

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

Monroe County Community College 1555
S. Raisinville Road
Warrick Student Services Building,
Dining Room
5:30 p.m., May 22, 2023

Present: Florence M. Buchanan, Lynette Dowler, Julie Edwards, Nicole R. Goodman, Krista K. Lambrix, Aaron N. Mason, Mary Kay Thayer

Also Present: Abigail Baum, Jenna Bazzell, Scott Behrens, Matt Bird-Meyer, Dana Blair, Jack Burns, Parmeshwar Coomar, Kevin Cooper, Lori Jo Couch, Curtis Creagh, Joseph Fench, Jacob Garner, Nicole Garner, Miranda Gelb, Kris Gerlach, Mike Hayter, Kelly Heinzerling, Dean Kerste, Barry Kinsey, Brian Lay, Leon Letter, Kim Lindquist, Gerald McCarty, Justin McManaway, Joshua Meyers, Ken Mohny, Marcus Nagley, Carrie Nartker, Tina Pillarelli, Kojo Quartey, Josh Rhoden, Jim Ross, Nathan Schnerder, Michael Snyder, Helen Stripling, Robert Teszner, Linda Torbet, Trent Varve, Joe Verkennes, Philip Wahr, Celeste Williams, Patrick Wise, Anke Wolbert, Quri Wygonik, Grace Yackee, Penny Dorcey

1. Chair Aaron Mason called the meeting at 5:36 p.m.
2. There were two delegations present.

B. 2. a. (1) 3. *It was moved by Ms. Dowler and supported by Ms. Lambrix that the following items on the Consent Agenda be approved as presented:*

- B. 2. a. (1) Approval of minutes of the April 24, 2023, regular meeting
- B. 2. a. (2) Board Authorization for the President to Execute a Probationary Faculty Contract - Hartig

The motion carried unanimously.

B. 4. a. (1) 4. *It was moved by Ms. Edwards and supported by Ms. Goodman that the board adopt the following resolution of commendation for Scott Wang:*

WHEREAS, Scott Wang will retire from his position as Associate Professor of Accounting at Monroe County Community College, effective August 20, 2023, And

WHEREAS, Scott Wang has been an exceptional full-time faculty member at MCCC for almost 18 years and a valued and highly esteemed professor in the Business Division, and

WHEREAS, Scott Wang has taught a wide variety of Accounting courses, and

WHEREAS, Scott Wang has created a positive learning environment in numerous classes that has allowed students to develop academically as well as personally, serving them well both at MCCC and beyond, and

WHEREAS, Scott Wang was nominated for Faculty of the Year several times including this academic year, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees recognizes Scott Wang for his dedicated service and contributions to his students and the community, and

BE IT DECIDED that by the President’s recommendation, Scott Wang shall hereby be granted faculty emeritus status, and

BE IT RECORDED that the Board of Trustees wishes for Scott Wang continued success, good health, and happiness on this day, May 22, 2023.

The motion carried unanimously.

- C. 1. a. (1) 5. The Board recognized six delegations.
 - a. Rick Kull, a community member, spoke on behalf of the staff at Monroe County Community College. Without the collective bargaining agreement, the community is discouraged and uninformed and we want to keep high- quality staff at the college. There are a lot of districts in Michigan that are losing high-quality staff because the pay is inadequate. Consistency in staff is important. When students speak highly of their instructors, it’s good to have that in the community. Monroe County should stand above all other counties to show that we believe in a highly educated workforce and a highly educated community. Let’s make this a beacon of education. Let’s have staff that do their best and are happy to come to work. Please sit down and make a good, fair collective bargain.
 - b. Mark Bergmooser spoke regarding the vote of no confidence. He stated that more than four months ago, he stood before the Board and delivered a vote of no confidence against our President, Kojo Quartey. And although it was focused on him, honestly the vote of no confidence could be toward the entire climate here at the College. Mr. Bergmooser said he goes around town and goes to the doctor and the dentist; He goes to different stores, and people ask him what is happening, and what's going on out at the College. He said that the board members know this because people referenced them and know them. The record turnover at MCCC is not coincidental. Mr. Bergmooser has worked at MCCC for 27 years and there are only a handful of people out there who have worked as long or longer

than him, so he knows those people and they talk about the people who have left. Mr. Bergmooser has talked to those people and those people have spoken to him. He asked the Board if they had done their due diligence? Had they spoken to the maintenance? Had they spoken to support staff? Had they spoken to the faculty? Because he has. He asked “If you haven’t, who have you talked to?” He told the Trustees, “we had a bomb threat here about a month or so ago, and Charlie Abel resigned. He did not retire, and he even sent a letter to one of the board members”. He asked if they were “privy to the information about what has happened here? How grossly mishandled that was?” He told them to speak to Mr.

