

MINUTES OF THE INFORMATION SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB

An open information session of the Board of Trustees of the Community College District of the County of Macomb was held Tuesday, June 17, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. in Room K315 of the John Lewis Student Community Center, South Campus, 14500 Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan, pursuant to notice.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:29 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson  
Christine Bonkowski, Vice Chairperson  
Connie Bolanowski, Secretary  
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer  
Nancy Falcone, Trustee  
Frank Cusumano, Trustee

Absent: Joseph DeSantis, Trustee (excused)

Also present: James Jacobs, President  
Jill M. Little, Vice President, Student Services  
Patricia Martz, Secretary to the President  
Gerri Lynn Pavone, Executive Director,  
Research and Planning  
James Sawyer, Provost/Senior Vice President, Learning Unit  
Casandra Ulbrich, Vice President, College Advancement  
and Community Relations  
Hunter L. Wendt, General Counsel/Executive  
Director, College Police  
Denise Williams, Vice President, Human Resources  
David Corba, Dean, Business and Information Technology  
Holger Ekanger, Workforce and Continuing Education  
Director, Engineering and Advanced Technology  
Michael Zimmerman, CIO, Executive Director,  
Communication and Information Technology  
Marcia A. Daniel, Associate Vice President of Client Success,  
Ellucian, Inc.

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Falcone, supported by Bolanowski, to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

4.0 AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

5.0 REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS AND MATERIAL

None

6.0 ISSUES AND UPDATES

6.1 Culinary Arts Baccalaureate

Dr. Jacobs stated that pursuant to a matter raised at the May board meeting regarding an interest in a culinary arts baccalaureate program at the college, Dr. Sawyer and David Corba, Dean of Business and IT, have prepared a presentation. A handout was distributed summarizing the presentation. Mr. Corba provided the background of the current culinary arts program at the college. He stated that this is a popular program with 94% capacity. There are four full-time faculty and 15 to 18 adjunct faculty for the approximately 400 students in the program each year, with 15 to 17 students per class. He noted that this is a capital intensive program with a high investment in equipment and maintaining that equipment, kitchens, restaurant space, ongoing food supplies, etc. It costs the college more to run than it receives in tuition and fees, a loss of approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 per year. Administration has taken steps over the years to reduce that loss. The college has several articulation agreements with four-year institutions throughout the area. Many Macomb culinary arts students go on to get a bachelor's degree in hospitality management or general business.

Dr. Sawyer informed the Trustees that he looked at the credentials in the culinary field and hospitality management field in an attempt to ascertain the importance of a four-year bachelor's program. In looking at current job postings as to the culinary arts field, the number of jobs that require a bachelor's degree is approximately 12%. There is not a high demand for people currently working in the field who have a bachelor's degree. The associate's degree is the most common credential for chefs and head cooks, and the associate's degree is a well-recognized credential in the field of culinary arts. The biggest need for a bachelor's degree is in the business management field. Mr. Corba stated that most of the colleges offering bachelor's degrees specifically in culinary arts are on the East Coast. He further stated that two local community colleges—Henry Ford and Schoolcraft—are planning to offer four-year degrees in culinary arts.

Dr. Sawyer stated that there are some things to think about in offering a baccalaureate. The college would need to obtain permission from the Higher Learning Commission to offer bachelor's degrees and that process could take close to a year. Another challenge would be faculty credentials for teaching at a baccalaureate level, as well as state and federal program approval. Further, the associate's degree program fills the current kitchen capacity at the College, and with a four-year baccalaureate, the college would either have to scale back on the associate's degree program or consider building additional kitchens, which would be an expensive proposition. He also noted that offering baccalaureate programs could damage the relationships with the college's four-year partners which are greatly valued.

He informed the Trustees that administration's recommendation would be not to pursue the four-year culinary arts program as there is not a local demand specific to culinary arts. The demand is in the business management hospitality areas and the college tries to address those needs through its partnerships with other universities. In addition, the college's financial commitment would most likely increase in order to support a four-year program, as it is already one of the more expensive programs at the college.

