

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, in the Board Room, Room A217, of Building A on the Campus. Vice Chair Liddell called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

When Secretary Jenner called the roll the following were present:

Mr. Sacramento
Mr. Jenner
Ms. Kisser
Mr. Parrish
Mr. Smith
Ms. Tirio
Ms. Walsh
Ms. Liddell

Dr. Gabbard was present. Attorney Nanci Rogers was present as legal counsel.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as amended; for item 12. A., Closed Session, Negotiations, was removed.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes were accepted as amended.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND PRESENTATIONS

No one addressed the Board.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gabbard provided a recap of the ACCT National Legislative Summit that he and Trustee Parrish attended. During the Summit, meetings were held with Congressman Hultgren, as well as a session with Senators Durbin and Kirk. Dr. Gabbard reported that the PACE AQIP team is working on suggestions for continuous improvement on good communication lines between employees. He also announced that the Children's Learning Center just received their licensure renewal, and offered congratulations to Ms. Lisha Linder and Mr. Jim Falco.

PRELIMINARY JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Tenuta reported on the preliminary financial statements for January, noting that he has instructed the Business Office not to accrue any more state funding.

Presentation on Credit Hours and Waivers

Mr. Tenuta gave a presentation as requested by Ms. Walsh at a previous meeting. The average cost for waivers is \$730,000.00; Mr. Tenuta also explained how net billable credit hours are calculated. Mr. Tenuta also spoke about restricted credit hours in Adult Basic Education, English as a Second Language, and General Educational Development classes, which are funded by the state and cannot be accounted for in our total numbers. He noted that the College does not receive credit for dual credit classes.

DISCUSSION OF TUITION AND FEES RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Tenuta presented a recommendation of a student infrastructure fee that would provide flexibility for the College to use funds either for capital/repair projects or for a renovation of science labs, health sciences and student engagement space. This student fee would be effective as of FY 2017 and in the amount of \$10 per credit hour. For FY 2017, there would be no tuition increase proposed—just this student fee.

Dr. Gabbard highlighted that the College cannot continue to provide this level of services without some sort of funding. He does not want to burden the students, while at the same time, the College will need to come up with a way to incrementally increase tuition over the long-term. This discussion will continue, related to the following FY 2018.

If the space renovation is approved by the Board, this fee would be for a 20-year period, to cover debt costs related to paying back on the project. Student Trustee Sacramento said that students would be willing to pay an increase as long as it has direct impact on student needs and that students can specifically see how and where the money is being used.

A few trustees expressed concern about the \$10.00 per credit hour figure, stating their discomfort with this amount. Some suggested incrementally raising the fee over a few years, leading up to \$10.00. After some additional discussion related to the space renovation project, discussion on this topic continued and trustees said that they would be willing to vote in favor of the student infrastructure fee, pending a review at this time next year to see where we are on the renovation project. If renovation is not proceeding, they would pull the fee. Recommendation for this project will be going to the Board this month for approval.

CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION ON SCIENCE LAB/HEALTH SCIENCES RENOVATION PROJECT

Mr. Dominick Demonica from DKA provided a background of the project and review of activity to date.

Dr. Gabbard followed up with what he has reviewed and his recommendation, which is to move forward with Phase 1 of a renovation to include renovated/new space for science labs, health sciences classroom/lab space, and student engagement space.

This project would cost approximately \$34 million – about \$40 million with interest over 20 years.

Funding sources identified are recommended student infrastructure fee (see section above) and a capital campaign raising either \$15 million or \$20 million.

After a productive discussion, trustees agreed on full support of the project, pending that a significant portion of the funds raised are in place before breaking ground. Pending all goes well, initial breaking ground would be in spring 2017—aligned with the College’s 50th anniversary.

Recommendation for this project will be going to Board this month for approval.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were proposed.

SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Jenner noted that tonight was the last regular season home game for the women’s basketball team; four team members were honored.

Ms. Walsh congratulated student services, advising, and financial aid for enrollment figures. Dr. Gabbard noted that a report will be forthcoming.

CLOSED SESSION

No Closed Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Pat Kriegermeier, Recording Secretary

Chris Jenner, Board Secretary