

STCC Board of Trustees  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL RELATIONS  
Monday, April 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.  
Zoom Meeting, Live Streamed via STCC YouTube Channel

**Present:** Committee Chair Jynai McDonald; Trustees Monique Selden-Riley, Bill Johnson, Betty Sposito

Also attending: President John B. Cook

**Presenters:** Dr. Eduardo Marti, ACCT Governance Consultant  
Dr. Vanessa Hill, Professor of Mathematics & Foundation Innovation Fellow  
Dr. Geraldine de Berly, Vice President of Academic Affairs

- I. **Call to Order** – Committee Chair Jynai McDonald called the meeting of the Committee on Internal and External Relations to order at 5:01 p.m.
- II. **Roll Call** – The following Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Committee Chair Jynai McDonald, Student Trustee Monique Selden-Riley, Trustee Bill Johnson, and Trustee Betty Sposito.
- III. **Conversation with All-Unit Congress (AUC)**

The following was emailed on 3/30 by AUC Faculty Co-Chair Christina Atwater:

“I will forego presenting at the Internal/External committee meeting. Unless there is something specific that the I/E committee would like me to speak about; I do not have new information nor do I have a status update on any of the other matters previously discussed. I will attend in case there are questions for me, however I have no presentation to make. In the meantime, if trustees or the President wishes to have me present about something specific, I can do so.”

**IV. Governance Update & Outlook – Dr. Eduardo Marti, ACCT/Consultant**

Dr. Marti presented a report based on the progress made to date regarding the governance consultancy, and its related to the NECHE Notice of Concern (Governance). Dr. Marti share that one of the most important concerns to address is to have a clear a functional internal governance model; he also described the consideration to a representative-form of governance, and the establishment of a Governance Working Group (comprised of Trustees (2), Students (2), President & 3 Cabinet members, 3 Deans, 5 members representing the All-Unit Congress, 3 members of MCCC and 2 members of AFSCME. A sequence of meetings are scheduled through early May, and as clarity is sought, and structures considered, one goal is for Dr. Marti to prepare a preliminary report for all constituents, to include a presentation to Trustees (likely at the June meeting). Dr. Marti already recommends Trustees utilize the September Board retreat to examine Trustee by-laws, and their role and clarity with college governance.

**V. Innovative Fellowship Developmental Math – Dr. Vanessa Hill, Professor of Mathematics**

Dr. Cook introduced Dr. Vanessa Hill, and in her role as Foundation Innovation Fellow, presented on the status of development mathematics reform, and context for this update to policy and practice as aligned to the Massachusetts Board/Department of Higher Education assessment requirements.

Dr. Hill noted how this initiative also ties with the DEI and State equity agenda. The updated also recapped data demonstrating the equity impact on students of color in particular; the basic goal is to improve persistence and retention, by reducing the time to enter pathways of student. Currently, there is upwards of 10-12 credits “on the books” (which can take three semesters), but after this initiative, no more than 4 credits will be available/required pending assessment.

The revised approach includes math refreshers and supports, and Professor Hill has also been making connections to Springfield middle/high school teachers to more intentionally develop avenues to discuss math prep and pathways. The presentation shared steps taken so far to identify specific skill needs to be addressed, and was done via examination of current research literature, STCC faculty surveys, and regular meetings with President Cook, Vice President of Academic Affairs de Berly, and other college leaders from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Student Financial Services. Also discussed, technology needs for Faculty and students, training – advising – and testing center. Next steps includes: completing the curriculum, professional development for faculty – which prepping to teach using a “module” approach and use of software. Also working on a set of materials and support for students including manuals, and YouTube videos. We will also track the students on progress. The curriculum will be launched in the Fall of 2022. Dr. Cook also noted that this benefits the older students who have been out of school for a while and need a refresher.

