

MINUTES
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
OF McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 as a Virtual Meeting as authorized by Executive Order 2020-7, and as permitted by Section 7(e) of the Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/7(e) to be held without the physical presence of a quorum of trustees at the regular meeting location. Members of the public were able to provide public comment and access all open portions of the meeting via the link and accompanying information located on the Board of Trustees page of MCC's website, located at: <https://www.mchenry.edu/board>.

Vice Chair Walsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. When Secretary Allen called the roll, the following were present:

Ms. Walsh
Mr. Smith
Mr. Allen
Ms. Evertsen
Ms. Siddons
Ms. Speros
Ms. Hoban

Dr. Gabbard was present. Attorney Sam Cavnar was present as legal counsel.
Student Trustee German joined at 6:02 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted as presented.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting were accepted as presented.

OPEN FOR RECOGNITION OF VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments submitted for this meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Gabbard began with a COVID-19 update, stating the College, as part of Region 9 in the *Restore Illinois* plan, has been moved back to Phase 4. He reiterated this will not change the ways in which MCC is currently delivering instruction. He went on to state that MCC was moved into a later phase of the vaccination effort, despite our outreach to county officials urging them to allow us to remain in an earlier phase as initially anticipated.

Dr. Gabbard shared how pleased he was with the Donor Appreciation Breakfast held on Friday, February 12, with over 160 people in attendance. Students shared stories of how they have been impacted by donors' generous giving through scholarships, and the positive difference the financial support has made in their lives.

Trustees were encouraged to look over the Spring Census Report provided, and Dr. Gabbard touched on the MCC Graduate Survey related to employment. The survey helped identify students' post-MCC employment, as well as percentages of those employed in their field of study. Dr. Gabbard then mentioned that Congresswoman Lauren Underwood will be visiting campus on Friday, February 19 to discuss an apprenticeship initiative she is supporting, and MCC is appreciative of such support.

Dr. Gabbard recapped some updates shared with Trustees regarding differences between developmental and transitional math, and new legislation that supports what the College practices. The legislative changes focus on creating more opportunities for high school students to enter directly into college level math at more institutions.

With regard to upcoming events, Dr. Gabbard mentioned invitations to attend Black History Month events, the next segment of Experts and Insights, and MCC Night. Dr. Gabbard remarked that MCC is gaining a reputation for being very good at hosting virtual events. He then mentioned an upcoming exclusive event at which the name of MCC's new Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation (CATI) will be unveiled, and plans will be shared about this new educational space.

STUDENT SUCCESS DISCUSSION

As part of a several-month initiative focused on Student Success, Mr. Jim Disrude, Director of Academic Advising, and Ms. Amy Carzoli, Director of Enrollment Services outlined the first stages of the student life cycle – Marketing, Enrollment and Onboarding. The College begins by sending out communication to all prospective students and has direct mailings specific to those who have not started an application yet. Once students have applied, MCC begins the onboarding process with Welcome Packets and sharing additional information, which then smoothly transitions into orientation and advising. Students begin with a self-paced New-Student Orientation. After completion, students are contacted by an advisor with an invitation to meet in person, by phone, or by using an online tool. Processes have been simplified and streamlined, with all objectives being student-focused to make each student feel welcome at MCC. Departmental goals are to consistently make improvements related to the student experience, and results and feedback have been very encouraging.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS INITIATIVES

Dr. Gabbard and Mr. Tenuta shared updates to budgeted and planned projects. They explained the College's strong fiscal position affords MCC the opportunity to carry out three major projects as planned – Room B166-167, Room B252-255, and the Storage Building, in addition to starting several other planned projects that were not scheduled until FY 2022.

Student Trustee German left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

TUITION DISCUSSION

Mr. Tenuta referred to discussions had at the November 2020 meeting, reiterating the College is not looking to raise tuition. MCC enrollments have been strong and he is pleased MCC will be able to hold tuition in place for the coming year.

PRELIMINARY JANUARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Mr. Tenuta recapped the preliminary January financial statements, indicating we are tracking well to the budget and explaining the variances seen at mid-year are a result of timing. He anticipates no surprises as we progress through the fiscal year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/SUMMARY COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Allen remarked the College facilitated a fantastic Donor Scholarship Breakfast last week, and is impressed that MCC virtual events just keep getting better and better. He thanks all involved in the planning of the breakfast.

Ms. Evertsen remarked that when leaving Board meetings late at night and especially in this cold weather, it would be appreciated if Trustees offer support to ensure everyone at the meeting gets to their car and leaves campus safely.

Ms. Siddons echoed Mr. Allen's comments about the Donor Appreciation Breakfast. She is also impressed with the way the College administration is handling the vaccine challenge by keeping up with information on a daily basis and communicating so well to staff, faculty and Trustees. With regard to tonight's presentation on Student Success led by Jim Disrude and Amy Carzoli, she appreciates the spirit of continuous improvement within the department, which is critical to the student experience.

Ms. Speros echoed comments about the Donor Appreciation Breakfast. Also, she thinks it is phenomenal the College will not be considering a tuition increase for the upcoming year.

Chair Smith gave a courtesy reminder to all Trustees to file their Statement of Economic Interest with the County as soon as possible, as required of their position.

Ms. Walsh reminded Trustees of the upcoming Regional ICCTA North meeting to be held via Zoom on February 22, encouraging all Trustees to attend.

CLOSED SESSION

At 7:31 p.m., Vice Chair Walsh asked for a motion to move into Closed Session under Illinois Open Meetings Act 120/2(c) #1 – Personnel, #8 – Security Procedures, #11 – Litigation, and #21 – Review of Closed Session Minutes. Chair Smith moved; Ms. Hoban seconded. The roll was called and all were in favor. After a short break, the closed session began at 7:38 p.m.

At 8:20 p.m., Ms. Evertsen motioned to come out of closed session, seconded by Ms. Speros. On a voice vote, all voted aye in favor.

APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Evertsen to approve closed session minutes of the January 19, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting. Ms. Speros seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all voted in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Vice Chair Walsh declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Mary Cornett, Recording Secretary

Thomas E. Allen, Board Secretary