

**New River Community College Board  
(Region 10)  
Meeting Number Three Hundred Twenty-Seven**

***MINUTES***

**June 1, 2015**

Meeting number three hundred twenty-seven of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, June 1, 2015, at the Mall site at 400 New River Road, Christiansburg.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. F. Brad Denardo (Montgomery County)  
Mr. Steven Harvey (City of Radford)  
Mr. James R. Loux (Pulaski County)  
Dr. Douglas Martin (Giles County)  
Mr. Lane Penn (Pulaski County)  
Mr. James Riffe, Jr. (Giles County)  
Mrs. Barbara Straub (Montgomery County)  
Dr. Sue Thacker (Montgomery County)  
Mrs. Karen Thompson (Floyd County)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mrs. Linda Claussen, Director of Distance Education and Off-Campus Services  
Ms. Angie E. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation  
Dr. Jack M. Lewis, President  
Mrs. Teri D. Moore, Associate Vice President for Student Learning  
Mr. Anthony Nicolo, Director Facilities Services  
Mrs. Kathy T. Ridpath, Administrative Assistant President's Office  
Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations  
Dr. Janice Shelton, Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Dr. Donald E. Stowers, Director of Volunteer Services  
Dr. Fritz M. Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research  
Mr. John L. Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology  
Mrs. Jill Williams, Director of the Accountability in Student Learning Program

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Brad Denardo, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed and published.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Denardo welcomed everyone in attendance.

**3. Agenda for Approval**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**4. Minutes for Approval**

The minutes of meeting number three hundred twenty-six held on Monday, March 2, 2015, were approved as distributed.

**5. President's Report**

Dr. Lewis stated that the 2015 Commencement Ceremony was special due in part to NRCC's first honorary degree being awarded to Mr. Paul Duncan. He also commented on the 2015 Nurse's Pinning Ceremony stating that students raised funds to honor retiring instructors Mrs. Teri Moore and Mrs. Debbie Gerberich. The instructors were surprised by the announcement that the associate nursing lab had been named for them. A contribution in the amount of \$10,000 was made by Dr. Jay Moore, husband of Mrs. Teri Moore.

Dr. Lewis informed the Board that an update on the Titan drone project will be made during the September meeting.

Dr. Lewis stated that he will be making a presentation to the VCCS Information Technology professionals on June 9 and will begin the presentation by stating "it is not about the technology, or is it?" More information on the speech will be forthcoming.

**6. Instruction and Student Services**

Enrollment

In Dr. Pat Huber's absence, Dr. Streff reported on enrollment for the summer and fall semesters. He stated that the headcount enrollment for the 2015 summer term shows an increase of 12.1 percent in headcount from this point in time last year; FTEs show an increase of 8 percent. He stated that most of the increase is in Distance Education and mall site enrollment with most being first-term students as well as out-of-region students. The VCCS as a whole shows a decrease of 3 percent in FTEs. The fall semester headcount shows a decrease of 9.8 percent from this point in time last year; FTEs show a decrease of 9.6 percent. He stated that this decrease is predominated by a decline in enrollment from Montgomery County at this point in time. He commented that enrollment is significantly driven by employment; the New River Valley's employment situation is good and continually getting better.

Industrial Advisory Committees

Proposed membership lists for all industrial advisory committees for the Career Technology Education programs were distributed in the meeting packet. Mrs. Moore reported in Dr. Huber's absence and informed the board that program directors have contacted these members and confirmed service on the committees. She commented that there is broad representation for each committee, including representatives from outside the college's service region where appropriate. She

pointed out that Instrumentation and Control Automation is the only program in the state, so representation out of the service region is necessary. Dr. Thacker recommended approval of the advisory committees as presented. The motion was properly seconded and carried by unanimous vote. Dr. Lewis stated that at any time during the year a member of the Board can recommend individuals to be added to any of the advisory committees.

## **7. Finance and Technology**

### Update on the Mall Expansion

Mr. Van Hemert gave an update on the expansion at the mall site. The vacant areas have been deconstructed at this point and studs have been put in place for the classrooms. The plan is for the expansion to be complete by August 23. If not, contingency plans may need to be made.

