

APPROVED 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, March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., in Room K307, John Lewis Student Community Center, South Campus, 14500 Twelve Mile Road, Warren, Michigan.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kelly at 6:34 p.m.

2.0 ROLL CALL

Present: James F. Kelly, Chairperson
Vincent Viviano, Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Haase, Secretary
Roseanne DiMaria, Treasurer
Frank Cusumano, Trustee
Elizabeth Lucido, Trustee

Absent: Joseph DeSantis, Trustee

Also present: James Jacobs, President
Elizabeth Argiri, Vice President for Business
Sharon Kowal, Executive Administrative Assistant to the President
Jill Thomas-Little, Vice President, Student Services
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

3.0 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by DiMaria, supported by Haase, 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

Dr. Jacobs invited the Trustees to attend Institutional Development Day on March 22 at 8 a.m. at the Macomb Center for Performing Arts.

Dr. Jacobs reported that the tuition reimbursement program initiated last fall by the College has been well received. The program is available to all full-time staff taking classes at a four year institution. There were 25 applications and 11 of those applications were from a wide range of staff including Administrative Support Personnel (ASP), Supervisory/Technical (STA), and Maintenance (MCCCOPA). The Administration has received positive feedback about the program.

Dr. Jacobs reported that an evaluation on the recently opened Reading & Writing Studio indicates tremendous data that the people who use the Studio are much more likely to persist in college than those who don't use the Studio. The Studio has become a positive part of student success.

Dr. Jacobs stated that the College has the ability to issue federal loans but do so without the ability to check the financials of students requesting one. Basically anyone can get a loan. Therefore default rates are important. The federal government has initiated a program that any school having a default rate of 30% or more would become ineligible to issue loans and Pell grants. Fortunately newly released data shows that Macomb has a default rate of 10%, the lowest in the state. The credit for keeping the default rate low goes to Doug Levy and his Financial Aid staff.

Dr. Jacobs talked about the event flyers (MacombCareerLink, Wayne Advantage-Macomb Info Session and the Job Fair) included in the Board's mail packet.

Dr. Jacobs stated that hotel reservations for the MCCA convention, on Mackinac Island, in July have been made at the Lake View Hotel. The Mission Point Resort and Island House did not have availability on July 26, the first day of the Institute.

6.1 HLC Third Party Comments

Ms. Pavone stated that the College is required to post information about the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visit and allow the public to comment about the College six months prior to their visit date. Later this month there will be an announcement on Macomb.edu soliciting public comment. Public comments close one month prior to the HLC visit and are shared with the HLC peer review team and the College. The HLC visit will be September 26 & 27, 2016.

6.2 RFP for Consultant

Mr. Wendt stated that at the special meeting, held on February 23, 2016, they discussed using the Request For Proposal (RFP) used for the 2007 presidential search. As requested by the Board, Mr. Wendt has amended the RFP to allow individuals to respond, as opposed to only businesses, corporations or companies. Mr. Wendt also added language requesting the respondents to identify the particular strategies they would recommend to ensure that there is an appropriate pool of diverse candidates.

6.2 RFP for Consultant (continued)

Mr. Wendt emailed the RFP and the list of entities to the Board last night. He asked if they would like to take more time to review the RFP or provide him with additional names or organizations they would like to send the RFP. Trustee Lucido asked if Mr. Wendt had contacted any of the local colleges who have recently hired a president to see what their recommendations would be. Mr. Wendt stated that there has not been any direct follow-up on that but that the companies that conducted the searches are on our list to be sent the RFP. Trustee Kelly said we would wait to see if any of them submit a proposal and then they can be reviewed.

Mr. Wendt said advertisements will be placed in two academic publications – *Community College Weekly* and *Chronicle of Higher Ed.* The Board should let him know if there are any other publications they would like to advertise in.

Responses to the RFP will be sent directly to Mr. Wendt's office where they will be reviewed and analyzed. Mr. Wendt will provide a report on the responses to the Board.

Trustee Cusumano suggested the Board vote to give Mr. Wendt the authority to send out the RFP. Trustee Kelly said the Board doesn't typically vote at the Information Session but the RFP can be added to the regular meeting agenda. Trustee Haase clarified that someone will need to amend the regular meeting agenda. Mr. Wendt said the amendment to the agenda must be approved unanimously.

6.3 Tuition Proposal

Dr. Jacobs handed out the document titled "Comparison of Charging All Students In-District Tuition Rate." This document was created in response to Trustee Cusumano's question of the impact on tuition if the College charged the same rate to in-county and out-of-county students. Dr. Jacobs reviewed the handout, identified the revenue loss and the substantial increase in tuition rates and stated that it would not be a reasonable solution in regards to the cost of tuition.

Dr. Jacobs reviewed the handout entitled "Key Factors in Setting 2016-17 Tuition Rate." Ms. Argiri stated that this handout is consistent with the presentation and discussion held last month. The write-up for (Regular Agenda) Item 7.3 also reflects previous discussions.

Trustee Cusumano inquired why the two handouts were not provided to the Board earlier. He doesn't think there can be meaningful oversight by the Board of Trustees on this and other issues if they are not given the materials to do a meaningful analysis. He said that the time period for the board packets to be provided to the trustees was shortened. Trustee Lucido asked if Trustee Cusumano would be more comfortable if they voted to have more time to look over the handouts. He said it would, and he would request if there is an interest in the Board on that. Trustee Kelly stated this is the second month the Board has discussed this. This handout is a follow-up to a specific question -- it is not the introduction of a new topic. Trustee Kelly thinks the way Trustee Cusumano is characterizing the change in when they receive the packets is incorrect. He thinks it was actually moved to extend the time they get information not shorten it.

