

The 249th meeting of the Board of Trustees
Mount Wachusett Community College
Wednesday, October 21, 2020
Remote Zoom meeting
Meeting Minutes

Members present on Zoom meeting: Robert Antonioni, Claire Freda, Denise Gosselin, Vanessa Hill (Student Trustee), Tracy Hutchinson, Ken Tomasetti and representing the Academic Senate, Sheila Murphy

Members unable to attend: Jamy Gaynor, Irene Hernandez, and Donata Martin

Present from the College: President Vander Hooven, Vice Presidents Rachel Frick Cardelle, Paul Hernandez, Dan Horlander, Robert LaBonte, Lea Ann Scales, Peter Sennett, Joseph Stiso and Associate and Sr. Dean of Student Affairs, Jason Zelesky and Senior Staff Associate Jo-Ann Meagher. There were many faculty and staff viewing the Vimeo live stream.

- A. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Antonioni called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.
- B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Antonioni called for a motion to approve the minutes of August 13, 2020. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Gosselin and seconded by Mr. Tomasetti. All approved. Motion carried.
- C. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Antonioni**
- Chairman Antonioni thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Congratulated Vanessa Hill on being sworn in as our new Student Trustee. He thanked the college community for the work that has been accomplished during these unprecedented times as well as to the Board of Trustees.
- D. **PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Vander Hooven**
- The president welcomed everyone to the Trustees meeting. He also congratulated and welcomed Vanessa Hill as our Student Trustee. The president is looking forward to the day that we can meet in person again.
 - Reiterated the gratitude mentioned by Chairman Antonioni to the staff and faculty in assisting our students with achieving their successes.
 - Since our last meeting, the thinking was that we might be down 12-14% with our enrollment. We are about 15% down. That is within the community college's nationwide numbers.
 - There are many factors contributing to this lack of enrollment. From the decline in student graduating from high school to the uncertainty of our students who are also parents that are unsure what their children will be doing for their schooling.
 - We continue to plan on 85% remote learning for the spring semester.
 - The president has growing concern with the COVID situation however, our faculty and staff has been very resilient and have risen to the challenges this pandemic has presented
 - President Vander Hooven gave kudos to Kathy Matson, Student Life Assistant, for keeping our students involved through a variety of activities.
 - We are conducting a "Best Practices" half hour Zoom meeting on Thursdays from 12:30-1:00. This provides an opportunity for the faculty and staff to share their challenges and helpful hints as well as a platform to ask questions and provide feedback to one another.
 - The Trustees will be receiving a video tomorrow morning. This video is an interview conducted by Lea Ann Scales with mother and son, Heidi and Brandon Burke, who received

Nursing and EMT degrees from MWCC. Heidi went to NYC in March to assist in treating patients of COVID-19. Both mother and son went to Texas in June to help as well. The video brings home how important the mission at the College truly is.

- Through the Brewer Center, we continue to engage community dialogues of the day. This week's topic is "Voting During the Pandemic".
- The Tea Time series continues with "Leadership, it is not a title but an action".
- Workforce Development is offering Google IT Certificates.
- Tom Matsuda, Art Faculty, is zooming a presentation by Mohammed Abou El Nagawho, from Cairo, Egypt.
- Reminder that the upcoming Board of Trustees virtual convening is on Tuesday, October 27 from 12-2 p.m.

E. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Auto Tech walk-through – President Vander Hooven explained the background of the location of our Auto Tech Program. He presented the video edited by our Media Services Dept. We are now located on Linus Allain Avenue in Gardner, MA. Eric Almeida, Assistant Professor, talked about the convenience of the new location (right off Rte. 2). There are eight bays, two classrooms, office space, lockers and a student lounge. We have maintained our enrollment numbers and the President also interjected that Quinsigamond Community College is renting space from the college for their program.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY

- **AD – 1256** – Approval of Audited Financial Statement. A presentation was provided by Dave Diiulis, Hardik Patel and Chris Pelland of O'Connor and Drew, P.C. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the Audited Financial Statement. A motion was made by Ms. Freda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gosselin. All approved. The motion carried.
- **AD – 1257** – Approval of 4th Quarter Trust Fund. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the 4th Quarter Trust Fund. Ms. Freda made a motion to approve. Ms. Hutchinson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.
- **AD - 1258** – Approval of First Quarter Trust Fund. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the First Quarter Trust Fund. Mr. Tomasetti made a motion to approve the Trust Fund. Ms. Hutchinson seconded the motion. All approved. Motion carried.

G. OLD BUSINESS-CHAIRMAN ANTONIONI-NONE

H. NEW BUSINESS –PRESIDENT VANDER HOOVEN

- Heywood Healthcare land lease parking – President Vander Hooven explained he has been in communication with Heywood Healthcare CEO Win Brown concerning leasing the parking area near the hospitals' property that belongs to the commonwealth. This is the first step in the legislative process. This is the same process the Veterans' Center went through when they applied to lease the land for their center. The president will keep the board updated.

- I. ADJOURNMENT** - 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 Mr. Tomasetti and seconded by Ms. Hutchins. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Meagher