

The 264th meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Mount Wachusett Community College  
Thursday, February 9, 2023  
Murphy Room  
8:30AM  
Meeting Minutes

A. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Antonioni called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM.

B. **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Chair Robert Antonioni, Patti Bergstrom, Claire Freda, Denise Gosselin, Tracy Hutchinson, Cody Nathanson, Doug Petersen, Patricia Pistone, Ken Tomasetti, Rick Walton and representing the Academic Senate, and Sheila Murphy

Unable to attend: Irene Hernandez

Present from the College: President Vander Hooven, Vice Presidents Adam Duggan, Interim VP John Eisler, VP's Lea Ann Scales, Sandra Quaye, Peter Sennett, Executive Director Dan Horlander, Director of Nursing Kim Shea, Chief Diversity Director Stephanie Williams, Interim VP of Student Services Jason Zelesky, Senator Brewer, and Executive Assistant Jo-Ann Meagher. There were many faculty and staff viewing the live Vimeo stream.

C. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Chairman Antonioni called for a motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2022. VP Quaye asked the minutes reflect a change to the financial statement. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Freda and seconded by Mr. Tomasetti. All approved. Motion carried.

D. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – CHAIRMAN ANTONIONI**

- Chairman Antonioni welcomed new members, Patti Bergstrom and Rick Walton to the board. He then waived his time to President Vander Hooven for his report.

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

- President Vander Hooven also welcomed new members Bergstrom and Walton to the board and welcome everyone to the meeting.
- NECHE visit went very well –draft report from visiting team by early March
  - Jim will go before the board on March 3rd
  - Will have recommendations to enrollment challenges
  - 5-year Strategic Plan is on the website
  - Jim will keep us up-to-date on the recommendation process
  - The report tries to clearly identify what we promise and our commitments: “Are we doing what we say we’re doing”
- Spring semester is 6% down on non-contract credits
- Strategic Plan – we must prioritize to enable student success with focus on the population of students.
- New administration – “Free Community College” for 2024. Details are unclear on implementation however, Jim will be the Chair of the Council of Presidents and will bring back all information as it becomes available
- Kudos to our Media Services Department that was recognized at the state level with their award for excellence.
- After the Super Bowl on Sunday, stay tuned to watch as one of our own and a combat veteran appears on Gordon Ramsey's Next Level Chef. Vinny Alia is also a Leominster firefighter, single dad and a great student as well as a spokesperson for Weber Grill

F. **REPORTS FROM LEADERSHIP TEAM – NATURAL SCIENCE PROGRAM PRESENTATION-ATTACHED**

- Presentation by Professor Heather Conn, Natural Resources Chair, talked about the recent changes and future goals of the program.

- Program name change to Environmental Conservation and new certificate, Regenerative Agriculture bringing new classes and updated curriculum
- We are now providing fresh produce to our food pantry
- Will be starting a composting program
- Received a 50K grant to extend more raised beds including handicap accessibility
- Purchase and construct high tunnel greenhouse to extend growing season
- Our students will expand our fruit production by grafting and propagating plants we grow
- Plant Christmas tree farm this spring
- Aquaponics set up in the greenhouse
- Engage the community by offering CSA and “volunteering for food”
- Hold farmers markets for community involvement
- Possibility of developing plans to construct new barn modeled off the “Heywood Barn”
- Construct paddock new barn to be used by Vet Tech student for temporary housing of animals

**G. MISSION/STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – PRESIDENT VANDER HOOVEN**

- Shared language – Stephanie Williams, Chief Diversity Executive, and Heather Layton, Executive Director of Resource and Strategic Development are working on a guide to attach to the Strategic Plan

**H. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY**

- **AD – 1287 – Second Quarter Trust Fund** as presented by Comptroller, Heidi Swift (see attachment). Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Trust Fund. A motion was made by Ms. Pistone and seconded by Ms. Freda. All approved. Motion passed
- **AD – 1288 – Fee Increase** as presented by Vice President Sandra Quaye (see attached). Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to approve. A motion was made by Ms. Gosselin and seconded by Ms. Hutchinson. All approved. Motion passed
- **AD – 1289a – Foundation Endowment Procedure** as presented by President Vander Hooven. Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to approve “the procedure”. Mr. Petersen made a motion and Mr. Tomasetti seconded the motion. All approved. Motion passed
- **AD – 1289b – Foundation Endowment Match** as presented by President Vander Hooven. Chair Antonioni asked for a motion to approve the numbers for the match. A motion was made by Ms. Freda to approve and Mr. Tomasetti seconded. All approved. Motion passed.

**I. OLD/NEW BUSINESS- PROFESSOR JOHN LITTLE PRESENTED FIVE-YEAR MEDIA ARTS & TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM REVIEW (SEE ATTACHED)**

- The program now encompasses Media Arts and Technology, Audio Engineering, Photography, Video/Film, and Media/Communications
  - There are 5 Audio courses (6<sup>th</sup> one coming soon)
  - 5 Video courses
  - 4 Photography courses
  - 3 communications courses
  - A self-promoting course specific to our disciplines
- One of the best audio schools in New England
- There are issues with the HVAC in the studios that need to be addressed in order to keep equipment in optimum working condition

**J. ADJOURNMENT** - Chairman Antonioni asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Petersen made a motion. It was seconded by Mr. Tomasetti. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Meagher