

The 247th meeting of the Board of Trustees
Mount Wachusett Community College
Wednesday May 20, 2020
Remote Zoom meeting
Meeting Minutes

Members present on Zoom meeting: Robert Antonioni, Claire Freda, Jamy Gaynor, Denise Gosselin. Tracy Hutchinson, Ken Tomasetti and representing the Academic Senate, Sheila Murphy

Present from the College: President Vander Hooven, Vice Presidents Dan Horlander, 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. There were also faculty and staff viewing the Vimeo live stream.

Members not in attendance: Abraham Bravo, Irene Hernandez and Donata Martin

A. CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Antonioni called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Chairman Antonioni called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 30, 2020. A motion to approve was made by Ms. Freda and seconded by Mr. Tomasetti. All approved. Motion carried.

C. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Chairman Antonioni

- Chairman Antonioni began by thanking President Vander Hooven for keeping the board up to date with any developments and actions taken by the college as related to COVID-19. Chairman Antonioni also congratulated and thanked student trustee, Abraham Bravo, on his graduation today as well as his diligence on serving on the board.

D. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – President Vander Hooven

- The president welcomed everyone to the pre-commencement Trustees meeting.
- President Vander Hooven also echoed Chairman Antonioni's comments concerning Mr. Bravo. He has met with Abraham monthly throughout the year and found him to be very much in tuned with the students and very conscientious in advocating and support for the student body.
- President Vander Hooven spoke about the stunning day it is on what would have been the in-person commencement. There is usually so much activity on campus day but today will be very different. The president feels there will be a very large viewership of the commencement ceremonies that has been promoted through social media. The virtual ceremony was produced created by our "world class" Media Services team. There will be a fun slideshow at 5:30 p.m. leading up to the 6:00 p.m. commencement program.
- The president shared that eleven of our graduates began in the ABE program with 5 of those students will be going on to the Bachelor's Degree.
- The Business Office has been very busy in getting the CARES Act money to our students. As of May 1st, we have already distributed \$531,000. in \$500.00 increments.
- We have established a Re-population Task Force comprised of individuals representing the different divisions/departments of the college. This committee is charged with discussing the guidelines and the four phases put forth by the Commonwealth concerning the repopulation of the campus. Higher Education is not one of the industries mentioned in the four phases. The Mount has 6-7 sub-industries within our mission. We need all 4 plans effectively completed in order to re-open those areas.
 - Plan 1 – phased planned repopulation at the end of June
 - Plan 2 – monitor the health and safety of those individuals
 - Plan 3 – containment if there is an outbreak
 - Plan 4 – scaling back if necessary

The president has tasked Chief Kolimaga as chair of this committee. Our next step is to send out a plan of action of what will be required in return to a campus work environments.

E. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM –

- Vice President LaBonte – Next year’s budget is still a large mystery. We will be receiving a decrease in appropriations. Summer and fall enrollments have started but we are in a completely new enrollment trend. We should have sufficient money in our checking account to carry us through July and August. We are preparing to send out another \$105,000 in CARES Act money to our students this week.

F. ADMINISTRATIVE ORDERS OF THE DAY - NONE

G. OLD BUSINESS-CHAIRMAN ANTONIONI-NONE

H. NEW BUSINESS –PRESIDENT VANDER HOOVEN

- President Evaluation – The president announced that the Commissioner has altered the timeline due to COVID-19 situation. He wanted this on the agenda so the Chairman could form the Presidential Evaluation Committee and have that information for the 3-4 month process
- Chairman Antonioni asked for volunteers to be on the Evaluation Committee. Ms. Freda as well as Ms. Gosselin volunteered to be on the committee. Chairman Antonioni thanked them and said they would get together after Labor Day to begin the process.
- Planning for the Fall Semester – The president said there is a lot of effort that needs to be put into the fall semester, and decisions to be made but he does not believe it is imperative to make them now. There are too many variables still. There should be more clarity after July 1st.

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. Freda and seconded by Mr. Tomasetti. The meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jo-Ann Meagher