6.3 Tuition Proposal (continued)

Trustee Cusumano said he asked last month about the authority to award degrees and having the Board to vote on that and that it wasn't presented at this meeting either. Mr. Wendt said that he is prepared to respond if the Board wishes. Mr. Wendt said he is prepared to meet with him privately or here at the discretion of the Board. Trustee Kelly asked if Mr. Wendt was going to say anything other than the degrees are awarded by an appropriately delegated power. Mr. Wendt said it is a little different than that but it centers on that issue. Trustee Kelly stated he would like to get through the agenda, and then, Mr. Wendt can respond individually or however he wishes but there are agenda items he would like to get through, some of which were postponed last month.

Trustee Kelly said in answer to Trustee Lucido's questions, there is a timing issue as to when the tuition increase is adopted. There are only a couple months before the Administration has to publish catalogs and get the word out, so it is time sensitive. Ms. Argiri stated that a lot of the information just handed out was given in the presentation last month. She said she didn't think there was anything in this material that wasn't already mentioned in the PowerPoint presentation in February.

Trustee Cusumano commented that there is not enough time to have a meaningful discussion of these issues and possible alternatives. He has attempted to bring other sources of information to bear and other perspectives to bear and he is unable to do so under this format. Trustee Kelly said that Trustee Cusumano has brought other information but we just don't agree with it. Very often it is erroneous and based on faulty assumptions. You brought it and maybe we just don't agree with you. Trustee Cusumano asked who is we. Trustee Kelly said I can only speak for myself.

Trustee Haase said the Board has been discussing this issue. Trustee Cusumano said the College has sustained a decline of FYES of over 5% from term to term. Is that reflected in this data? Ms. Argiri stated that the Activities Classification Structure (ACS) information is last year's information, it is independent validated information, and that the Administration has shared the current trends with you and the decline is 5%.

Trustee Kelly said if it were up to him, just on the basis of this discussion, the staff of this College has spent an inordinate and unjustified amount of time trying to respond to a question that has nowhere to go politically, has no support on this Board and we spend a lot of time trying to discuss why there should be a differential between in-district and out-of-district tuition when there was only one person asking that question. Trustee Kelly wishes Administration could limit the amount of work they put in to responding to questions when there is virtually no support for it.

Trustee Cusumano said to Trustee Kelly, I mentioned regionalism which is propounded by the president of this college and your county executive, Mark Hackel. Trustee Kelly said we discussed it and, frankly, I guess I am chastising staff because they put a lot of work into that and I don't think it was justified.

6.3 Tuition Proposal (continued)

Trustee Cusumano said well maybe he would agree with him on that since it was a passing comment, that even made it in the minutes, but his requests about the lights being off on January 25, 2016 - how can that discussion not be in the Board minutes? He wants to know now how these minutes are produced. Mr. Wendt said minutes are handled in the President's Office and what is required in the minutes is to record what has been done by the Board. Trustee Kelly said because the Board speaks by its actions and not by its discussions. Someone made a really good point about lights and at the next meeting it was reported fixed. Trustee Cusumano said the point is that under Trustee Reports he made a report to the Board that should be part of the public record.

Trustee Cusumano said he made a comment and a complaint about the meeting minutes not being made available - and both the president and General Council indicated that they did not know the reason why and gave him the old standard line 'we'll get back with you.' Mr. Wendt said that is not true as he told him directly at a public meeting that this Board converted to an electronic format and therefore they are available electronically. Trustee Cusumano said that is true to the extent that it applies to those meetings that are online. He said when he asked about all the previous meetings, that's when Mr. Wendt said he'll get back with him. Trustee Lucido asked if they are at the library. Trustee Cusumano said they are not at the library and that is what the point of this is. His point is that the Board speaks to its minutes, business being conducted in the meeting not being reflected in the minutes. Trustee Haase said, I think that some things are going to be disagreed upon and that's okay. She would like to know where they are too. She states that however, again, as she has mentioned before, it is the tone with which these things happen. There has to be a more civil and calmer rhetoric in this room. She said she simply will not tolerate this, it's okay to be disappointed or upset or frustrated but it has to be handled in an appropriate fashion. Obviously most of us agree with you about the minutes, there's a consensus to get some more information there. Let's do that in a very calm, responsible and respectful manner. However there are agenda items that still have not been addressed and time is running out.

Trustee Cusumano said the Board always runs out of time because of the way that a meeting is run. We will always have the clock working against any robust discussion to these issues. Now to the extent of the civility thing, he agrees, he was very civil when he asked about that at that meeting. He is surprised and taken aback that none of his fellow trustees have raised the issue about "hey what about what Trustee Cusumano said about the minutes being removed from public view." He did ask where are the signed copies of the official minutes. The minutes that are online are not signed and they are not the official minutes of this public body. Mr. Wendt said they are approved, noted as approved. Ms. Kowal said the signed copies are in the President's Office. If he needs to see them, he can come to the President's Office. Trustee Cusumano said ok, so they are not in the library anymore? Ms. Kowal said no. Trustee Cusumano asked if the requirements under the collective bargaining agreement that they be submitted to the library been changed? Mr. Wendt said it has been changed de facto because of the electronic manner in which they are distributed. Trustee Cusumano asked if an addendum has been ratified. Mr. Wendt responded that the union has not complained.

7.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Kelly state that they need a motion to go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues that the Administration requested.

MOTION by Haase supported by DiMaria, to move into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: DiMaria, Haase, Lucido, Viviano, Kelly

Nays: Cusumano

Absent: DeSantis

Motion carried.

RECESS

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. Trustee Cusumano did not attend executive session.

RECONVENE

The meeting reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

8.0 ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF MACOMB
BOARD OF TRUSTEES


Secretary