give generously of their time and talent in support of MCCC’s Mission including serving on MCCC advisory boards, the MCCC Alumni Association Board of Directors, and The Foundation at MCCC Board of Directors, and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy plays a high profile role as an enthusiastic ambassador and advocate of Monroe County Community College.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees recognizes DTE Energy as the 2011 College Supporter of the Year in appreciation of its continued support of Monroe County Community College, and its students and public, and

THAT IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees expresses its sincere gratitude on this Monday, April 25, 2011.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (3)  6. It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mr. Meyer that the Board authorizes the President to execute contracts for the following faculty members:

Dr. Maris Fonseca – Associate Professor of Biology
First Year probationary contract
Effective August 22, 2011
Dr. Melissa Grey – Assistant Professor of Psychology  
First year probationary contract  
Effective August 22, 2011

Edmund La Clair – Assistant Professor of History  
First year probationary contract  
Effective August 22, 2011

Kristine Gerlach – Disability Services Coordinator  
Second year probationary contract  
Effective August 22, 2011

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (4)  7.  
It was moved by Mr. Meyer and seconded by Mr. Braunlich that Policy 4.02, Pre-Professional or Transfer Program, be revised as presented.

The motion carried.

B. 3. a. (5)  8.  
It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and seconded by Mr. Meyer that Policy 3.05, Tuition and Fees Policy, be revised as follows

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<td>Resident (per billable contact hour)</td>
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The motion carried with Ms. Lauer opposed.

C. 3. a. (1)  9.  
Staff Appointments, Retirements, Resignations, Transfers, etc.

Staff Appointments:

Dr. Maris Fonseca, Associate Professor of Biology, first year probationary contract, effective August 22, 2011 (replacing Robert Pettit)

Dr. Melissa Grey, Assistant Professor of Psychology, first year probationary contract, effective August 22, 2011 (replacing John Miller)

Edmund La Clair, Assistant Professor of History, first year probationary contract, effective August 22, 2011 (replacing James DeVries)

Kristine Gerlach, Disabilities Services Coordinator, second year probationary contract, effective August 22, 2011 (replacing Cindy Riedel)
C. 3. a. (2) 10. The Board received the Statement of General Fund Revenues and Expenditures for the period ending March 31, 2011. Dan Schwab, Business Manager and Treasurer, reported that March tax revenues are on target. Expenses are slightly under budget because of retirements from this year.

C. 3. a. (3) 11. Vice President Daniels reported on Procedures 3.10 – Student Code of Conduct and Procedure 3.12(a) – Grading Systems. The Student Code of Conduct was reworked to promote fairness, respect, responsibility, and the college mission. An appeals/due process component was added. The Grading System procedure was revised to limit students to repeating courses to three times. This addresses concerns raised in the Auditor General’s Report.

C. 3. b. (1) 12. Barry Kinsey, Director of Workforce Development, provided an overview of the Graduate Follow-up Report 2009-10. Of students responding to the Graduate Follow-up Survey, 87 percent achieved the goals they set when they initially enrolled in MCCC. That is a 10% increase over last year. The financial aid department rated in the top three services/programs. Of employers surveyed, 100% were satisfied with our graduates’ training or preparation.

C. 3. b. (2) 13. Dr. Nixon congratulated Molly McCutchan for receiving the Clara Barton Honor Award for Meritorious Volunteer Leadership from the Monroe County Chapter of American Red Cross.

14. Dr. Nixon and Dr. Yackee reported on the recent National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC) exit interview and college’s continued accreditation status. In a preliminary oral report, the team recommended the program be accredited for two years (post June 30, 2011) with conditions that another review take place in 2013.

Some deficiencies provisionally identified by NLNAC with regard to certain dimensions of the MCCC nursing program are of concern to the board. The board will look at the final report when it is complete and accepted by the commission. The MCCC board will conduct a separate review. Vice Chair Braunlich noted that in the exercise of due diligence and fiduciary duties, that the board be assured that MCCC is fulfilling its professional and contractual obligations to current nursing students who are enrolled in the on-line LPN to RN program. The board was assured that Dr. Nixon, Dr. Yackee, and Dr. Roman, who are engaged in forthright streams of communication with the board chair and the vice chair, are addressing all deficiencies found by the NLNAC. Mr. Braunlich also noted that there was no doubt or lack of confidence in the leadership of Dr. Nixon or Dr. Yackee.