Able and asked that as they look towards hiring his replacement and at the security of our campus here, which is of utmost importance, that they look to hire people who work in this community, who live in this community, and who know this community, to keep us safe.

- c. Bill Conner spoke on behalf of the faculty regarding negotiations. He is shocked and appalled at the situation with the faculty at MCCC. He stated that if one looks back at the history of labor and the community college, the labor group was one of the first to put money into the pot. They canceled their Labor Day parade in 1964, and all the money that they would have spent on the parade was donated to the college. He mentioned that Dr. Nixon used to sit on the Labor History Museum board. Mr. Conner said that there is a term used in the labor movement, an injury to one is an injury to all. He stated that when the College proposes another millage request and it comes to the labor groups, he does not see them supporting the request under the current condition. The district must come to some kind of agreement as this is terrible.
- d. Abigail Baum spoke on behalf of the faculty regarding the ongoing negotiations. Ms. Baum works for DTE Energy and FERMI II, Third Generation Division, who she says is a huge proponent of the NUET program that has been run right here at MCCC. This program has only been possible because of the close partnership between MCCC and DTE. The union faculty are currently working under duress. Miss Baum said “We would love to see our continued support of the NUET program, but this can only continue if we have a workforce that has a fair contract. hat we would like to see, on behalf of DTE and The Third Generation Division, are faculty who are operating under the same conditions as their students who are going to one day be staff members, hopefully for FERMI, which is a fair negotiated, appropriate, and a timely mannered, contract.
- e. Robert Tesznar, a community member, spoke on behalf of the faculty regarding the ongoing contract negotiations. He said that he grew up in the community and he chose MCCC and he thinks everybody should remember that the College was built because of the great community in which it resides. The community is suffering because of the lack of headway on negotiations.

- f. Michael Jewell, business manager for the Plumbers and Pipefitters union, spoke on behalf of the faculty regarding the ongoing negotiations. Mr. Jewell is a lifelong resident of the community and said that MCCC is a great community college. He is upset to hear about the ongoing negotiations. Faculty are the people who stay late after classes. He hopes that all sides will keep an open mind during negotiations and strive to find common ground.

- C. 2. a. (1) 6. Granton Brooks, Planner, Economic and Community Vitality, delivered an update on the activities of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

Mr. Brooks is a Planner in the Economic and Community Vitality group. He explained that SEMCOG uses data to plan for the successful future of the region. SEMCOG's staff and elected leadership work hard to make Southeast Michigan a great place to live, work, and play for the region's 4.7 million residents and all of those who visit. On the education front, some of the initiatives SEMCOG spearheads is funding and funding equity programs; access to technology; early childhood programs; career guidance; nutrition workshops; and workplace skills workshops.

Mr. Brooks mentioned that on April 13, 2023, SEMCOG held a mental health webinar called *Let's Talk about Mental Health in Schools and in Our Communities*. He explained that even before the pandemic, schools were facing a surge in demand for care that far outpaced capacity, and it has become increasingly clear that the traditional counseling center model is ill-equipped to solve the problem. College students today are also juggling a dizzying array of challenges, from coursework, relationships, and adjustment to campus life to economic strain, social injustice, mass violence, and various forms of loss related to COVID-19. As a result, school leaders are starting to think outside the box about how to help. Institutions across the country are embracing approaches such as group therapy, peer counseling, and telehealth. They're also better equipping faculty and staff to spot—and support—students in distress, and rethinking how to respond when a crisis occurs. Many schools are finding ways to incorporate a broader culture of wellness into their policies, systems, and day-to-day campus life.