### Update on Road Project

Mr. Van Hemert gave an update on the road project on the main campus. The road project is nearly complete with work still being done on the wall that holds the electronic sign as well as the decorative walls at the entrance. The road was opened on May 14. He commented that he would show pictures of the completed project at the September meeting.

Dr. Lewis stated that Mr. James Riffe, former Board member, was a big proponent for the purchase of the land that houses the new road.

## **8. Accountability in Student Learning**

Dr. Don Stowers informed the Board that NRCC hosted the fourth consecutive summer workshop “Chasing Student Success” on May 27 – 28 on the main campus. There were 67 individuals consisting of NRCC administrators, faculty and staff attending. The workshop was partially funded by the Chancellor’s Innovation Fund. He distributed an agenda that gave details about the activities and speakers (see attached) and briefly discussed each session. He commended all of the NRCC speakers on their presentations and Dr. Craig Herndon, VCCS Vice-Chancellor for Workforce Development, who presented on “Increasing Number of Students with Credentials.” Dr. Stowers gave a summary of the workshop by saying, “The food was great, the discussions were spirited and helpful, and we enjoyed learning from each other.” He commented that with all of the new programs, it is good for faculty to take a break from teaching to learn themselves.

Mrs. Jill Williams gave an update on the Accountability in Student Learning Program (ASLP). Effort is continuing on the ASLP intentional engagement model with feedback from students, faculty and the Board incorporated into the discussions. She noted that during the March meeting, questions and concerns came from members of the Board on ways to engage families as support systems. She assured the Board that these concerns have been taken seriously. An innovation team has been put in place to assist with the model. Not only is the number of members on the committee growing (now having 15 members) but also the scope is growing as well. The team was initially convened to look at ways to expand and improve the orientation model, but the scope has since expanded.

NRCC will implement a range of new and expanded student support efforts for incoming students this summer which include:

- Offering developmental boot camps
  - Not only help students to place into college-level courses, but save them money as well.
  - Longer students are in developmental courses the more likely they are not going to graduate with a credential.
  - English boot camps offering eight different sessions lasting three hours for students who placed into ENF 3
    - Workshops designed to remind or teach students how to write a five paragraph essay in hopes they can retake and pass the Virginia Placement Test (VPT).
  - Math boot camps offering two sessions that are two weeks in length
    - Targeted at students who have only one unit of math needed to get into college-level math for chosen curriculum
    - Participating in a technology-based math curriculum designed to help them retake the VPT or other instrument design to test into college-level math
- Orientation
  - Will be required for all students
  - Eight sessions of four hours in length in August

Mrs. Williams stated that the committee is also working on ways to improve the faculty academic advising program to intentionally engage students in the Advising Center. Ways discussed include “triage-level” advisors consisting of faculty and tutors who will assist students in the Advising Center during busy times and hiring part-time Connection Specialists in the ASLP office. She also stated that as mentioned in the March meeting, the implementation of CLAS – Connecting Learning Assets in Students, will have the ability to manage information and pull the data into one location allowing for the ability to communicate and share information across the campus. She noted that this will make the intentional engagement model possible. She stated that the college is open to ideas, questions and concerns. No questions were posed from the Board.

## **9. Workforce Development and External Relations**

Dr. Mark Rowh informed the Board that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) reaffirmation of accreditation process will begin in 2016 and will be completed in 2018.

Dr. Rowh referred to Exhibit C, the revised college mission statement, which was previously disseminated. He informed the Board that earlier this year, the faculty and staff reviewed the statement and a one-word change was suggested. Mr. James Riffe, Jr. moved approval of the statement as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

## **10. NRCC Educational Foundation**

Ms. Angie Covey informed the Board that the Educational Foundation welcomed two new members – Mr. Bill Aden, Draper Aden Associates, and Mr. Larry Shelor, Shelor Motor Mile. On another note, she stated that the application process for the fall semester

has been completed with a total of 175 new scholarships. Of these 175 scholarship applications, 120 scholarships were offered. Additionally, there are 55 students who will receive scholarships for a second year. She commented that this is more than has ever been offered at NRCC.

