

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

MINUTES

November 29, 2021

Meeting number three hundred fifty-three of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, November 29, 2021, at New River Community College, Dublin.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Christopher Calfee (City of Radford)
Mr. Richard Chidester (Giles County)
Mr. Bill Cunningham (Pulaski County)
Dr. Peggy Dewald-Link (Floyd County) and Mr. Jim Link
Mr. Eric Johnsen (Montgomery County)
Ms. Jessica Littlejohn (Montgomery County)
Mr. Cameron Peel (Pulaski County) and Mrs. Taylor Peel
Mrs. Bobbie Potter (Montgomery County)
Mr. Jonathan Sweet (Pulaski County)
Mr. James Wheeler (Giles County) and Mrs. Sue Wheeler

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Mr. Craig Chancellor (Floyd County)
Mrs. Tosha Mosier (City of Radford)

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Peter Anderson, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services
Ms. Debra Bond, Dean of Business and Technologies
Ms. Angela Covey, Executive Director of NRCC Educational Foundation
Mrs. Sharon Edwards, Faculty Assembly Chair, and Mr. Watson Edwards
Dr. Pat Huber, President, and Mr. Peter Huber
Mr. Jose Melendez, Media Services Manager
Mr. Ronnie Nichols, Facilities Services Manager, and Mrs. Tammy Nichols
Ms. Kathy Ridpath, Administrative Assistant for the President's Office
Dr. Mark Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations
Dr. Fritz Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, and Mrs. Fran Streff
Mrs. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, Dean of Arts and Sciences
Mr. John Van Hemert, Vice President for Finance and Technology, and Mrs. Iva Jean Van Hemert

SPECIAL GUESTS

Mr. Ed Lawhorn, NRCC Educational Foundation Chair

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bill Cunningham, 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. Cunningham welcomed Mr. Lawhorn, Board members, and guests.

3. Agenda for Approval

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

Motion: Mr. Jonathan Sweet made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Mr. Cameron Peel seconded the motion.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

4. Minutes for Approval

The minutes of meeting number three hundred fifty-two, held on Monday, September 13, 2021, were disseminated in the meeting packet. No questions were posed. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion: Mrs. Peggy Dewald-Link made a motion to approve the September minutes. Mr. Eric Johnsen seconded the motion.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

5. President's Report

Memorandum of Updates

Dr. Huber expressed appreciation to the College Board for their support of the college's work, programs, and students.

Dr. Huber referred to a Memorandum of Updates (attached) that was previously disseminated. No questions were posed on the updates. The memorandum containing information items only included:

- General updates
- Enrollment
- Fast Forward Update
- VCCS Legislative Agenda for 2022
- SACSCOC Update
- DEI Update
- Foundation Update
- G3 Get Skilled, Get a Job, Get Ahead (G3)
- Re-Employing Virginians (REV)

- Transfer Virginia
- New River College Bridge to Radford University (NRB2RU)

Buildings and Site Project

Dr. Huber provided a report on plans for a possible college project. She stated that Mr. Van Hemert and Mr. Ronnie Nichols have researched and are developing a plan to position the college for cost-savings measures for the future and to align with State and Federal initiatives related to green technologies and alternative energy sources. The college is proposing a small (one mega-watt) solar farm on college property. She highlighted points of the planned project that included:

- The proposal is a multi-layered, multi-step process through several state agencies.
- The college has met with VCCS authorities regarding the proposal.
- The State has an engineering firm on contract. The college has been working with these engineers for a proposal and regulatory requirements.
- At the appropriate time, Mr. Van Hemert will meet with the Building and Sites Committee and then with the full College Board for affirmation of the site.
- The College Master Plan (approved by the College Board in September 2016) includes a Renewable Energy Complex at the location of the proposed solar farm.

Mr. Van Hemert provided images and maps of the proposed location of the solar farm. Dr. Huber stated that is too early for specifics but will keep the Board informed of the possibility and progress moving forward. Questions were posed and discussed.

6. Instruction and Student Services Report

New and Revised Programs

After a discussion of the process of curriculum changes, Dr. Anderson reported that the Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on November 22 to discuss the revisions for 2022-2023. On behalf of the Committee, Mrs. Bobbie Potter recommended approval of the changes and addendum as presented.

Action: The motion carried unanimously.

7. Recognitions

2021 Retirees

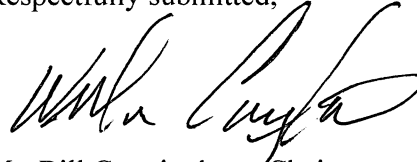
Two college employees retired in 2021: Mrs. Karen Kegley and Mr. William (Bill) Noble. Each retiree will receive a framed resolution recognizing their years of service to the college. Mr. Cunningham provided highlights of each retiree's resolutions. Mrs. Kegley and Mr. Noble were unable to attend; therefore, another appropriate venue will be used to present their resolutions.

8. Open Discussion/Q&A Session

There were no further questions or discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2022, at NRCC in Dublin.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia B. Huber". The signature is cursive and clearly legible.

Dr. Patricia B. Huber, Secretary

MEMORANDUM OF UPDATES

TO: College Board Members

SUBJECT: College Updates

DATE: November 16, 2021

General Updates

Fall semester classes end December 7. Exams will begin December 14 and end December 17. The college will close for the holidays December 23 and will reopen January 3, 2022.

