



# Maine Community College System

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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## MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Kennebec Valley Community College – Alford Campus  
Hinckley, Maine

**November 18, 2015**

**Board Members Present:** Robert Clark, Chair; Jean Ginn Marvin, Vice Chair; William Cassidy, Patricia Duran, Beth Ann Lorigan, David MacMahon, Robert Moore, and Jane Sexton, Commissioner William Beardsley, and Nichole Boucher, Student Trustee

**Others Present:** Presidents: Ronald Cantor, Joseph Cassidy, Barbara Finkelstein, Scott Knapp; Derek Langhauser, Interim President and General Counsel; and Bonnie Brown, Clerk

Chair Clark determined that a quorum of Trustees was present. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **Citizen Input**

*Note: The Board of Trustees recognizes its responsibility to hear the view of responsible citizens within and outside of the System, on issues judged by the Board chair to be directly related to System policy. Such views are summarized here only in an attempt to reflect the essential points made by the presenter. Inclusion of such summaries in these Minutes does not imply that such points were factually accurate or endorsed by the Board.*

Dan Abbott addressed the Board. Mr. Abbott teaches Applied Technology at SMCC and represents the faculty senate at SMCC where he serves as Senate Faculty Recorder. Mr. Abbott presented a letter to Chair Clark and reviewed the contents with the Trustees which included concerns with long term budgets, program cuts, faculty elimination and the impact these items have on the quality of education. A request was made to be invited to participate or assist in reaching out to legislators, retention efforts, etc. Mr. Abbot also addressed tuition and requested data be obtained to determine how tuition increase would impact enrollment and ability and willingness to pay. A meeting was requested with President Langhauser.

Chairman Clark and President Langhauser thanked Mr. Abbott. President Langhauser agreed to have the requested meeting and presented the Board a petition which had been signed by 77 students in support of their willingness to pay additional fees.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

### **Resolution to Accept Minutes of the September 23, 2015 Meeting**

A motion was made by Trustee Paquette, and seconded by Trustee Moore, to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2015 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **CHAIRMAN**

Chair Clark welcomed Interim Commissioner of Education, William Beardsley and introduced the newly appointment Student Trustee, Nichole Boucher. Ms. Boucher is a student at YCCC and resides in Lebanon, Maine.

Chair Clark and President Langhauser, representing the Trustees, invited Ellyn Chase to join them at which time the Trustees conferred onto Ellyn Chase the title of Special Assistant to the President and Trustee Emeritus on occasion of her retirement and in recognition of her distinguished career and dedicated service to the Maine Community College System.

## **PRESIDENT**

Interim President Langhauser presented the following items to the Trustees for consideration:

### **Resolution to Ratify Collective Bargaining Agreements**

A motion was made by Trustee Moore, and seconded by Trustee Duran, to ratify the collective bargaining agreement for the Maine Education Association MCCS Faculty Bargaining Unit for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Approve Pay Scale Adjustment for MCCS Confidential Employees**

A motion was made by Trustee Moore, and seconded by Trustee Duran, to approve a pay scale adjustment for MCCS Confidential Employees consistent with the adjustments provided in the Collective Bargaining Agreements, effective July 1, 2015.

The motion was unanimously approved.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Strategic Plan Committee**

Trustee Cassidy thanked the system staff for their work on the Plan. A review of 2014 data and summary findings was completed by the committee. Proposed changes to the 5 year plan are being considered. A complete summary and 2015 data will be shared at the January meeting.

## OTHER

In accordance with 1 MRSA 405 (6) (A), the Chair sought a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the System President Search. The motion was moved by Trustee Moore, seconded by Trustee Duran, and was unanimously approved.

The Board moved into Executive Session.


The Board moved out of Executive Session and invited Laurie Savona, Operations Officer for Search Services, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). Ms. Savona presented the proposal for the system President Search, answering questions from the Trustees regarding the process and timeline.

There being no further business to be addressed by the Trustees, a motion was unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m.



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Derek P. Langhauser  
Interim President & Secretary  
Maine Community College System



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Robert P. Clark  
Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Maine Community College System



Dear Trustees of the Maine Community College System

We the undersigned culinary students feel it is necessary for us to continue getting the quality culinary experience we have been exposed to at SMCC in order to compete with workers in the field.

We the undersigned students therefore feel a raise in the tuition and or experiencing a Lab fee increase is acceptable. We would prefer it to lessening the quality of the program.

Abigail Longbottom ABIGAIL LONGBOTTOM

Mary Gauthier

Mary Gauthier

Adrienne Pelletier

Adrienne Pelletier

Gabriel Cummings

Gabriel Cummings

Nathaniel Crompton

Nathaniel Crompton

Mitchell Evans

Mitchell Evans

Kelsey Parlin

Tony Leslie

Kelsey Parlin

Kelsey Parlin

Scott MacLean

Scott MacLean

Stuart Mason

Stuart Mason

Nicholas Vacciano

Nick Twomey

Nick Twomey

Emily C. Fournier

Emily Fournier

CUWA 110/01

CUWA 110/01

We are asking students to circulate this petition because - right now the present government in August is possibly going to cut some faculty or alter programs across the campus because of the --- budget mess. The cutting of tuition over the years to SMCC had put us in a huge financial deficit. Geoffrey Boardman

~~Anthony~~

10/23/15

~~Matthew~~

10/23/15

Edward T. Van

10/23/15

Trinity V. Muhl

10/23/15

Katie Cair

10/23/15

Kathleen

10/23/15

Thomas Lynch

10/23/15

CULA 240-01

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Rebecca Crocker  
Kimberly Strout

Nick Kulp

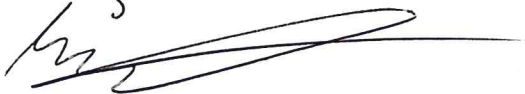
Si M. M. M.