Mr. Brooks went on to explain that the number of students seeking help at campus counseling centers increased almost 40 percent between 2009 and 2015 and continued to rise until the pandemic began, according to data from Penn State University's Center for Collegiate Mental Health (CCMH), a research- practice network of more than 700 college and university counseling centers. That rising demand has not been matched by a corresponding rise in funding, which has led to higher caseloads. Nationwide, the average annual caseload for a typical full-time college counselor is about 120 students, with some centers averaging more than 300 students per counselor

Another SEMCOG project called Commuter Connect, which is a mobile- responsive web application, a native Android app, and a native iOS app all branded for Commuter Connect. The apps provide trip planning for commute trips, single trips, and trips to events and destinations that allow users to see all available transportation options. Users are encouraged to track all non-drive-alone trips so they can see their environmental impact and cost savings. This information engages and motivates users to continue taking clean air commute options. Keeping track of these trips is easy with passive trip tracking and active trip tracking with apps like Strava, Under Armour, Garmin, Fitbit, Scoop, and Love to Ride. Commuter Connect is helping to advance the quality of life of commuters while improving air quality by reducing the number of single-occupancy vehicles. It helps residents, commuters, and individuals connect to all of their travel options. It provides a free, easy-to-use resource for finding greener travel options like carpool, vanpool, transit, and other options throughout Southeast Michigan. You can also record your trips to earn rewards. Commuter Connect helps commuters travel around the region by informing, encouraging, facilitating, and incentivizing alternative transportation options.

Mr. Brooks stated that Michigan's lakes, rivers, and wetlands define the region and are essential to its economic health, recreational opportunities, and quality of life. To get this work done, it takes a team of water champions from across the region to work collaboratively to protect the water system. Water operators, watershed councils, academic researchers, transportation agencies, and the citizens who live in Michigan's watersheds are all considered water champions. Everybody plays a role in maintaining water quality. While the state has made great progress in the world of water resources, there is also more that we can do to improve our water quality for future generations. SEMCOG's Water Infrastructure Task Force developed policies and actions around water infrastructure and resiliency, to help guide water infrastructure projects moving into the future. In the fourth year of the *One Water* campaign, SEMCOG has focused its efforts on educating the public about our stormwater system and helping residents to better understand how they can protect their property from flooding. He added that according to a recent report from the Brookings Institution, approximately one-third of U.S. drinking water and wastewater operators will be eligible for retirement by 2028. Because the water workforce tends to be slightly older than the average age for other sectors, thousands of water utilities will need to be prepared to fill vacancies to ensure the needs of our communities can be met.

Mr. Brooks noted that the hiring struggle has not missed the Great Lakes region. Since the shutdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic, Michigan has seen a significant drop in the labor force, making it more difficult to fill any open positions. The state lost 250,000 workers from February 2020 to May 2021. That's about a 4.4 percent decline of the Michigan labor force. The national drop was around 2.1 percent. Water sector jobs provide opportunities to make a critical contribution to sustainability, water quality, and environmental health along with great pay and benefits. Southeast Michigan is experiencing labor shortages for qualified water professionals due to retirements and a limited worker pipeline. We need to address this challenge now by reaching out to students and adults from diverse populations that are underrepresented in the water workforce. The water sector needs a steady stream of talented and dedicated individuals who have made a choice to work in the water industry. There is a need to build a pipeline of future water protection specialists. Water sector jobs provide competitive wages, reliable employment, and a way to truly make a difference in communities by protecting public health and the environment. However, many individuals are simply not aware of the value and opportunities for a career in the water workforce. Developing the next generation of water protection specialists requires the early engagement of America's youth to promote awareness of the promising career opportunities available in the water sector. Many community and educational

programs, as well as academic institutions, have the capacity to connect youth and others to employment opportunities. For example, the Oakland County Water Resource Commission is looking to solve the lack of qualified candidates by boosting its internship program. The county needs people who go to college for degrees like engineering or chemistry, but they also need people who may not want to go to college but do want to find a good job or apprenticeship program.

Mr. Brooks also noted that the Great Lakes Water Authority also has an apprenticeship program they hope will help fill retirement openings. They want to ramp up their programs and plan to open a new apprenticeship for water technicians this summer. Apprentices learn from long-term employees while gaining the licensing and certifications the authority requires for its jobs.