Trustee Cusumano inquired if there are any other programs at the college that lose money. Dr. Sawyer responded that the nursing program is where the college loses the most money and the culinary arts program is second. He further noted that the programs in which the college tends to lose money are the career tech programs with limited class sizes and significant lab time and those are primarily the health programs. An inquiry was made as to how the decision is made as to lab fees. Dr. Sawyer responded that there is a course fee policy and that an assessment is made on an annual basis whether to change course fees. Trustee Cusumano referred to the statement made earlier in the meeting that the associate's degree is a well-recognized credential and asked for Dr. Sawyer's perspective on whether or not he thinks that will change in the future. Dr. Sawyer responded that he does not believe that will change in the foreseeable future and there are no indications of that at this point. There was a discussion regarding students transferring to other institutions and Dr. Sawyer noted that the college's office of articulation and transfer sees to it that everything is up to date and current.

## 6.2 TAA-MCAM Equipment

Dr. Jacobs stated that as a result of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant award in September 2013, certain funds were designated for the college to update and purchase new equipment at the college's MTEC facility, which is on the agenda for Board approval this evening. Dr. Sawyer stated that MCAM is the Michigan Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing. He reminded the Trustees that Macomb is leading a consortium of eight Michigan community colleges which received a \$25 million grant in September 2013 and Macomb's share was \$9.6 million. That included

\$973,000 is to update and add equipment at MTEC. The current equipment at MTEC is approximately ten years old, and the college uses that equipment for its day-to-day training for local employers, which includes General Motors, one of the college's largest employers. It would be very expensive for the college to update that equipment and this became a great opportunity to do that. Dr. Sawyer stated that Holger Ekanger, Director of Workforce and Continuing Education in the Engineering and Advanced Technology area, is present this evening to explain the purchase of the equipment through these grant funds.

Mr. Ekanger provided an explanation on replacement of equipment and the purchase of new equipment. Trustee Cusumano inquired as to how many students are enrolled in the program and Mr. Ekanger responded that the grant requires a minimum of 528 students.

### 6.3 Ellucian Update

Michael Zimmerman, CIO and Executive Director of Communication and Information Technology informed the Board that every year at this time the renewal of the maintenance contracts for the college's business and student information system is brought to them for approval. He further stated that prompted by suggestions from the Trustees and administration's desire to reduce costs for the college, the college is presenting a long-term contract with Ellucian which caps annual increases far below industry averages.

He introduced Marcia A. Daniel, Ellucian's Associate Vice President of Client Success to talk about their commitment to Macomb. Ms. Daniel explained that the Ellucian Colleague system, also known as Datatel, is basically a core technology for Macomb. It mechanizes processes unique to higher education to control and reduce costs, empowering Macomb to focus on core competencies, not software development, and is the lowest cost of its competitors. Their strategy is to continue to build around the core system, leveraging what is already in place. She noted that their company is solely focused on higher education institutions.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that controlling the cost of our student information system is significant and to help get the annual cost increases down, the college is proposing a seven year commitment on maintenance with Ellucian, which caps the annual increases at 4.5%, a savings of over \$425,000 over seven years. He noted that this is not something the college would be deviating from for ten years because of the major cost of switching to another system.

6.4 MCCA Membership and Designation of Trustee Representative

Dr. Jacobs stated that the Trustees need to designate a representative and an alternate for the Michigan Community College Association's Board of Directors for 2014/2015. Trustee Bonkowski has agreed to continue to serve as the representative and Trustee Kelly has agreed to continue serving as the alternate.

6.5 Regional Transit Resolution

Dr. Jacobs referred to regular meeting agenda item 11.4, Resolution in Support of Connect 4 Prosperity Coalition, and stated that many Macomb students attend the college utilizing public transportation. This resolution would show the college's support of the regional transportation initiative. However, if this should be placed on the ballot, the college would then have to abstain since the college cannot take a position on political matters. Ms. Ulbrich explained that this coalition is a group of organizations interested in a public information campaign stressing the importance of regional transportation in Southeast Michigan.

Dr. Jacobs informed the Trustees that the college is eliminating the clinical lab technology program. Dr. Sawyer explained that it was determined this program is not viable for two reasons. The college is finding it difficult to get clinical placements for its students and Macomb students are not getting jobs for the reason that there is an abundance of four-year trained medical technicians in Southeast Michigan who are being hired. This program will be phased out, as there are still students in the process of completing the program. It is anticipated that this program will be eliminated within the course of the next year.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Falcone, supported by Bolanowski, to move into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Falcone, Bolanowski, DiMaria, Falcone, Kelly

Nays: Cusumano

Absent: DeSantis

Motion carried.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:31 p.m.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 7:57 p.m.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Bolanowski, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Secretary