M. M. M.

Dinh Diep

Meghan Newquist

Craig Wilcox



Mam. M. M.







Cathy Dillon

Heilly S.

Erica Jackson

Jake Poppers

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Asadun, Adam Goodwin

Zachary Lewis

Chelsy Barclay, Chelsy Barclay

Jake Stille, Samantha Stiles

Harley Lovejoy, Harley Lovejoy

Alexia Barcelona

Aaron Malone

Deanna Vigliotta

Braden Burk

Chris S. Caron

Stuart Mason

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Allegill E. Boney

Shawn Preep

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

John Sista

Kathleen Bryant

[Signature]

Ernest T. Wain

Eeri Treddu





November 16, 2015  
Faculty Senate  
Southern Maine Community College  
2 Fort Rd. South Portland, Maine

Robert Clark, Chair  
Board of Trustees, Maine Community College System  
323 State Street, Augusta, Maine

Dear Mr. Clark:

I am writing on behalf of the Faculty Senate from Southern Maine Community College to voice our collective concern about current and future budget pressures that could result in the reduction of faculty or the elimination of some of our programs. Our concern is about our long-term ability to continue to produce graduates who are well prepared to enter Maine's workforce and/or transfer into four-year degree programs.

We are proposing several things:

- That you let us know how we can collectively and individually assist you in future efforts to appeal to legislators to increase state appropriations.
- That we be included in developing and implementing strategies to retain students as one means of increasing our revenues.
- That the system conduct an evaluation at each campus of students' ability to pay an increase in tuition and an analysis of the impact of past tuition increases.
- That we consider a pricing structure for tuition at individual campuses that is indexed to the average income in the county in which the school resides.

SMCC experienced incredible growth during the decade following the MCCS transition to a community college system. During that time the proportion of our budget supported by state appropriations has slowly decreased as revenues increased from our boost in enrollment. However, enrollment plateaued several years ago—as it has in many other colleges—and continues to slowly decline. Revenues from state appropriations and other sources have not increased enough to cover the substantial rise in the costs of doing business. We've been told that the deficit at SMCC for 2016-2017 may be as much as \$1,000,000, which we find alarming.

We recognize and greatly appreciate your efforts in lobbying for appropriations from the legislature and the resulting 5.5% increase. We know how much worse the budget situation could have been, but the long-term question remains: can we sustain our dual mission to educate people who will *a)* transfer to bachelor's programs or *b)* enter the workforce? Preparing students well requires adequate funding to maintain the quality of education and training that we currently provide. Retaining students requires committed faculty and staff to support them. Without adequate funding we will gradually lose our capacity to provide either.

The SMCC Faculty Senate believes Maine's economy will suffer if we are forced to reduce staff or eliminate programs. The predictions for Maine's future workforce indicates that we need to *increase* access to health-care careers and other occupational programs, not reduce it. The college cannot sustain any more faculty and staff reductions without compromising quality. If entire programs must be eliminated because of budget limitations, the likelihood of those programs ever being revived—no matter how valuable—is remote.

We're asking you to consider any and all solutions to prevent severe cuts in both the short and the long term. We support your efforts to increase retention and to keep tuition low while we all continue to urge our legislators to increase appropriations. But we ask that you consider allowing a tuition increase at individual campuses so that we can continue to provide quality education.

We believe most students at SMCC would be willing to pay a tuition increase for several reasons:

- The average income in the Cumberland County area is \$32,880 compared to Maine's overall average of \$26,824.<sup>1</sup>
- Our campus size and amenities have a value that is not reflected in our tuition.
- Our proximity to other New England states makes SMCC a feasible choice for out-of-state students looking for an affordable education.
- The financial aid and grant situation has changed so much that many of our neediest students attend SMCC with no out-of-pocket costs for tuition and fees.
- Historically, voters in Southern Maine strongly support educational bond issues.

We recognize that a tuition increase could itself affect enrollment. A \$10 increase in tuition per credit hour would result in a \$300 increase per full-time student per year. A \$20 increase for out-of-state students would result in a \$600 increase, bringing in-state tuition to \$3000 and out-of-state to \$6000. Pell grants would more than cover this increase for many students, and we will continue to develop scholarship resources that can be used to help those for whom the increase would be a hardship. We would still be the least expensive college education in New England. Such an increase would ease the financial burden while we continue to work with our legislators to recognize the need to increase the state appropriations.

Sincerely,



Meridith Comeau, faculty senate president  
Southern Maine Community College

1. *US Census Bureau. Maine Quickfacts from US Census Bureau.* Web. 06 Nov. 2015.  
<<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/23000.html>>.