

**New River Community College Board  
(Region 10)  
Meeting Number Three Hundred Fifty-One**

***MINUTES***

**June 7, 2021**

Meeting number three hundred fifty-one of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, June 7, 2021, on the NRCC Dublin campus.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Craig Chancellor (Floyd County)  
Mr. Richard Chidester (Giles County)  
Mr. William (Bill) Cunningham (Pulaski County)  
Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Dewald-Link (Floyd County)  
Mr. Steven Harvey (Radford City)  
Mr. Jonathan Sweet (Pulaski County)  
Mr. James (Jim) Wheeler (Giles County)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Mr. Christopher (Chris) Calfee (Radford City)  
Ms. Jessica Littlejohn (Montgomery County)  
Ms. Bobbie Potter (Montgomery County)  
Mr. Cameron Peel (Pulaski County)  
Dr. Sharon Scott (Montgomery County)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Dr. Peter Anderson, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services  
Ms. Debbie Bond, Dean of Business and Technologies  
Ms. Angie F. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation  
Dr. Patricia B. Huber, President  
Mr. Ronnie Nichols, Facilities Services Manager  
Mrs. Kathy T. Ridpath, Administrative Assistant, President's Office  
Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations  
Dr. Fritz M. Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research  
Ms. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, Dean of Arts and Sciences  
Mr. John L. Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Steven Harvey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed and published.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Harvey welcomed everyone in attendance.

### 3. **Agenda for Approval**

Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was given to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Bill Cunningham seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### 4. **Minutes for Approval**

The minutes of meeting number three hundred fifty, held on Monday, March 1, 2021, were disseminated in the meeting packet. No questions were posed. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Dr. Peggy Dewald-Link made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Craig Chancellor seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### 5. **President's Report**

Dr. Huber welcomed everyone in attendance and stated it was nice to have an in-person meeting. She thanked the Board for their support during the pandemic. She provided an update on the spring semester and stated it was a great effort by everyone at the college in finishing the semester. The semester was capped off by the in-person commencement ceremonies. She commented that these in-person ceremonies were a success, and students and their families were appreciative. The ceremonies were different than in the past, and some changes may become permanent in future years. Ms. Tammy Smith, the college's registrar, is in the process of certifying graduates. At this point, there are 457 awards. The certification process should be complete by mid-June. Dr. Huber noted that there was an increased number of "Honors" recipients this year.

Dr. Huber gave an update on the re-opening of the college. On May 20, all offices were reopened and staffed (fully or partially). Managers will continue to work with staff through a transitional period until July 6 when all offices will be opened and fully staffed. At this point, masks are not required for those who are fully vaccinated. Others are "strongly encouraged" to continue wearing masks. Signs have been displayed around campus containing this information.

Dr. Huber provided a report of the summer and fall semesters. She stated that classes are predominantly online with a few classes on campus for the summer semester (normal for all summer semesters). The college continues to wait for clarification on physical distancing guidelines but hopes there will be a more "normal" fall semester. The faculty and staff are busy getting offices, classrooms, and public areas ready for the fall semester.

Dr. Huber informed the Board that the college received approximately \$6.3 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The student portion of the funds is \$3.2 million (goes directly to students). The institutional portion is \$3.1 million to cover

COVID-related expenses. The college will follow guidance from the VCCS on expenditures of these funds.

Dr. Huber provided a report on recent retirements – Ms. Karen Kegley, Instructor of Communications, and Mr. Bill Noble, Associate Professor of Engineering. Interviews are in process to fill both positions. On a related note, she stated that the interview and search process has just been completed for four nursing faculty positions (three “emergency hires” with one-year appointments were granted last year; three are to fill these permanent positions). Also, the process has begun to fill the vacancy of an IT Specialist position. Dr. Huber informed the Board that a special allocation from the General Assembly to the VCCS resulted in the hiring of three full-time student advisors. This was part of the VCCS legislative agenda that was tied to the Governor’s G3 program (Get Skilled, Get a Job, Give Back) initiative. NRCC qualified for three advisor positions which have recently been filled. The funding allocation is to become permanent for future budgets.

Dr. Huber referred to the handouts that were disseminated during the meeting. She stated that the VCCS adopted a new six-year strategic plan, Opportunity 2027 (attached), that was approved by the State Board in March. This plan is built on the central theme of diversity, equity, and inclusion. To tie into this plan, the VCCS provided colleges with a framework of suggested and required institutional priorities for 2021-2022 (attached). These priorities align with the new VCCS strategic plan. The college will report progress to the Chancellor and to the Board next spring. On another note, Dr. Huber reported that the State Board approved no tuition/fee increase for this upcoming year. The cost remains at \$154 and fees of \$2.55 per credit hour. This is approximately \$2,400 per year for 15 credits.

