

SPRINGFIELD TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR MEETING
Scibelli Hall, Building 2, 7th Floor

Monday, February 22, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Minutes of the Meeting

Present: Christopher Johnson, Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees
Benigno Padilla III, Student Trustee
William Abrashkin
Maria Gonçalves
Steven Grande
Eric Hagopian
Debra Kaylor
Rosa Maldonado-Brown
Daniel Moen
Franklin Quigley
MacArthur Starks, Jr.

Also Present: Ira H. Rubenzahl, President
Michelle LeDoux, Staff Assistant, Office of the President
Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President, Office of the President
Arlene Rodríguez, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Joseph DaSilva, Vice President of Administration/CFO
Kamari Collins, Interim Vice President of Student and Multicultural Affairs
Joan Nadeau, Senior Director of Human Resources
John Reynolds, Events Planner, Facilities Department
Nick Camerota, Professor/Representative, STCC Professional Association
Louisa Davis-Freeman, Dean, Admissions Office
Jonathan Tudryn, Controller, Business Office
Adrienne Smith, Dean, School of Engineering Technologies and Mathematics
Leona Ittleman, Dean, School of Business and Information Technologies
Anne Bonemery, Interim Dean, School of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences

Excused Absences: None

Guests: **The Department of Higher Education:**
Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education
Patricia Marshall, Deputy Commission of Academic Affairs and Student Success
Katy Abel, Associate Commissioner for External Affairs

I. Call to Order

Trustee Johnson called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

II. Special Guest: Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education

President Rubenzahl introduced Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education, to the Board of Trustees. Commissioner Santiago started by saying that he has had a “*delightful day*” at STCC. He is visiting all campuses to make sure that everyone is aware of the direction of the Board of Higher Education. In visiting the campuses, the Commissioner expects to gain knowledge on how each campus performs on a day to day basis and have the opportunity to meet with stakeholders.

Commissioner Santiago stated that “*we are facing a bit of a crossroads*”, and stated that 55 percent of the population in Massachusetts has bachelor’s degrees. Massachusetts is the most educated state in the nation, but we are lacking talent. The traditional-aged students are declining, and there are significant retirements on the horizon. As demographics change, we need to support pathways for students to go from K to 12 by making the transition easier for students. The State will be using a model that STCC helped to develop that will make transfer seamless for students. The majority of Massachusetts residents are attending public higher education, but funding is lower than needed. Community colleges are doing more with less. Commissioner Santiago recommended that the campuses unite to reach a consensus, form a solidarity, and to speak with a unified voice on issues concerning public higher education, not with separate voices. It would make it easier to make our agenda “heard” with one voice.

Commissioner Santiago spoke about the responsibility to select and evaluate the college presidents. He is recommending changes with the timeline. The campuses will be provided with the data dashboards in April, and presidential evaluations will receive a response by June. Commissioner Santiago stated that he would like to sit down with each president to talk about goals. He would prefer a face to face meeting with each president and expects to have completed this process by the end of the summer and have a sense of where campuses are headed.

Commissioner Santiago stated that “*in terms of need based aid per students, Massachusetts ranks 9th.*” The goal is to ensure that students who need financial support for child care graduate without debt.

Trustee Abrashkin asked Commissioner Santiago, “*You mentioned speaking with a unified voice... how is that accomplished when we are competing for the same pot of money?*” Trustee Abrashkin inquired about the “*per student funding*”, adding that community college students have the greatest needs and that it was not being addressed.

Commissioner Santiago replied “*I don’t know exactly how to do that, and change the dynamic.*” Adding that this would be achieved with the support of the Boards. “*As a system of public higher education, we need your support.*” The conversation has to include all segments of the system and must be unified. Speaking as a system and doing things in unison might get better results. Commissioner Santiago state that he is open to better ideas.

Trustee Abrashkin asked Commissioner Santiago if he would be willing to let the public know that 80 percent of the teaching faculty members are adjuncts and that puts students at a disadvantage. Commissioner Santiago said that balance in the system can be achieved by articulating a vision with one voice.

Trustee Abrashkin pointed out that the community colleges receive substantially less per student from the state than either the state universities or the University of Massachusetts. Trustee Abrashkin reminded Commissioner Santiago that he is in the position to make a change and requested that the Board of Higher Education publish those figures.

Commissioner Santiago replied that he would be willing to do so. Further if change is to occur a system of trust should be established between the campuses and Board of Higher Education. Trustee Abrashkin thanked Commissioner Santiago for his willingness to begin addressing the issue of unequal funding by publishing state support by segment.

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting – January 25, 2016

Trustee Grande moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 25, 2016, seconded by Trustee Padilla, and unanimously approved (*Attachment #1*).

IV. Trustee Committee Reports

Committee on Internal and External Relations

[Committee Report] Trustee Quigley moved to approve the committee report for the meeting held on Monday, January 25, 2016, seconded by Trustee Grande, and unanimously approved. The committee did not meet in February.