Another method the authority uses is training their employees through the One Water Institute, which provides education and leadership development. Water industry jobs will continue to advance and change over time, calling for more employees and skill sets. Some of the strategies that can help create equitable marketing efforts to attract diverse candidates to the water sector are to:

- Promote and market to job seekers and employers on water careers.
- Hold monthly or quarterly career fairs promoting water jobs
- Develop creative marketing materials such as TV commercials and radio ads
- Enhance social media presence
- Create a regional curriculum to share among ISD and community colleges.
- Recruit a pipeline of students into open positions in the water career field
- Design an elective course for ISD and community colleges
- Provide curriculum designed by industry professionals, faculty, and staff persons
- Partner in apprenticeship opportunities at wastewater and drinking water facilities
- Allow high school and college students to engage in apprenticeship programs
- Offer open house/plant tours
- Ensure effective infrastructure operations through workforce development and training.
- Develop local and regional stormwater infrastructure construction and maintenance training certification programs.
- Work with professional, educational, and workforce agencies to develop regional training and licensing programs in the drinking and wastewater sectors.

Any questions can be directed to Mr. Brooks at brooks@semcog.org, or by calling 313-324-3403.

- C. 3. b. (1) 7. Dr. Quartey announced the following professional staff appointment, professional staff contracts, non-renewal, retirement, and resignation.

Staff Appointment:

Aaron LaDuke, Financial Aid Specialist-State Programs Coordinator, effective April 10, 2023 (replacing Allison Gallardo)

Professional Staff Contracts:

Miranda Gelb, Career Technical Education Coordinator - ASET, effective April 17, 2023 (new position; professional staff) – Grant-funded position

Yahel Rivera, Assistant Director of Multicultural and Community Engagement, effective April 17, 2023 (new position; professional staff) – Grant-funded

Allison Gallardo, Assistant Director of Financial Aid, effective May 1, 2023 (moving from High School Liaison and Student Groups Coordinator. Replacing Nickie Hampsher who moved to the position of Director of Financial Aid)

Non-renewal

Nien-Chu Wan (Alex), Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering, effective May 4, 2023

Retirement:

Scott Wang, Associate Professor of Accounting, effective August 20, 2023

Resignation:

Andrew Robertson, General Maintenance Worker, effective March 23, 2023

- C. 3. a. (3) 11. Curtis Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration, gave the Board an update on the General Fund Revenues and Expenses for the period ending March 31, 2023.

Mr. Creagh, Vice President of Finance and Administration, reported that the statement shows revenues of \$27.1 million, showcasing the three major revenues, operations, state appropriations, and property taxes. Property taxes are at 745 percent and total revenues are accrued and posted now at 85 percent.

Expenses are at a total of 27.1 million (63.4 percent). None of the expense categories are over-expended (see page two of the statement for a breakdown). In preparation for the end of the fiscal year, a notice was sent out to the campus to be mindful of year-end spending.

- C. 3. b. (1) 15. President Quartey summarized his reports to the Trustees, which he sends every other week.

Dr. Quartey reported that the Faculty negotiation teams have met with a mediator present and have made incremental progress. Support Staff negotiations continue and progress is being made.

Dr. Quartey gave the following update on legislation from the House Subcommittee on Higher Education Community. He announced \$15.3 million SAF, or a 4.5 percent increase to operations grants for community colleges, which would be distributed through the performance funding formula. MCCC's increase was 5.1 percent, which

was the third largest percentage increase among all 28 community colleges. \$254,400 SAF decrease based on FY 2021-22 North American Indian Tuition Waiver program costs reported by institutions. MCCC has received a minimal amount for this in previous years. The House added \$5 million federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF) for career and education navigators for adult learners. Counties and community colleges would apply for grant funding through the Office of Sixty by 30 to supplement or create career and education navigators. MCCC needs this badly to supplement our “Reconnect” efforts. The House also added \$5.0 million SFRF for the Michigan Reconnect Entry Point program. Counties and community colleges would apply for grant funding through the Office of Sixty by 30 to engage applicants who have been approved for Reconnect funding but have not enrolled in an eligible program. The House added a \$100 placeholder for campus security and safety upgrades at community colleges. Safety is priority #1, so hopefully, when all is said and done, funding will be provided. The 4.5 percent tuition restraint remains, however, there is no cap violation language.

