

REPORT OF MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING

**BAY de NOC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Catherine Bonifas Room (200D)
Escanaba, MI**

March 15, 2019

President Coleman welcomed trustees, U.P. legislators and legislative staff members at 12:09 p.m. ET.

Members Present: Bill Lake, Eric Lundin, Philip Strom, Steve Davis, Joy Hopkins

Members Absent: Tom Butch, Terri Mileski

Administration: Laura Coleman, Travis Blume

Guests: Congressman Jack Bergman
Paul Flint, District Representative/Caseworker for
Congressman Bergman
Sen. Ed McBroom
Rep. Beau LaFave
Rep. Greg Markkanen
Jay Gage, U.P. Regional Manager for Sen. Stabenow
Katelyn Rader, U.P. Regional Coordinator for Sen.
Peters

Media: Jordan Beck, *Daily Press*
Craig Woerpel, WDBC

Recorder: Laura Johnson, Assistant Board Secretary

A luncheon was held to share information specific to community colleges and discuss legislative issues of concern to Bay College with the U.P. legislators and representatives. Introductions were made and each legislator and legislative staff member reported areas of interest they are supporting.

Dr. Coleman shared student success stories and how the College's initiatives of the Early Alert system and Open Educational Resources (OER) have led to student success.

Items discussed included:

- Federal budget cuts to the Higher Education Act include work-study funding important to students and the College. Many students need this income and the support provided from supervisors as mentors.

- Student Loan Risk Sharing: Federal proposals include requiring colleges to take on additional responsibility for defaulted federal student loans. Schools cannot deny federal student loan applications and should not be responsible for debt accumulated at other schools.
- The State Budget Office has ranked Bay's Capital Outlay project first on the project request review and evaluation. Support to fund the project was requested by Dr. Coleman which would allow renovations of ~\$1 million to the Catherine Bonifas building.
- The 3% increase in state appropriations and the Reconnect program to educate non-traditional students proposed by Gov. Whitmer would be appreciated by Bay College.
- Phil Strom encouraged legislators to support saving the student loan debt forgiveness program to incentivize people to work in public service. Ideas were shared around student loan requirements and changes to the Fair Student Credit Act that will now apply to private student loans.

The meeting dissolved at 1:36 p.m. ET.

Laura L. Johnson
Assistant Board Secretary

Completion
Date

Approval Date

William W. Lake
Chair

Approval Date