



BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

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

Date: November 12, 2020

Time: 11:30 AM

PRESENT:

David R. Breidinger, Presiding
Richard Balukas, Ed.D.
James Dancy
Broadus Davis, Ed.D.
Blake Eisenhart
Frank Farry
Elizabeth Fineburg
Otto Grupp III
Shams Huda

Thomas Jennings
William Maeglin
Carol Mignoni-Ferguson
Linda Mannherz
Carol Shelly
Philip Wursta
Jeffrey Garton, Esq
Stephanie Shanblatt

Trustee virtual attendance was confirmed by roll call.

Mr. Breidinger called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM. He 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 Ms. Fineburg, seconded by Ms. Shelly, the board approved the minutes of the October 2020 meeting.

Mr. Breidinger 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

Mr. Breidinger thanked the college administration and staff for not missing a beat during these challenging times. Students are receiving quality instruction remotely and online while important projects move forward smoothly. The Trustees are appreciative of these ongoing efforts.

Mr. Breidinger noted that he attended the virtual retirement celebration held recently at the college. The event recognized twenty-four retiring employees who provided 566 years of service to the college. The Board congratulates each of these individuals and encourages them to maintain their connection with the college.

Mr. Eisenhart, Trustee Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, provided an update on the search. The presidential search status has been updated on the search webpage on the college website and will be updated throughout the progress of the search. The search is on track with our strategy to announce the appointment of a new President prior to the end of this academic

year. Greenwood Asher national recruiting efforts continue and our pool of candidates is building and includes thought leaders in national higher education emerging issues, as well as accomplished sitting presidents and recognized academic leaders in community colleges.

The next priorities of the Trustee Search Committee and the Board Executive Committee will be to prepare the Board of Trustees and the College Search Committee to evaluate and to interview the candidates who have applied. Our goal remains for the College Search Committee to advance four or five finalist candidates to the Board of Trustees by the end of February.

At that time, faculty, administration, students, community members and the Board of Trustees will be meeting and interviewing the finalists. The Board looks forward to receiving the recommendations, opinions and perspectives of these groups as it deliberates on its most important fiduciary responsibility – the appointment of the next President.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dr. Shanblatt thanked the Newtown Fire Association for donating a fire pumper truck to the college Public Safety Training Center. Their donation will allow students to learn on equipment like that used in their home fire departments. The National Board for Fire Science Professional Qualifications presented their most prestigious Ken Elmore Award to the Public Safety Training program at Bucks. The award is given to recognize outstanding efforts to promote professionalism in the fire service through certifications. Congratulations to everyone for this well-deserved and significant honor.

The President reported the 44th Poet Laureate Reading and Celebration will be held on Sunday, November 15th at 1:00 pm honoring the new Poet Laureate, Jane Edna Mohler. On Wednesday, November 18th at 7:00 pm the winners of the 4th Annual Short-Fiction Contest will honor the first-place winner Matthew Ulmer. Both events will be broadcast on the college YouTube channel.

The Epstein campus hosted a Joe Biden campaign rally on October 24 and later the Newtown Campus served as the staging area for bus transport to a Donald Trump rally. Also, at Lower Bucks, the Business + Innovation department, in partnership with the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce, held a Virtual Networking event for Bucks students on November 10th.

On November 17 the Upper Bucks Campus will host a lunch and learn sponsored by the Trevor Project, a national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ youth. The interactive session is designed to stimulate conversation about LGBTQ youth relating to suicide and suicide ideation and what can be done to help them.

Dr. Shanblatt announced wonderful news from our nursing programs. The LPN graduates achieved a 93% pass rate and the Associate Degree Nursing graduates scored a 94.4% pass rate on their NCLEX exams. Congratulations to the graduates and the faculty for achieving these

fantastic results despite the spring semester interference of the pandemic with normal instruction and clinical experiences.

The Nursing Program received an increase in its annual award from the Independence Blue Cross Foundation's annual Nurses for Tomorrow program. The \$22,000 grant will help ease the nursing shortage and make it easier for our scholarship awardees to finish their education. Thanks to the Foundation for their assistance in securing \$30,000 in grant funding from Truist Bank and Provident Bank Foundations to support the college's new Ultra Sound Technologist Program.