Congressman Walberg was on campus, Monday, April 5th. He met with Josh Myers, Aaron Mason, Mary Kay Thayer, and President Quartey. The congressman submitted a \$4.2 million “earmark” request for MCCC. Also, on April 5th, MCCC held two sessions of Active Shooter Survival Training. Each session was three hours long; there were approximately 50 individuals in the first session and 125 in the second. This was open to the community. On April 13th, Trustee Mason, Josh Myers, and Dr. Quartey attended MCCA’s Community College Legislative Day in Lansing. They met with the staff of all our representatives and had a lunch meeting with Senator Joe Bellino.

President Quartey and Dr. Scott Behrens attended a D3C3 press conference in Detroit earlier today. MCCC is collaborating with the ISD and all Monroe County school districts to offer a dual-enrolled machining class for all high school students. This is another victory with the CTE Hub concept. Preparation for the Higher Learning Commission visit continues in earnest.

Chair Aaron Mason noted that DTE Energy has its own schedule as to how they are going to slowly phase out of coal, but now we are hearing that DTE may have a more aggressive plan. The College needs to make sure it is budgeting for a more aggressive shutdown as it builds the new budget.

Dr. Quartey announced that late Sunday evening of April 9th, the College responded to a possible bomb threat and called 911. Explosive detection canines were brought in from Lansing to sweep the campus. After a complete sweep, the threat was deemed non-credible and the all-clear was given by local law enforcement at 3:24 a.m. Law enforcement was able to trace the call and the investigation is ongoing.

- C. 3. b. (2) 16. The Board received an update on the Higher Learning Commission from Dr. Grace Yackee and Dr. Quri Wygonik

Dr. Yackee informed the Board that Dr. Wygonik has several updates regarding preparations for the visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in October. Tonight's presentation focuses on one of the areas of concentration that the visiting team was looking at when they were here in 2019. They also recognize all the work the College has done regarding the Strategic Plan. Key Performance Indicators are a piece of the strategic plan and updating progress of the Strategic Plan. The Institutional Research Office has developed KPI dashboards within different content areas. The office has already presented to different groups on campus. Tonight's focus will be on the KPIs in which the Board might be most interested and will show the Trustees how to access the KPIs, as well as the dynamics.

Dr. Wygonik gave an outline comprehensive list of dashboards that are available to everyone on Board, showing how they can access and navigate those dashboards from a few locations. In May, she will update the Board on how the KPIs specifically allow us to set targets. Dr. Wygonik explained that the grayed-out triangles with an asterisk indicate the project coordinator's instruction. She demonstrated the process to the Board by going through enrollment analytics, showing unduplicated enrollment counts. When looking at gross utilization, the percentage of students enrolled in a course out of the total capacity that allows for enrollment in that course or series of quizzes, it gives a passphrase withdrawal rate and the full-time equivalent of the percentage. She then demonstrated how MCCC compares to other institutions, using the size of full-time equivalency (FTE) to show those comparisons. Also available are student demographics (replacing the former student profile report). With the addition of a new analyst in Dr. Wygonik's office, they will be able to automate and refresh the data allowing the dynamic dashboard to update as soon as the statistics are available. For example, the user will have the ability look at enrollment statistics and disaggregate by many different academic and socio and demographic characteristics and students. Dr. Wygonik also showed how to look at the market share, or the percentage of Monroe County graduates that enroll at the College. She noted that they are currently working on a dual enrollment conversion statistic that is currently under construction. They are also close to looking at the conversion of degree seekers once they graduate high school into the full population.

Dr. Wygonik stated that she and her team do look at trends for non-credit enrollment and as well as at students concurrently enrolled as credit and non-credit. They also have some student performance and progress measures that are of particular interest to faculty in the services area. Her office also intends to work more closely with faculty on the assessment dashboards. Dr. Wygonik stated that they have a very good data set in MCCC's curriculum, so they are beginning to build begun to build a dashboard that looks at how students are meeting benchmarks and scoring rubrics in that space. Although not available yet, soon users will be able to look at students' GPA performance, their tax rates, their withdrawal rate, and their GPA after transfer by accessing those data from the receiving institution on a regular basis as of now and student progress.