**VI. Program Discontinuation – Dr. Geraldine de Berly, Vice President of Academic Affairs.**

**a. Review of Rationale: Biotechnology & Biomedical Engineering Technology**

Dr. de Berly referred to the memo/narrative included in the meeting packet, which further describes the outlook provided in the February Internal and External Relations meeting regarding these two small programs. Justification for discontinuation of Biotechnology & Biomedical Engineering Technology was described including chronically low enrollment, the lack of local positions/jobs offering, and the inability to full a full-time faculty teaching load. STCC did attempt to search and hire a full-time faculty member in Biomedical Eng. Tech, but was unsuccessful. Also noted is that Holyoke Community College has invested heavily in Biotechnology, but to date, also contend with low enrollment. The recommendation from administration is to discontinue these two program programs. The impact to students is minimal and a teach-out will be provided; students in Biotech will also be invited to consider the Biology Transfer pathway, which will ultimately be where Biotech is merged. Fiscal Framing was provided, and there are no faculty retrenchments as a result of this program action.

**b. [Motion 2022 – 09] Programs Discontinuation**

Trustee Bill Johnson moved: That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Internal and External Relations, recommends to the Board of Trustee, discontinuation of the Biomedical Engineering Technology program (Degrees), as well as Biotechnology (Degree and Certificate). Motion was seconded by Elizabeth Sposito and unanimously approved by Trustees present at the committee meeting.

## VII. President's Perspective – Dr. John B. Cook

Dr. Cook offered appreciation for the work by Professor Hill, and also grateful for the support of Trustees regarding program discontinuation.

### a) Personnel Update

As usual during the time of the year, there are not many changes in personnel to report; most of the new hires are grant-funded positions, and there have been a few confirmed retirements.

### a) Tenure Recommendations

Tenure is an example of codified shared governance (there is a role for faculty peers; administrators; the president; and Trustees ultimately provide finale approval). All individuals moved forward this year carry support of the UPPC (MCCC Committee), their respective Dean, as well as the President.

#### a. [Motion 2022 – 10] Approval of Tenure

Trustee Elizabeth Sposito moved: That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Internal and External Relations, pursuant to the provision of Section 22 (c), Chapter 15A, moves to recommend to the Board of Trustees the approval of granting Tenure as listed on Appendix A. Motion seconded by Trustee Bill Johnson and unanimously approved by Trustees present at the meeting.

### b) Support for Anti-Racism, Equity and Inclusion Statement (as prepared and supported by AIA@STCC)

Included in the packet is a memo from the AIA Co-Leads for endorsement of a framing statement, recommending that the President reaffirms his support to the AIA and to serve as the conduit to seek a vote of support from the STCC Board of Trustees. Committee Chair McDonald added that this statement serves as “putting the stake in the ground” and make a commitment.

#### a. [Motion 2022 – 11] Statement for Adoption

Trustee Bill Johnson moved: That the Springfield Technical Community College Board of Trustees Committee on Internal and External Relations, recommends to the Board of Trustee, approval to adopt the framing statement as developed by the Anti-Racism and Inclusion Alliance:

*“We, The Springfield Technical Community College Anti-racism and Inclusion Alliance aim to build on our identity as a “Peoples College” and the only career and technical community college leader in the State of Massachusetts, to strive towards strengthening our commitment to the racial, cultural experiences within our community and institution. We honor this commitment at the national, state, local, and institutional levels. At the national level we recognize systemic and institutionalized racism with a specific focus on higher education and the community college environment and the past, present, future racist policies, practices, as being embedded in our society and function as an institution. We realize inequitable policies and practices serve to*

*perpetuate systematic oppression and fosters a variety of problematic challenges faced by our students, faculty, and staff creating barriers to academic success and degree completion, and impedes the progress of The College as a whole.”*

Motion was seconded by Trustee Elizabeth Sposito, and unanimously approved through roll-call.

**VIII. Old Business – None**

**IX. New Business - None**

**X. Next Meeting Date and Time:** Monday, August 29, at 5:00 p.m.

**XI. Adjournment:** At 5:53 p.m. Committee Chair Jynai McDonald called to adjourn the meeting, unanimously approved through roll call.

**Respectfully submitted by Nanette Flores**