*It was moved by Mr. Braunlich and supported by Mr. Meyer that the entire MCCC Board of Trustees, functioning as a special NLNAC accreditation*
review committee of the whole and using the services of legal counsel as
needed, desired, and appropriate, independently and comprehensively review,
examine, assess, and investigate the facts and circumstances relevant to the
provisional and anticipated final written NLNAC accreditation report and
that MCCC Board Chairman Bill Bacarella functions as the exclusive
spokesperson of the MCCC Board of Trustees and that all media inquiries be
direct to him or his designee, and that the MCCC Board will not be making
any statements during the pendency of the board review regarding the facts
and circumstances of the investigation and the college personnel involved and
that the board expresses appreciation for Dr. Nixon’s and Dr. Yackee’s
aggressive, professional, and student-centered approach to addressing the
disappointing developments which reflect poorly on MCCC and the nursing
program and that under college leadership, candid, thorough, and
comprehensive assessment by the NLNAC will set the stage for numerous and
needed improvements in the MCCC nursing program and the restoration of
MCCC’s reputation for instructional excellence.

The motion carried. (See attachment)

C. 4. b. (1) 15. Board members chose May 25, 2011, 6 p.m. for a study meeting focusing on
the 2011-12 budget.

C. 4. b. (2) 16. The Culinary Program graduation will be at 3 p.m. and the Honors Reception
will be at 6:30 p.m. on April 27. Commencement will be held at 7:00 p.m. on
Friday, April 29. The WJR Paul W. Smith Pure Michigan kickoff is scheduled
for May 2 at 6:00 a.m. in the Atrium.

17. It was moved by Mr. Bellino and seconded by Mr. Meyer that the meeting be
adjourned.

The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Bacarella Jr.
Chair

William H. Braunlich
Vice Chair

vdm

These minutes were approved at the May 23, 2011 Board of Trustees meeting.
Following reports by Dr. Nixon and Dr. Yackee outlining the NLNAC exit interview and the recommended actions by the NLNAC evaluation team and following further discussion, questions and comments by trustees, William H. Braunlich made a motion "that the entire MCCC board of trustees, functioning as a special NLNAC accreditation review committee of the whole--- and using the services of legal counsel as needed, desired and appropriate--- independently and comprehensively review, examine, assess and investigate the facts and circumstances relevant to the provisional and anticipated final written NLNAC accreditation report". Trustee Braunlich expressed his understanding that the final and official NLNAC report is anticipated in the mid to late summer of 2011. Vice-president Yackee confirmed the anticipated NLNAC schedule for release of the final written report.

Trustee Braunlich began by indicating that the purpose of this motion and this independent board assessment was not to cast doubt or express any lack of confidence whatsoever in the leadership of Dr. Nixon or in the leadership by Dr. Yackee. Mr. Braunlich indicated that immediately following the NLNAC provisional report, expressed orally by the NLNAC evaluation team in the exit interview, Dr. Nixon and Dr. Yackee had engaged in an aggressive, forthright and extremely candid stream of communications and meetings with the MCCC Board chair and vice-chair regarding the status of NLNAC accreditation.

Trustee Braunlich indicated that in light of the importance of NLNAC accreditation and the numerous and serious deficiencies provisionally identified by NLNAC with regard to certain dimensions of the MCCC nursing program, the MCCC board must step outside of the normal administrative chain of command and communications to conduct a "top to bottom and bottom to top" review of "where MCCC nursing went wrong". Mr. Braunlich said: "The MCCC board must, in the exercise of due diligence and our fiduciary duties, be immediately assured that MCCC is fulfilling it's professional and contractual obligations to our current nursing students, with particular emphasis on MCCC's obligations to nursing students who are enrolled in the on-line //distance education LPN to RN program."

Trustee Braunlich's motion included a directive that MCCC Board Chairman Bill Bacarella functions as the exclusive spokesperson of the MCCC Board of Trustees and that all media inquiries should be directed to him or his designee. Further, Mr. Braunlich stated "as is customary and appropriate during internal investigations, the MCCC board will not be making any statements, during the pendency of the board review, regarding the facts and circumstances of the investigation and the college personnel involved."

Trustee Braunlich concluded the motion by stating, "I wish to emphasize, acknowledge and express appreciation for Dr. Nixon's and Dr. Yackee's aggressive, professional and student-centered approach to addressing these very disappointing developments which reflect poorly on MCCC and the nursing program. I am confident that, under your leadership, the candid, thorough and comprehensive assessment by NLNAC will set the stage for numerous and needed improvements in the MCCC Nursing program and the restoration of MCCC's reputation for instructional excellence."