The President congratulated sixteen outstanding members of our part-time faculty who were honored by the Provost at a reception on November 5. Our part-time faculty members are valued members of our campus community and we are grateful to them for the work they do on behalf of our students and the college.

Kudos to staff who have been appointed to community boards:

- Kevin Antoine, Chief Diversity Equity & Inclusion Officer – to the Newtown Human Relations Commission and to the Pennsbury School District Volunteer Equity Engagement Leadership Team.
- Christina McGinley, Executive Director, Foundation - to the Bucks County Opportunity Council Board of Directors
- Pete Chiovarou, Director, Community Programming - to the Board of Trustees of the Bucks County Historical Society.

Dr. Shanblatt concluded by thanking the Bucks photography students who brightened the walls of the Bucks County Clerk of Courts Office with their large format photographs. Clerk of Courts Brian Munroe wanted his office to be a pleasant place to work and partnered with Arts Dean John Matthews to hang the works of 9 of our students in the Clerk's office. Thanks to all who made this possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC, STUDENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE – Carol Shelly, Chair

Donna Wilkoski, Interim Executive Director, Enrollment Services presented the fall 2020 enrollment report. In adapting to the pandemic Admissions staff pivoted from in-person events to virtual services, providing more than 120 scripted virtual events to promote registration for fall classes. Personal outreach efforts included email and text campaigns, personal and robo phone calls while answering 45,000 inbound calls. Virtual Open House just concluded and the Guidance Counselor Conference is scheduled for November 13.

Fall enrollment fell short of projections by 8.15%, a number lower than most other PA community colleges and the national average. A positive trend is that new high school graduates enrolling totaled 1,000, comprising 14% of the fall class.

The college has programs designed specifically to facilitate high school students attending classes concurrent with their high school coursework. The Dual Enrollment option allows students to attend Bucks classes taught in the high school. A total of 194 students registered for 566 credits at nine high schools. Through the High School Enrichment program students attend classes on the Bucks campus. Students choosing this opportunity numbered 219. Individual school districts, such as Neshaminy, sponsor programs which allows students to attend classes on the Newtown campus with books and tuition expenses paid by the school district.

In summary, while fall enrollment was down, our performance was slightly better than the national average and significantly better than peers in Pennsylvania. Also, new students increased by 23% which is counter to the national trend. Finally, Bucks students are persisting in the remote environment. Withdrawals are down 46% this semester compared to fall 2019.

Dr. Lauren Friedman presented the Student Success and Transfer Mission Review. The mission review program plays a significant role in the effectiveness planning and continuous improvement cycle and is comprised of six segments. Significant outcomes of this mission review include: Bucks First-Time Full-Time success rate for students is 20% higher than Pennsylvania and 15% higher than the national rates and nearly 60% of first-time students complete at Bucks or transfer to a 4-year institution within 6 years of entry. Other positive outcomes include the fact that most completing students earn their degree within 3 years.

Student success is also evident in the high rates achieved by Bucks students in passing professional certification exams such as those in nursing and other healthcare programs. Success is also demonstrated when comparing college performance in gatekeeper courses in math and composition to both Pennsylvania and national averages. High student satisfaction is evidenced in the results of surveys including CCSSE, Noel Levitz and the graduate exit survey.

In conclusion it was noted that Associate Degree attainment for First-Time Full-Time students has increased from 16% to 21% over the past five years, an increase of more than 30%. Collaboration between Student Services and faculty has been a key element in successfully serving our students and improving their success. Students are very satisfied with their Bucks experience and the preparation they receive while attending and after leaving the college to advance their career or academic goals.

CONSENT AGENDA – Linda Mannherz, Finance Committee Chair

Mr. Breidinger 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.

Upon motion by Ms. Mannherz and second by Mr. Dancy, the Board of Trustees approved the following bid awards, contract and other items on the Consent Agenda:

Other Contract Awards

- **Tableau Data Analytics Software license renewal to Scholar Buys, Inc. for \$32,629.**
- **Internet Service Provider contract extension to Crown Castle, Inc. for \$244,800.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Shanblatt reported that no public comment was received.

BOARD COMMENT

There was no Board comment.

ADJOURN

Upon the motion to adjourn being duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 1 P.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held virtually December 10 at 11:30 AM.

Carol Mignoni Ferguson, Secretary