

The 252nd meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
Thursday, April 8, 2021  
Remote Zoom meeting  
Meeting Minutes

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

Members unable to attend: Donata Martin

Guest presenter: Sharmese Gunn, Shawn LaRoche, and Melissa Bourque-Silva

Present from the College: President Vander Hooven, Vice Presidents Rachel Frick Cardelle, John Eisler, Paul Hernandez, Dan Horlander, Robert LaBonte, Lea Ann Scales, Peter Sennett, Joseph Stiso and Associate and Sr. Dean of Student Affairs, Jason Zelesky, Senator Brewer 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 3:01 p.m.
- B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Antonioni called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 10 2020. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Hernandez and seconded by Ms. Gosselin. All approved. Motion carried.
- C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Antonioni**
- Chairman Antonioni thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Commended the president for his constant updates.
- D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Vander Hooven**
- The president welcomed everyone to the meeting.
  - Announced the agenda is extensive today and he looks forward to feedback from the board
  - The Pandemic has affected all aspects of the college with increased stress and challenges. Very proud of our faculty and staff in meeting the needs of our students
  - After much discussion across the campuses, the decision was made to continue the status of delivering our services to our students for the summer and fall.
  - We are also working to create a more formal path to return to the college. It will take several months of planning in dealing with space constraints, redesign, etc.
  - We need to redouble our efforts in creating and supporting the Commonwealth's equity agenda. We need to service our students of color, students with childcare difficulties, workplace stress and challenges. We need to focus on the resources needed to succeed.
  - The president is very proud of the college community discussions and meetings centered around social injustice. You will be hearing from the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Team on their efforts
  - Everyone is going through their own level of stress. We all need to show more kindness and support one another
  - The work of the college continues. We have a strategic plan to deliver to the Board of Higher Education, we have the NECHE self-study to draft, and we have issues of equity and diversity to face
  - Community colleges around the country have these same issues

- The president is grateful for the advocacy and support from the board members recognizing we could not do this work without their support.
- We will be sending out a Doodle poll request for a Board Retreat to focus more deeply on the advocacy efforts and strategic efforts.

**E. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM – DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING**

**F. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY – VP LABONTE**

- AD – 1259 - Approval of Second Quarter Trust Fund. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the Second Quarter Trust Fund. A motion was made by Ms. Hernandez and seconded by Ms. Hutchinson. All approved. Motion passed.
- AD – 1260 – Approval of Auto Tech fee increase. Brief discussion ensued. Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the Auto Tech increase. A motion was made by Ms. Freda and seconded by Ms. Hernandez. All approved. Motion passed.

President Vander Hooven announced to the board that VP Robert LaBonte will be retiring over the summer months. He acknowledged and thanked Bob for all his years of dedication to the college. Chair Antonioni also thanked him for his service to the Board of Trustees.

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

**H. NEW BUSINESS –**

- 2020 Annual Security Report (ASR) – This report is presented to the board annually. The president commended Karen Kolimaga and Jason Zelesky for their extensive efforts in compiling the report.
- NECHE Self Study Update – VP John Eisler. Mr. Eisler gave a brief personal background and provided a presentation to the board. There are nine Standards Committees formed for the study that are populated with diverse groups from each campus to provide input. They have mapped out a timetable with opportunity to provide feedback along the way. The board will be receiving updates.
- Strategic Plan Update – President Vander Hooven gave an update for the board. Most notably is the effect the pandemic has had on the short-term efforts, in particular a commonwealth-wide emphasis on the equity agenda. An overview of the plan gives an introduction, timeline and process the college has experienced as well as the mission/vision/values.
- Virtual International Student Center for the Promotion of Diversity and Inclusion – Sharmese Gunn, Academic Counselor/Resource Specialist, delivered a presentation on the center. Ms. Gunn introduced Melissa Bourque-Silva. Ms. Silva gave a brief history and purpose of the Virtual Center including statistics on underrepresented students and employees and the January 18<sup>th</sup> grand opening featuring keynote speaker Asher

**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 Ms. Hernandez and seconded by Ms. Gosselin. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Meagher

April 8, 2021