Dr. Wygonik is also looking at housekeeping items like retention fall to fall and fall to winter; and developmental math placement. Placement is especially important because it is indicative of a student's overall progress. Also, in this area, Dr. Wygonik is looking at reading scores, how long it takes them to complete credit during their college math, and at the enrollment of college mathematics, as well as how long it takes a student to transition and enroll in the credit bearing math. The process is very complex as there are many different math sequence requirements for different programs and transfer interests. All of this will be coming soon. Ultimately, the College is looking at how students are graduating or completing.

Lastly, there is a suite of satisfaction dashboards. The new CRM will be able to do conversions and determine whether a student is still here with us and whether they need something specific for a graduation goal, support services, work or transfer knowledge, help with developing work or transfer goals, potential retention factors, and major challenges to student success. There are many other dashboards as well.

Dr. Wygonik noted that there is a way to submit feedback such as questions, feedback, and different inquiries through a form on the KPI Dashboard. The information goes directly to Dr. Wygonik's office, so everything is automated.

Dr. Wygonik concluded by giving the Board a list of links to help them access and navigate the KPI dashboards. She also gave a shout-out to Brianna Pio as the "mastermind" of this project. She added that in May, the Board will receive an update on the Strategic Plan from herself and Joe Verkennes, Director of Marketing and Communications.

- C. 3. b. (2) 17. Dr. Grace Yackee, Vice President of Instruction, reported on instructional modalities before and after COVID.

Dr. Yackee noted that in 2013, the College applied for and was approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer 100 percent of its courses and programs online. She gave special thanks to Jeff Peters, Coordinator of e-Learning and Instructional Support for his hard work on this project. When COVID hit, MCCC was one of few institutions that had already gone through the approval process and did not get to seek any type of temporary approval. In March 2020, we began moving everything online with the exception of courses that absolutely had to be in person. Moving into fall 2020, there were very few classes on campus. There were a few students who were not able to complete; however, we were very successful working with these students and getting them through their courses. This continued on into the fall of 2020 and the winter of 2021. Dr. Yackee noted that the College is still trying to get back to some level of normality because things are forever changed since the onset of COVID and we are using online learning in a way that has accelerated, both in terms of our course offerings and even in supplemental classes using Brightspace technology.

Dr. Yackee gave the board a handout showing that the fall of 2020 was the height of online and blended or hybrid learning. Online learning is fully asynchronous where faculty and students are separate. Students are expected to have assignments done by a certain time and complete the course within the semester. Blended or hybrid learning is

where classmates have some in-person learning and some synchronous learning. Over time as we moved into COVID, those numbers slowly accelerated. When looking at the fall of 2015, about 11 percent of the course content was delivered online up until 2019, then there is an additional 4 percent followed by an acceleration into the fall of 2020, with a slight reduction in the fall of 2021 as more students returned to campus. That continued into the fall of 2022.

Dr. Yackee and her team continued to assess and evaluate student interest. They still fill the online courses first. She continues to look at early outcomes to see how big the modality measurement is impacting student learning. Dr. Yackee pointed out that under the enrollment section of the handout, she provided involvement and relationships to capacity. In terms of efficiency and productivity, the online classes stand out in terms of the percentage of seats.

When looking at the breakdown, it is evident that we are moving more toward the use of hybrid classes. The handout shows the differences in efficiencies between the blended or hybrid and the in-person modalities.

Dr. Yackee stated that projecting for fall 2023 is interesting because the online sections appear to be lower, but it is still early and we have not had many online sessions. We are trying to encourage students to participate face-to-face. The College is trying to offer blended or hybrid classes where part of the class meets once a week asynchronously. Alternatively, there are some online sections that offer supplemental opportunities for students to come to campus to interact with the faculty and other students in the classroom environment. This is not mandatory. If there is a demand for an online class we add a section. We have found that stepping into online classes has not been as challenging as stepping into face-to-face classes.

Dr. Yackee says that we also offer classes at the high schools our courses, our faculty, and we evaluate, so the face-to-face, the in-person has been a real challenge. Blended classes help a little bit but we are finding interest in a lot of online classes. There have been extreme challenges in the last few semesters with students who are struggling in different areas. Dr. Yackee believes the distance from us on a regular basis for some students has played a role in that; however, we need to continue investigating. That being said, if there is a main demand we are offering it if the outcomes are similar and there is not a concern. There are some classes that are not successful in the online format.