## 6. **Instruction and Student Services**

### Industrial Advisory Committees

Proposed membership lists for all industrial advisory committees for the Career Technical Education programs (exhibit B) were distributed in the meeting packet. Dr. Anderson stated that these committees are vital to the work of the college. These committees formally meet with faculty in September of each year to discuss the direction of the programs. Dr. Anderson informed the Board that program directors have contacted all members and confirmed service on the committees. Questions were posed and discussed. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the committees.

**Motion:** Mr. Cunningham made a motion to approve the Advisory Committees. Mr. Richard Chidester seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

## 7. **Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research**

Dr. Fritz Streff provided a report on enrollment for the spring, summer, and fall semesters. There was an 8 percent decrease in FTEs for the spring semester. The summer semester shows a decrease of 19 percent in headcount and a 22 percent decrease in FTEs over last year. At this point, NRCC is ranked twentieth in the VCCS in enrollment for the summer. A discussion was held on the possible reasons for the decline in summer

enrollment. At this point, the fall semester is showing a 3 percent decrease in headcount and a 4 percent decrease in total FTE change. For the fall semester, the college is ranked twelfth in FTE change in the VCCS. Other data presented showed a decrease of 8 percent in FTEs for returning students; new student enrollment shows an increase of 1.4 percent.

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

### NRCC Mission Statement

Dr. Mark Rowh referred to Exhibit C – NRCC Mission Statement, that was disseminated in the Board packet. The first page shows the current Mission Statement with the second page showing the revised statement (attached). Dr. Rowh noted that all work for the college revolves around the Mission Statement. He informed the Board that earlier in the academic year, he provided opportunities for faculty and staff to review the current statement and provide comments. He consolidated all comments and suggestions for revisions and established a committee of faculty and staff to review. The committee developed the revised statement. Dr. Rowh made a recommendation to the Board for approval of the revised statement. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the Mission Statement.

**Motion:** Dr. Dewald-Link made a motion to approve the Mission Statement. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

### General Updates

Dr. Rowh provided an update on the FastForward, short-term courses Workforce Development offers. There was a 66 percent increase in students served over last year (100 students served last year and 166 served this year) in these programs. He noted that as a result of these short-term courses, students receive credentials from state and national organizations. He commended Mr. Ross Matney and Dr. Jeanne Symanoskie, program coordinators, for their work in these programs.

## **9. NRCC Educational Foundation**

### General Updates

Ms. Covey provided updates on the Educational Foundation Office. She stated that Ms. Sandy Davis, owner of BCR Property Management in Christiansburg, recently joined the Foundation Board. On another note, she informed the Board that the Foundation recently received a contribution from Dr. Tracy Wilkins, founder of TechLab, in the amount of \$175,000. This contribution will support the college's Science department. She noted that this is in addition to a previous contribution Dr. Wilkins made. Ms. Covey expressed gratitude to Mr. Harvey for his advocacy of the college and his help in making these contributions happen.

### Relocation of the Flag Poles

Ms. Covey informed the Board that the campus flag poles will be relocated near the main entrance of Godbey Hall. An additional pole will be installed which will include a flag with the NRCC logo. The United States flag will be in the center with the Virginia and NRCC flags on each side. Solar caps will be installed on each pole. Ms. Covey noted that

some veterans have expressed concerns in the past that the U.S. flag location is incorrect; this move will alleviate any confusion of location.

#### **10. Schedule of Meetings for 2021-2022**

The schedule of meetings for 2021-2022 was presented. The September meeting will be held at the Uptown Christiansburg site unless physical distancing remains an issue (in this case, the meeting will be held at the Dublin campus). Due to the SACSCOC Annual Meeting scheduled for the first Monday in December (December 6), the College Board meeting will be scheduled for November 29. Mr. Harvey asked for a motion to approve the schedule of meetings for 2021-2022.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the schedule of meetings. Mr. Cunningham seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

#### **11. Report of the Nominations Committee**

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, Mr. Steve Harvey recommended and made a motion to elect Mr. Cunningham as Chair and Mr. Jim Wheeler as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Harvey informed the Board that he, along with Mr. Chidester and Mr. Wheeler, served on the Personnel Committee for the evaluation of the president. He referred to copies of the letter (exhibit E) that was written and sent to the Chancellor along with supporting information. No questions were posed on the evaluation process.

#### **13. Special Recognitions**

Mr. Harvey recognized outgoing Board member, Dr. Sharon Scott, for her service. Dr. Scott was not in attendance; therefore, Dr. Huber will present the plaque to her at a future date. Mr. Wheeler recognized Mr. Harvey as he retires from the Board after serving two terms and presented him with a recognition plaque. Mr. Harvey thanked the Board and expressed his appreciation for the years he served on the Board.

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

Mr. Wheeler asked for questions or discussion. Mr. Chidester announced that the Race for ACCE, Giles County's fundraiser for the ACCE program, is scheduled for Saturday, October 2.

The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2021. The location will be determined at a later date. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Steven Harvey, (Chair until July 1, 2021)



Mr. William Cunningham (Chair July 1, 2021)



Dr. Patricia B. Huber, Secretary

Attachments