

REPORT OF MINUTES

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING**

**BAY de NOC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Board Room CB 201D
Escanaba, MI**

March 16, 2022

- I CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. ET by Vice Chair Joy Hopkins.
- II ROLL CALL:** Roll call was taken by Laura Johnson, Assistant Board Secretary.
- Members present: Nick Chenier, Eric Lundin, Steve Davis, Joy Hopkins
- Tom Butch arrived at 5:22 p.m.
- Member absent: Terri Mileski
- Administration: Travis Blume, Kim Carne, Laura Coleman, Amy Reddinger, Eileen Sparpana
- Faculty: Molly Campbell
- Recorder: Laura Johnson, Assistant Board Secretary
- III CITIZEN INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMENTS:** None
- IV APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** The agenda stood as presented by unanimous consent.
- V DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** None
- VI CONSENT AGENDA:** The consent agenda included approval of Open and Closed Session Meeting Minutes from the Regular Meeting on February 16 and the Special Meetings on February 23 and March 3 and Resolutions of Appreciation for retirees Steve Johnson and Ann Valiquette.

It was moved by Steve Davis and seconded by Nick Chenier to:

“Approve the Consent Agenda for the Board of Trustees Regular Meeting on March 16, 2022, as presented.”

No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

VII PRESENTATIONS:

None

VIII ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

A President’s Report:

President Coleman reported:

AtD Recognition:

Bay College has been recognized again by Achieving the Dream as a Leader College of Distinction. The College received Leader College status in 2012, 2015, and Leader College of Distinction status in 2019, and now in 2022. Bay has a leader presence in the country, which is evident at conferences attended. Bay College has an amazing team.

ACE Conference:

Laura Coleman, Travis Blume, Cindy Carter, and Amy Reddinger recently attended the ACE (American Council on Education) conference. The conference is attended primarily by universities and provides good exposure to their course of business.

Terry Hartle, Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Affairs for ACE, gave attendees a bleak look at the dysfunctional politics of Washington D.C. There is increasing stratification in society and the electorate. Voters are self-aggregating, moving to communities that “vote like them”. There are only 60 competitive congressional seats out of 435 running every two years. Only emergency legislation is passed. While Congress members introduced 41% more bills in the last year, committee consideration is down 55%. Bills passing both chambers is down 52%. Bills becoming law are down 48%. Only 2% of bills introduced become law. The net result is regulatory agencies are making the needed changes and this is an exponential happening. There is an increase in nationwide injunctions by District courts and an increase in the Supreme Court accepting direct appeals.

A lobbyist from a long time staffer in Washington D.C. retiring, shared there is a group of politicians hostile towards higher education and actively working to destroy higher education. A poll of the impression of higher education returned that 80% of the people answering the poll were happy with community colleges,

73% were happy with public four-year colleges, 58% were happy with Ivy League colleges and only 53% felt liberal arts degrees were worthwhile. Business leaders find that employees with liberal arts degrees possess critical thinking skills.

In the 2022 graduating class, only 48% of high school students say they will attend college, compared to 67% who attended after high school last year. The press coverage on high college student debt is likely one of many reasons that affect choices.

The good news shared at the conference emphasized the impact of higher education on students' lives and the importance of telling those stories, and that the Gen Z generation has tremendous energy and feel they will be okay. At Bay, our marketing group does a great job sharing our students' stories.

Nick Chenier commented that the low number of high school students planning to attend college is alarming.

Eric Lundin added that the high wage rate offered in retail and food service jobs also presents a challenge for young adults deciding between a long-term career path through education vs. a short-term path that offers a competitive wage now.

Dr. Coleman stated this is why competency based education (CBE) is so important. The MI Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners tuition programs have helped to give young adults the opportunity to get an education. The College's workforce water distribution course with the Detroit Public School system is a great example of CBE. Bay is becoming a force around water technology throughout the State.

Steve Davis summarized the challenging components to enrollment as risk of debt and the current environment where students can get jobs without a college education and receive competitive wages and on-the-job training.

Dr. Coleman emphasized the importance of informing students how education will improve job skills and creating internship opportunities for career exploration and experience.

