



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Virtual Meeting at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vy0IripYuel&feature=youtu.be>

Date: April 9, 2020

Time: Noon

PRESENT:

Elizabeth Fineburg, Presiding
David R. Breidinger
James Dancy
Broadus Davis, Ed.D.
Blake Eisenhart
Frank Farry
Elizabeth Graver
Otto Grupp III
William Maeglin

Carol Mignoni-Ferguson
Linda Mannherz
Garney Morris
Carol Shelly.
Thomas Skiffington
Philip Wursta
Jeffrey Garton, Esq
Stephanie Shanblatt

Trustee virtual attendance was confirmed by roll call.

Ms. Fineburg called the meeting to order at noon and announced that earlier in the day the Board of Trustees met in executive session to discuss real estate, labor relations and personnel matters.

Upon motion by Mr. Morris, seconded by Mr. Breidinger, the board approved the minutes of the March meeting.

Ms. Fineburg announced that the opportunity for public comment was available through email at PublicComment@bucks.edu Comments will be shared at the end of the meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. Fineburg thanked everyone at the college for continuing our educational program during these unprecedented times. Our success in delivering all classes online is a tribute to the quality and dedication of our staff. The trustees are sincerely appreciative of all faculty and staff efforts. She also thanked the technology staff for enabling the virtual meeting today and supporting the trustees in their use of the technology.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Shanblatt expressed her thanks and gratitude to every single faculty and staff member. She stated that it was amazing to watch how quickly we were able to move and bring instruction online. The only break in instruction was during our scheduled spring break week. Faculty and staff rose to the occasion by figuring out how to do things differently and in the process we learned a lot about ourselves. She reiterated her gratitude for the work done by everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Upon motion by Mr. Breidinger and second by Mr. Dancy, the Board of Trustees ratified the Executive Committee approval of the Emergency Resolution to allow remote meeting and voting.

All trustees voted in favor of the motion and votes were recorded by roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA – William Maeglin, Vice Chair, Board of Trustees

Ms. Fineburg announced that all action items would be considered on the Consent Agenda. Trustees were advised that if discussion were requested on any item, that item would be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Eisenhart thanked college administration for their efforts to prepare a balanced budget which required no increase in tuition and fees.

Upon motion by Mr. Eisenhart and second by Mr. Dancy, the Board of Trustees adopted the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Balanced Budget of \$84,303,107 which includes no increase to student tuition and fees.

All trustees voted in favor of the motion and votes were recorded by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following public comments were read during the meeting by President Shanblatt.

Music Department at BCCC

Debbie Haines, Alumna and current student

I am enrolled in the music program at BCCC. I am not seeking an Associate Degree rather I am there because I want to learn to play the piano. My intention is to take all the music courses that are offered then move on to taking many other courses while still studying the piano. I intend to be a student at BCCC for many years. I chose BCCC because of its strong music program and the reputation of the music professors. They all have incredible gifts and are exceptional teachers.

Ed Ferdinand's accomplishments, talent, and proficient teaching techniques are what brought me to BCCC and are what keeps me there. Jeff Baumeister is equally talented in the jazz department and I've been looking forward to studying jazz piano with him. It is an honor for me to study with these highly accomplished musicians and teachers.

Cutting these faculty from the music department will not only downgrade the department's credibility, it will essentially destroy the music department. The contribution these faculty members provide is integral to the complete program of study. They ARE the piano teachers!

I hope all of you have attended the concerts given by the music students. They are superbly outstanding. The level of talent and how much these students grow is extremely impressive. It would be a huge loss to the college to have its music program go down the drain. Perhaps what we need are more staff at the college do things to build it up, promote it, recruit for it instead of having articles written from statements by the staff that bring the college down.

Music is highly valuable to our society (especially notable in this time of isolation and sadness). I believe the Tyler estate intended for music and all the arts to live on and flourish at BCCC. Please let us find a way for this to happen for the students, the college, and the community.

Music department layoffs

Anna Kitces, AICP, PP

I am current student in music department and I am shocked and opposed to the proposed layoffs (of Edward Ferdinand and Jeff Baumeister)

The dedication and level of expertise provided by them is crucial to this department, the county, and to producing and supporting future musician and keeping the culture of this society.

Please feel free to contact me.

The following public comments were received after the meeting adjourned and were not read.

Graduation

Sarah Altman, Student

It would be really appreciated if seniors could get their gowns also this year! We are having graduation taken from us, please don't take away us being able to do graduation pictures! Thank you.

Music Department at BCCC

Debbie Haines, Alumna and current student

Enrollment will not be able to increase without enough staff and especially without Ed and Jeff.

Music Department

Susan B. Smith, Esquire

I and my fellow music students have serious concerns that the music department is being stripped of crucial personnel vital to its continued existence based on below article appearing in the Centurion in February.

Cutting these faculty members from the Music Department will effectively decimate the department: these faculty members' contributions are *integral to the complete program of study* that needs to be offered in order to attract musicians pursuing a career in music. Thus, any applicant perusing the internet for information about the viability of the music department will most certainly pass on BCCC once they read Ms. Angelo's pronouncements.

Additionally, it is my understanding that Stella Elkins Tyler was a strong supporter of the Arts and that her gift of the 200 acres for use as a Community College, contained specific language requiring that the arts be supported and maintained. If a particular subset of the arts is not as lucrative or "cost effective" as another, this should be of no moment; the presence of music, by its very existence, is furthering her artistic purpose. The department is utilized not only by matriculated music students, but by many others who hear the music, adding unquantifiable enrichment to the college experience in just the way Ms. Tyler intended. The Provost is not considering the intangible benefit of the Music Department to the artistic ambiance of the college.

One only needs to spend a few moments on-line these days to see and hear how important music is to keeping our spirits up. Ms. Angelo's strict reliance on the "enrollment numbers" runs contrary to Ms. Tyler's expressed intent and her proposed cuts will ultimately cause the demise of the department altogether as the result of losing these crucial professors' contributions.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Fineburg thanked the submitters for their comments. While the Board is appreciative of the talent of music faculty and students, this decision was made out of financial necessity. The Board and administration regret that music enrollments are insufficient to allow the college to retain all current faculty members. Ms. Fineburg expressed the hope that music enrollments would increase and be able to support more faculty in the future.

Board of Trustees

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Ms. Shelly reiterated the appreciation of the Board of Trustees and college administration for the arts. All involved support the arts and made this fiscal decision in consideration of the entire college.

Ms. Graver announced that she would be convening a meeting of the Governance Committee in the near future to draft the 2020-2021 slate of officers to be presented at the May meeting.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 12:25 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held virtually on May 14 at noon.

Philip Wursta, Secretary