Committee on Ways and Means

[Committee Report] The committee meeting was held one hour prior to the regular meeting of the STCC Board of Trustees. The committee report will be available at the next regular meeting scheduled to convene on Monday, March 28, 2016.

Investment Sub-Committee

[Committee Report] The report will be available at the next Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, March 28, 2016.

V. Enrollment Report by Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President

Michael Suzor, Assistant to the President, presented on enrollment trends from 2002 through 2015. The information provided to the Board of Trustees was compiled by the Office of Institutional Research. The information was comprised of summer sessions, spring, fall, and winter intersession. The spring semester headcount was down close to 4 percent and credits sold were down 7 percent. Great efforts were made in order to accommodate students' needs. There is no federal financial aid for students enrolled in the HiSET program. There is a limit on how many students can be accepted into the program. The College needs more funding in order to accept more students into the program. There are many students on the waiting list. Non-traditional semesters will be considered. Matthew Gravel, Dean of Enrollment Management, is spearheading an initiative that will focus on recruitment and retention. Funding is needed to support this effort.

VI. Governor's Budget

The Governor's budget has allocated a 1 percent increase for the College that adds up to \$249, 000, a modest increase. Some of the funds will be used on collective bargaining costs. The MCCC contract may have been signed on Friday, February 18, 2016. The union members are expected to sign the contract in March. We will ask for legislative support in order to fund the first year. The governor's budget will be reviewed by the House and the Senate. The state revenues are up 4 percent, but healthcare consumes most of it.

VII. College's Budget

The Committee on Ways and Means was presented with a draft of the FY '17 budget, until there is further information available from the legislature. The Board will make a decision on fees by the April

Board meeting and financial aid awards will go out. The Board will pass the budget in May or June, depending on the status of the state budget.

VIII. Old Business

No old business.

IX. New Business

Election of Officers

Trustee Johnson opened the floor for nominations from the membership for the positions of vice chair and secretary of the STCC Board of Trustees. Trustee Padilla moved to open the nomination of officers, seconded by Trustee Abrashkin and unanimously approved. Trustee Moen nominated Trustee Kaylor for the role of vice chair, and Trustee Abrashkin nominated Trustee Moen for the role of secretary. Trustee Gonçalves moved to close the nominations, seconded by Trustee Maldonado-Brown, and unanimously approved. Trustee Grande moved to approve the nominations, seconded by Trustee Starks and unanimously approved. Trustee Kaylor will serve as the vice chair and Trustee Moen will serve as the secretary of the STCC Board of Trustees.

X. President's Report

President Rubenzahl shared information about the Obama's proposal to increase or expand the Pell Grant. The proposal has two elements. The ***Pell for Accelerated Completion*** proposal would enable our low-income students to take summer courses by providing adequate funding. The ***On-Track Pell Bonus*** proposal would further supplement students enrolled in more than 15 credits per semester by rewarding them with an additional \$300.00 in an academic year. After reviewing the information presented by President Rubenzahl the Board of Trustees decided to write to the U.S. senators and representative from Massachusetts in support of this proposal.

Trustee Moen moved to approve the following:

[MOVE]

That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees authorizes Christopher Johnson, Chair of the STCC Board of Trustees, to write to Senator Ed Markey and Senator Elizabeth Warren and to Congressman Richard Neal and Congressman James McGovern, on behalf of the Board, urging support of the Expansion of the Pell Grant, being proposed by the Obama Administration and requiring congressional approval, that consists of two key pieces; 1). Pell for Accelerated Completion, and 2). On-Track Pell Bonus.

Trustee Maldonado-Brown seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

XI. Chair's Report

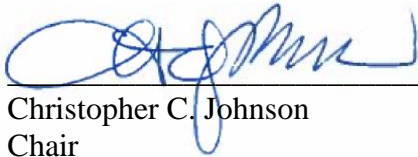
Trustee Johnson stated that Joan Nadeau, Senior Director of Human Resources is a partner in the presidential search process. The Association of Community College Trustees mailed out the executive profile to over 1,000 college presidents and prospective candidates from their mailing list. Commissioner Santiago reviewed the executive profile and had no changes to the committee's recommendations. The advertisement appears in the Chronicle of Higher Ed, Diversity in Higher Ed, MassLive, Veterans in Higher Ed, and other online sites. The submission deadline for applications is March 18, 2016. The presidential search committee will select and interview the semi-finalists and then the finalists. The Board of Trustees will interview each finalist and recommend one candidate to the Board of Higher Education for final approval.

XII. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the STCC Board of Trustees is scheduled to convene on Monday, March 28, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Scibelli Hall, building 2, rooms 703-704.

XIII. Adjournment

Trustee Moen moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 p.m., seconded by Trustee Grande, and unanimously approved.



Christopher C. Johnson
Chair
STCC Board of Trustees