B Academic Affairs:

No additional report

C Student Services:

Travis Blume, VP of Student Services, reported:

***Final Winter '22
Enrollment Report:***

Enrollment for the Winter 2022 semester closed with an increase in student headcount and decrease in contact hours. Part-time student enrollment grew due to the MI Reconnect and Futures for Frontliners tuition programs and some students taking fewer credits. Annual enrollment remained even compared to budget.

**D College
Advancement:**

Kim Carne, VP of College Advancement, reported:

***Women's History
Month Art Exhibits:***

Women's History month was celebrated with the exhibition and artist talk for "A Span of Time" by Lorena Salcedo-Watson in the Besse Art Gallery. Ms. Salcedo-Watson teaches art at Stony Brook University in NY.

Local artist Deb Abramson created, "The White Pantsuit Project" in honor of women and in appreciation for all the women who fought for women's rights. Beading and embroidery on the pantsuit acknowledges historical events for women's rights throughout the outfit. The pantsuit will be donated to the College and displayed on March 22.

Upcoming Concert:

The multi-instrumental band "Invoke" will hold a concert on March 19 in the Besse Theater. The band encompasses traditions from across America, including bluegrass, Appalachian fiddle tunes, jazz, and minimalism.

Tom Butch arrived at 5:22 p.m.

**E Operations/
Financial Reports:**

Eileen Sparpana, VP of Finance & Operations, reported:

Operating Revenue: Total operating revenues of \$8.429 million for the last eight months compared to \$8.548 million or 1% below the same period last year. This is mainly the result of a timing difference in receiving federal grant revenue that hasn't been available to draw. Notification to draw the TRiO grant funds was received yesterday. Notification of grant awards for TRiO and Perkins were received last fall but the funding was just released.

Operating Expenses: Total operating expenses of \$13.472 million for the last eight months compared to \$13.637 million or \$164 thousand or 1% favorable variance for the same period last year.

Non-operating Revenue (Expenses): Total net non-operating revenue of \$6.482 million for the last eight months compared to \$6.913 million resulting in a \$431 thousand or 6% unfavorable variance for the same period last year. The variance is due to the timing of receiving restricted donations from the Hannahville Indian Community and related disbursements to the YMCA for their capital project and the one-time money from the MI Coronavirus Relief Fund. Partially offsetting this unfavorable variance are the 4% of our base supplemental state appropriations along with a 1% increase in performance funding and the timing difference in receiving Delta County tax revenue from four townships.

Net Assets: The year-to-date result is an increase in Net Assets of \$1.439 million compared to an increase in the prior year of \$1.825 million.

Dr. Coleman responded to Eric Lundin regarding the possibility of additional COVID funding that although the College is not aware of additional COVID funding, there may be earmark money from the State that could assist with renovation of the shipping & receiving building and student apartments.

Eileen Sparpana added there was some federal money that became available recently related to COVID, but the College did not qualify because of increased enrollment.

IX BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT & REQUIRED ACTION:

None

X BOARD ACTION:

A Transaction Report:

There were no questions or comments on the Transaction Report ending February 28, 2022.

On a motion made by Steve Davis and seconded by Eric Lundin:

“The Financial Transactions for the month ending February 28, 2022, stand approved as presented to place on file.” No discussion.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Steve Davis, Nick Chenier, Eric Lundin, Joy Hopkins, Tom Butch

Nays: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried unanimously.

XI UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

XII NEW BUSINESS:

None

XIII MCCA UPDATE:

Joy Hopkins reported that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education will meet on March 17 to hear from representatives across postsecondary education about MI Reconnect and the impact of innovations in student learning aimed at completion.

Dr. Coleman and Joy will attend the MCCA Board of Directors meeting at Montcalm Community College next week.

President Biden is expected to sign the omnibus bill, which includes funding for all federal agencies for the remainder of fiscal year 2022, including a \$400 increase to the Pell Grant maximum award, which will be good for Bay students.

Dr. Coleman added she is meeting with legislators next week in Lansing and may get to testify on competency based education (CBE) while she is there. Others will testify at the initial hearing on CBE tomorrow [March 17].

Joy stated that the BSN at community colleges is likely dead right now but she is part of a work group with MCCA working on it.

XIV OTHER:

None

XV ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Steve Davis and seconded by Nick Chenier to:

“Adjourn the meeting.” No discussion. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m. ET.

Laura L. Johnson
Assistant Board Secretary

Completion
Date

Approval Date

Joy E. Hopkins
Vice Chair

Approval Date