Dr. Yackee noted that the quality of online classes is the same as that of face-to-face classes. The faculty and administration have standardized much of the work to make sure the support is there, and the faculty and the students are required to complete an orientation, in online teaching and online learning. We have worked with faculty and looked at the rubrics that they use to assess the courses and the quality of their courses. In 2020, some faculty had already been teaching online, so the move was not a big deal. For others, we had to move content online, which was a bigger challenge. Obviously, now we are two years out and have made progress for remote areas, but there are still some areas, particularly occupational areas, then which the hands-on piece will continue.

- C. 3. b. (3) 18. Dr. Myers, Executive Director of The Foundation, reported on the April 10th meeting. The Board of Directors did approve an amendment to its endowment policy. That is a big change for them. Previously at the beginning of The Foundation, the minimum amount to establish an endowment was \$20,000. The board voted to increase the minimum to \$25,000. The major effect of that is a typical award under the previous \$20,000 amount would generate \$800. It will now generate about \$1,000. The board felt that was a doable change to keep up with the costs as well as something that would not dissuade the donors. A secondary change to policy added language that addresses the abandonment of endowment working toward endowment in the event that a donor stops working toward an endowment, rather than leaving those funds fallow, it gives us a procedure to move those funds into an active spend-down phase.

Dr. Myers was able to announce two new endowed scholarships, the Dannielle Lambert Endowment Scholarship, Danielle was a coordinator in our Upward Bound Program who passed away, and the Agricultural Endowed Scholarship. This was under the new \$25,000 endowment policy. These are the 76th and 77th endowed scholarships respectively. Dr. Myers also announced a major gift from the Mabel Kehres Charitable Trust number 2 (\$35,000). Ten Thousand of that goes to VEX Robotics, and the other \$25,000 is the first major gift to our Welch renovation. The Charles and Henrietta Knabusch Charitable Trust number 2 was a spend down on average over 20 years from their estate. Next year is the last year for that endowment. We have received over \$600,000 over the period of the trust from them. That is a significant amount of money in our community and they have done a great amount of good. Dr. Myers thanked Chuck Knabusch and Kaye Lani Rae Rafko who are the trustees of that fund.

Dr. Myers reported that the Joint Capital Outlay Subcommittee has completed two hearings. Now they have four community colleges at a time giving testimonies. MCCC will be invited to that soon. Dr. Myers believes all is looking good for MCCC and that we are looking at June, hopefully, as we are listed as number four in the priority in the state. One of the other projects ahead of MCCC received funding, so Dr. Myers believes they will drop out. Dr. Myers submit two different federal appropriations requests. One is through Senator Gary Peters' office in the amount of \$2.5 million for the Welch Health Education Building. The second is through Congressman Timothy Walberg's office in the amount of \$2.5 million to convert the Whitman Center over to geothermal and to do some structural stabilization to the foundation in the back.

Dr. Myers mentioned some changes to the executive committee. Unfortunately, Dr. Ronald Campbell, the first and only vice chair, is no longer going to be on the executive committee; however, he is remaining on the board. The committee is looking for a successor for him. If you know of any members of the community who might be good candidates to serve on the executive board please let Dr. Myers know.

In closing, Dr. Myers reminded the Trustees that the Strike, Spares, and Scholarships fundraiser is back and they are looking for bowlers. He encouraged them to come out even if they do not bowl. This is a wonderful fundraiser.

- C. 4. b. (2) 19. *It was moved by Ms. Thayer and supported by Ms. Goodman that the Board go into closed session.*

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Yes [6]: Ms. Goodman, Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Mason, Ms. Thayer, Ms. Lambrix, and Ms. Edwards

No [0]: None

The motion carried and Board went into closed session at 7:05 p.m.

20. Open session resumed at 7:46 p.m.

- C. 4. b. (1) 21. Chair Mason noted the upcoming events.

22. *It was moved by Ms. Edwards and supported by Ms. Lambrix that the meeting be adjourned.*

The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron N. Mason Chair

Florence M. Buchanan
Secretary

pd/

These minutes were approved at the September 25, 2023, regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.