

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

The Board Room, Z-203
La-Z-Boy Center
5:30 p.m., April 1, 2019

Present: William T. Bruck, Florence M. Buchanan, Lynette M. Dowler, Steve Hill, Krista K. Lambrix, Aaron N. Mason, and Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Valerie Culler, AJ Fischer, Paul Hedeem, Kelly Heinzerling, Brian Lay, Michele Paled, James Ross, Kojo Quartey, James Quick (The Agora), Joe Verkennes, Suzanne Wetzel, Grace Yackee, and Penny Dorcey (recording secretary)

1. Chair Dowler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. She held a moment of silence for Airport High School Student, Michael Radakovic, who was featured and quoted on the front page of the Monroe News the day before he took his own life. Michael was a beautiful, kindhearted soul.
2. Chair Dowler noted that she asked Board members send their tuition questions to Dr. Quartey, but the predominance of the discussion will address Trustee Mason's questions. She invited the staff to speak as necessary to address questions that specifically relate to their areas of expertise.

Suzanne Wetzel, Vice President of Administration/Treasurer, continued her discussion of tuition fees rates from the previous Monday. She began with the College mission and noted that the administration always tries to work with in its context, providing the community with affordable quality education. Trustee Buchanan has asked to see "apples compared to apples," So Mrs. Wetzel showed a chart comparing all the community colleges that charge by billable contact hours and all those that bill by contact hour. The College's recommendation to the Board has not changed from the March 25th meeting. The administration is recommending a 2.5 percent increase across the board for all three residency rates. For in-district rates, which includes over 80 percent of MCCC's student, the increase is \$2.75, or about \$40 per semester.

Last Thursday, in a meeting with the Instructional Technology committee, there was discussing of possibly discontinuing or reducing the \$75 technology fee for online courses. This is still being discussed and debated. Mrs. Wetzel has removed this amount (\$200,000) from her calculations to show the Board the least amount of money the college might charge for tuition; however, the number may go back into the calculation after the committee makes a final decision. Mrs. Wetzel provided a tuition rate history chart for the Trustees to reference throughout the meeting.

Monroe County taxpayers and the State of Michigan subsidize approximately 70 percent of the total educational cost for MCCC students. Although the College subsidizes every student, in-district students receive the highest subsidy, followed by out-of-district students, with out-of-state students receiving the lowest subsidy. Students from Owens Community College would pay about \$300 more at MCCC than an in-district student.

Recruitment of Whitmer High School students was mentioned at the last meeting. A few years ago, MCCC made a concerted effort to recruit students from Whitmer. MCCC placed a half-day counselor at Whitmer High School for a full year, and then made multiple recruiting visits to the school. There was no measurable impact on the College's out-of-state enrollment in regard to Whitmer High School.

Mrs. Wetzel discussed the reciprocity agreement between MCCC and Owens Community College. The program only applies for specific programs that are not offered by the home college. Owens has more programs than MCCC, so MCCC loses more students to Owens for reciprocity than Owens loses to MCCC. Owen's in-district tuition is \$147.50 per credit hour compared to MCCC's \$109.50.

Mrs. Wetzel moved on to the cost associated with Direct College (dual enrolled courses delivered at the participating high school). The State of Michigan publishes a calculator that determines the minimum cost the State can pay for a dual enrolled course. For example, for Monroe County schools on semesters, the State pays a minimum of \$650 for six credit hours, and the Colleges charges \$428.60 for tuition, technology and registration fees, leaving a difference of \$221.68. Any costs exceeding \$650 can be charged back to the parents. The Post-secondary Enrollment Option Act requires that all school districts pay an eligible student's tuition and mandatory course

fees, including technology fees, materials fees (including textbooks), registration fees and any late fees charged by the post-secondary institution. If a student does not have to buy books or there are not course fees for the course, the high school gets to keep the excess money.

Mrs. Wetzel spoke to MCCC’s commitments to the Direct College Initiative, which includes placement testing in the high school by MCCC staff (the College pays for the tests); Manually entered Direct College student registration processed by MCCC staff; Orientation for every Direct College session taught at the high school (Admissions staff); Constant interaction between the MCCC Admissions and Registrar’s offices and the high school counseling staff; Business Office Sponsored Billing process for all enrollments (Admissions and Bookstore); Faculty are paid by the College for orientation at each site; Adjunct faculty teaching at Direct College sites receive higher hourly rates; running low enrolled course sections, which cannot be cancelled due to student’s fixed schedules; faculty observations done by MCCC Deans at the high schools; Direct College students have access to all College services and technology; and the College is responsible for safeguarding all student information and maintaining all student records, which is a major responsibility.