She gave an update on the Giles County initiative, Access to Community College Education (ACCE). At this time, 58 individuals have gone through the application process. These students will receive either full financial aid funding, full ACCE funding or a portion of both financial aid and ACCE. The financial aid cost is approximately \$150,000 and the ACCE cost is approximately \$110,000. She briefly discussed funding for the second year which may be approximately \$220,000 due to the continuation of first-year students. The enrollment from students from Giles and Narrows High Schools is showing an 18 percent increase for the fall semester over last year – this total only includes ACCE students at this point. She stated that NRCC is going into the Giles and Narrows High Schools and informing the students and parents about the ACCE program. She commended both high schools, Mr. Chris McKlarney, Giles County Administrator, Dr. Lewis Webb, Foundation Board, and Dr. Terry Arbogast, Superintendent Giles County Public Schools, for their support. A question was posed by a Board member about cooperation from Narrows High School, and Ms. Covey stated they are very helpful and doing a good job communicating information to students. She informed the Board that Giles County is in the process of establishing a committee from each high school to make the decision for late acceptance of applicants based on funding. A requirement of the program will be for the student to complete 80 hours of community service in an academic year. She noted that Mr. McKlarney would like all students from Giles County to participate in community service whether in the ACCE program or not. This will cover any student who will not qualify for financial aid funding in their second year and will need to rely on ACCE funding.

Ms. Covey informed the Board that Mr. Bob Blake, Foundation Board member, recently endowed a scholarship. On a related note, she reported that an individual from the Auburn community has recently made two \$30,000 contributions to be used immediately to serve the students of Auburn High School. At this point, five students have been selected to be the first recipients of these scholarships. The criteria, based on a request from the donor included: 1) First generation college student; 2) Financial need; 3) Possess a strong work ethic and 4) Good academic record.

#### **11. Schedule of Meetings for 2015-2016**

The schedule of meetings for 2015-2016 was presented and approved.

#### **12. Report of the Personnel Committee: Evaluation of the President**

Mr. Denardo informed the Board that he along with Mr. James Loux, and Mrs. Barbara Straub served on the Personnel Committee for the evaluation of the President. He referred to the copies of the letter that was written and sent to the Chancellor along with supporting information.

Dr. Lewis gave credit to the staff and faculty of NRCC. He stated that it is more about the climate of the college than about the president.

**13. Report of the Nominations Committee**

The Nominations Committee recommended that Mr. Brad Denardo be elected chair and Mrs. Barbara Straub vice-chair for the upcoming year. The recommendation received unanimous approval.

**14. Open Discussion/Q&A Session**

Mrs. Straub commented that she attended a 3D printing class that Workforce Development recently offered and really enjoyed it. She stated that she is excited about the Do-It-Yourself Lab that is being constructed. On another note, Mrs. Straub stated that while reading the President's achievement report she was impressed by some of the things NRCC is doing. She stated that these go along with some of the things four-year institutions are doing as well. Three things that impressed her included: 1) Online programs; 2) Online programs which include cohorts; 3) Creation of open educational resources (OER) courses.

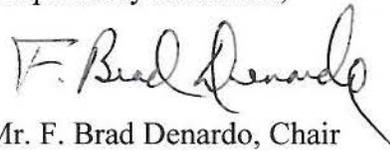
Mr. Denardo thanked the staff for the presentations and stated the Board members learn from them and appreciate the time given.

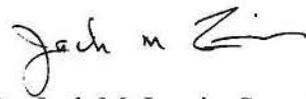
Dr. Doug Martin commented that the strength NRCC possesses that is often missing at other institutions is the "high-tech and the high-touch." NRCC personalizes this by having a "sense of place."

No other items were presented for discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for **Monday, September 14, 2015**, at the New River Valley Mall Site in Christiansburg.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mr. F. Brad Denardo, Chair

  
Dr. Jack M. Lewis, Secretary