

The 244th meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
Thursday, February 20, 2020  
Murphy Conference Room  
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Chairman Robert Antonioni, Trustees Abraham Bravo, Richard Cella, Claire Freda, Denise Kindschi Gosselin, Irene Hernandez Guzman (phone-in), Donata Martin and Ken Tomasetti and representative to the Academic Senate, Sheila Murphy.

Present from the College: President Vander Hooven, Vice Presidents Paul Hernandez, Robert LaBonte, Lea Ann Scales, Peter Sennett, Associate VP Michelle Paranto and Sr. Dean of Student Affairs, Jason Zelesky and Senior Staff Associate Jo-Ann Meagher. Many faculty and staff also attended.

Members unable to attend: Jamy Gaynor and Tracy Hutchinson.

**A. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Antonioni called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Antonioni called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2019. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Freda and seconded by Ms. Gosselin. All approved. Motion carried.

**C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Antonioni**

Chairman Antonioni welcomed all to the Board of Trustees meeting. The Finance Committee met just before the Board meeting. Chairman Antonioni found the meeting “helpful” in view of current situation at the college. Chairman Antonioni thanked the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Mr. Cella, as well as VP LaBonte for their good work. Chairman Antonioni announced that Ms. Candace Shivers, MCCC union representative and faculty member of Human Services, has requested time to address the board regarding the tenure process.

- Ms. Shivers introduced herself as the Instructor of Sociology, School Health Professions, Public Service Programs & Social Sciences as well as the Chair of the Tenure Committee this semester. Ms. Shivers said that the president sent the Trustees the Tenure Process Policy. Ms. Shivers said she wanted to take this opportunity to clarify, “clean up” or to answer questions from the board concerning this policy. Ms. Shivers also announced there would be a meeting in April for the next applicants. Should there be any questions she may be reached via email.

Chairman Antonioni thanked Ms. Shivers for that information.

**D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Vander Hooven**

- President Vander Hooven welcomed all to the meeting.
- The president referred to the Academic Affairs update and touted the pass rate of the Health Care Programs written and practical exams for the graduates of the class of 2019:
  - NCLEX for Associate Degree Program – 87%
  - NCLEX for Practical Nursing Certificate Program – 97%
  - Paramedic Psychomotor Exam – 100%
  - NREMT-Paramedic Written Exam – 77%
  - Dental Hygiene ADEX Exam – 100%
  - National Board Dental Hygiene Exam – 84%
  - National Physical Therapy Exam (NPYUE) for PTA program – 93%
- President Vander Hooven announced that Maria Milagros would be our guest speaker at our 55<sup>th</sup> Commencement. She has been a guest speaker and panelist at our Tea Time Series. The president read an excerpt from her webpage: “Maria Milagros is a speaker, an author, story teller and empowerment life coach. Whether sharing her life experiences and knowledge through impactful talks, workshops, leadership training, life coaching or videos, Maria uses stories to bring encouragement, education and love to empower others to get out of their way and break free from any hindering thoughts or beliefs, so that they can live amazing lives and leave their unique and positive mark on the world. She knows that no

matter where you come from, what you've been through, or what you have done, love, connection and personal responsibility can change every area of your life.”

- Next Monday, February 24, is the next Tea Time Speaker Series. We are celebrating Black History Month and focusing on alternative routes to educational attainment.
- There have been several campus wide meetings through the College Forum concerning campus space. This refers to the locations where we have our services for our students, ensuring that what we have works for our students with a clear flow for them to the offices they need. Utilizing appropriate signage, etc. We are looking at the summer months as a timeframe for these moves.
- “We are facing challenges.” President Vander Hooven said in talking with the Leadership Team there needs to be better communication with each other and with the college community. This process started this morning with a consultant, Rita Hardiman, coming in to begin building these relationships. She will be returning next month to have 30-minute face-to-face meetings with each of the Leadership Team members. Ms. Hardiman will then facilitate an intensive one and one half day retreat.
- President Vander Hooven formally introduced VP Paul Hernandez, of Academic Affairs.

**E. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM – VICE PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

- VP Hernandez spoke about The Faculty Academy. This Academy’s objective is to strengthen our teaching and learning in order to improve student success.
- VP Hernandez also talked about the Retention Team. This team consists of one director and three retention specialists who are dedicated to working with students, faculty and staff to increase retention. We are looking to the future to create a Retention Center.
- President Vander Hooven mentioned our need to use some budget money to renovate our classrooms appropriately for “State of the Art” technology.
- President Vander Hooven also said that he was at an *Achieving the Dream* conference and participated in a panel presentation on student services for single mothers. He explained that sometimes a student is only a meal away from dropping out of college. We need to have a format or process for a students’ ability to be successful. The student food pantry and retention center are some of the ways that we can help to keep them from having to make that decision.

**F. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY – VICE PRESIDENT LABONTE**

- **AD – 1246** – Approval of Second Quarter Trust Fund. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve AD-1246. Mr. Cella made a motion and Mr. Tomasetti seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

**G. OLD BUSINESS-CHAIRMAN ANTONIONI-NONE**

**H. NEW BUSINESS – SABBATICAL**

- President Vander Hooven explained there were three applications submitted to the Sabbatical Committee. This committee presented their rank order for review by the Deans who presented their rank order. The president presented Patricia Meza’s application for approval, who ranked highest with the Committee as well as the Deans, for her Sabbatical around Pediatric Nursing. She will completing her Ph.D. through the UMASS Medical School in Worcester. He asked for the ability to meet with the other two applicants to see if there could be a middle ground for their applications. He would then bring those recommendations before the board at the next meeting.

- I.** Chairman Antonioni asked if there was any other business before the board. Hearing none, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ms. Freda and seconded by Mr. Cella. The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Meagher