Additionally, a class taught on campus does not mean students are using any more or less technology than for a course taught off-site or online. Brian Lay, Manager of Information Systems, expanded on this information reporting that most software and hardware costs are fixed. There are very few variable costs that are determined on the basis of the student population during any given semester. Those that are variable in cost come from software applications that are priced based on a Full-time Equivalency basis. That could be an employee basis or an enrollment range. For example, in Data Processing the College uses the Ellucian Powering System software, where because of the College’s enrollment range, it falls into a specific cost frame. Mr. Lay gave an overview of many of the costs associated with technology at the college. Students taking classes off campus can utilize all of the technology on-campus students utilize. The technology fee is used for all of those services. A detailed list can be found on the handout from Mrs. Wetzel, which is part of the permanent Board packet and can be obtained from the President’s office.

Ms. Lambrix thanked Mrs. Wetzel and her team for putting together the tuition information. Mrs. Thayer and Mrs. Dowler thanked Mr. Lay for sharing with them the technology needed to keep MCCC students and employees up to date with the required technology, noting that it takes much time and commitment year after year to do so.

President Quartey met with the superintendents this past week and they raised concerns about the cost of dual enrollment and books for the high schools. Ms. Buchanan suggested Dr. Quartey share this presentation with the superintendents to help them understand the true cost associated with the delivery of Direct College. Dr. Quartey agreed, and he and Mrs. Wetzel will pull together what is needed to show the superintendents. Dr. Grace Yackee, Vice President of Instruction, noted that Direct College has never been an enrollment strategy. It began as an access issue, a way to deliver College courses to high school students who did not have transportation to the College to take regular dual enrollment classes.

Mrs. Wetzel added that the College Board has always taken pride in the fact that it had one of the lowest tuition in the state for community college. She and her team have bought into that philosophy and they honor it.

3. *It was moved by Mr. Mason and supported by Mr. Hill that Policy 3.05, Tuition and Fees, be revised as follows, effective Fall 2019:*

<u>Tuition</u>	<u>Beginning Fall 2018</u>	<u>Beginning Fall 2019</u>
<i>Resident (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>\$109.50</i>	<i>\$ 112.25_</i>
<i>Non-Resident (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>\$194.50</i>	<i>\$ 199.50_</i>
<i>Out of State/International (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>\$216.50</i>	<i>\$ 222.00_</i>
<i>Non-Resident Student Apprentices (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>
<i>Non-Resident Student Veteran (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>
<i>Non-Resident Veteran Dependent Student using GI Bill Programs (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>
<i>Non-Resident Student Active Duty Service Person & Spouse (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>	<i>Resident Rate</i>

Non-Credit Instruction, including Continuing Education Units (CEU)

Resident Rate

Resident Rate

Miscellaneous Fees

<i>Technology Fee (per billable contact hour)</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>
<i>Registration (per student for each semester registering)</i>	<i>\$40.00</i>
<i>Laboratory Fees</i>	<i>Fees vary according to the class</i>
<i>Special Fees (Required costs for specific materials, rentals, testing, etc.)</i>	<i>Fees vary according to the class/program</i>
<i>Transcript, per copy</i>	<i>\$ 5.00</i>
<i>Credit by Exam Fee (Non-refundable) – 1 contact hour</i>	<i>\$35.00</i>
<i>2 or more contact hours</i>	<i>\$70.00”</i>

Mrs. Thayer asked that the record reflect that she would like a review of Ohio tuition versus Michigan tuition for non-residents and see if there is a way for the College to give a little relief to Whitmer High School students because of their close proximity to MCCC. Mr. Bruck concurred with Mrs. Thayer and added that he would like the Administration to calculate the most efficient ratio of student enrollment to College cost structure.

Ms. Buchanan cautioned that money is leaving town, and suggested that the College develop a marketing and outreach plan before cutting out-of-state tuition rates.

The motion carried unanimously.

- 4. *It was moved by Mr. Mason and supported by Ms. Buchanan that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynette M. Dowler
Chair

Aaron N. Mason
Secretary

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These minutes were approved at the April 22, 2019 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.