Enrollment *(as of November 16)*

College contact: Dr. Fritz Streff – fstreff@nr.edu

Fall Semester Enrollment

- Headcount – 3,903 (down 5.7% compared to this point in time last fall)
- FTE's (Full-Time Equivalent Students) – 2,562.8 (down 5.3% compared to this point in time last fall)
- Statewide: Total VCCS enrollment (FTEs) is down 6.1% compared to this point in time last fall.

Registration for Spring 2022 semester is under way. Compared to this point in time last year, headcount is up by 3.2%, and FTEs are down by 1.1%.

FastForward Update

College contact: Dr. Mark Rowh – mrowh@nr.edu

The college Workforce Development unit continues to expand offerings through the state-sponsored FastForward initiative, which provides short-term training opportunities (typically six to 12 weeks in duration) that include substantial financial assistance. Current and upcoming classes include EKG/Phlebotomy, Certified Production Technician (first-time offering), Society for Human Resource Management (also new), Apartment Maintenance, Pharmacy Technician, Nurse Aide, Medical Assistant and Heavy Equipment Operator.

As of November 15, NRCC's enrollment in FastForward programs was 110 compared to 69 at this time last year.

VCCS Legislative Agenda for 2022

College contact: Dr. Mark Rowh – mrowh@nr.edu

NRCC has three new representatives in the General Assembly for the 2022 legislative session: Delegate Jason Ballard, Delegate Marie March and Senator Travis Hackworth.

The VCCS has submitted its funding priorities/requests for possible inclusion in the Governor's introduced budget bills to be considered by the General Assembly in the 2022 legislative session. Top VCCS priorities include expanding and enhancing nursing program capacity, increasing academic advising capacity, maintaining access and affordability, and addressing mental health barriers for community college students. The Governor will introduce his budget recommendations on December 16.

SACSCOC Update

College contact: Dr. Mark Rowh – mrowh@nr.edu

An NRCC team has begun the preliminary work in preparing the fifth-year interim report required by SACSCOC (the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges). The report is due in September 2023. Due to the comprehensive nature of the report, preparation time of one to two years is the norm. Accreditation for NRCC was reaffirmed in 2018 for a ten-year period; the fifth-year report is designed as a measure to keep institutions "on track" between full-scale accreditation reviews.

The report will address a variety of standards including those related to qualifications of faculty and administrative/academic officers, student achievement outcomes, admissions policies and practices, distance education, physical resources, and impact of the college's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), which is a special project focusing on student success.

DEI Update

College contact: Dr. Mark Rowh – mrowh@nr.edu

The college has undertaken a number of steps focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion. This has included creation of a DEI Task Force charged with expanding upon current practices while working to promote diversity in additional ways at NRCC. The task force is composed of 28 volunteer members from across campus departments and divisions.

The task force has developed a broad-based DEI plan that has now been incorporated in the VCCS contribution to the One Virginia plan. It outlines a wide range of strategies for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion during the current academic year and beyond. Recent progress in this area has included broadening the practice of incorporating search advocates into the hiring

process, expanding efforts in talent recruitment, holding awareness forums for faculty and staff, modifying some restrooms to function as gender-neutral facilities, and continuing support of community-based activities related to diversity and inclusion.

Foundation Update

College contact: Angie Covey – acovey@nr.edu

The NRCC Educational Foundation will end the year with:

- awarding over \$1.3 million in scholarship and student assistance to over 700 students;
- managing over 240 scholarship endowments;
- raising over \$20,000 to support the Student Food Pantry and Student Success Initiatives; and
- supporting the ACCE program which contributed over 32,000 hours of community service within the New River Valley.

G3 Get Skilled, Get a Job, Get Ahead (G3)

College contact: Dr. Peter Anderson – ptanderson@nr.edu

The Get Skilled, Get a Job, Get Ahead (G3) Program is a tuition assistance program for Virginia residents who qualify for in-state tuition and whose family income falls below an identified threshold. The program was launched in 2021 by the Governor’s Office in partnership with the Virginia Community College System to provide tuition assistance within five targeted career areas that are in high demand in Virginia: healthcare, information technology, manufacturing and skilled trades, early childhood education and public safety.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine students’ eligibility for credit programs, while individuals enrolling in a designated short-term credential program must provide documentation of household income or eligibility for federal assistance programs.

An additional benefit of the program has been the state allocation of new full-time advisors to support students in G3 programs. NRCC’s three new full-time G3 student services advisors work in tandem with two part-time student services advisors and currently serve nearly 975 students.

A total of \$367,557 in G3 funding has been awarded to 298 students during the fall 2021 semester, with an anticipated \$35,000 to be awarded after final grades are assigned. Additionally, 239 students are poised to received \$392,082 in G3 funding for the spring 2022 semester based on current enrollment.

Re-Employing Virginians (REV)

College contact: Dr. Peter Anderson – ptanderson@nr.edu

The Re-Employing Virginians (REV) program was established in 2020 to provide economic support to individuals who became unemployed or under-employed due to COVID-19. NRCC students who qualified for this funding opportunity received up to \$3,000 in one-time tuition costs to pay for classes or training in various career and technical education programs. To qualify, students were required to submit an eligibility form certifying their employment was negatively affected by . This the pandemic included employment hours that were reduced, wages that decreased and positions that were terminated. Students receiving unemployment benefits were also eligible.

REV advisors visited over 115 area businesses, social service agencies, and healthcare facilities to provide flyers and information. A total of \$121,638 in REV training vouchers was awarded to 68 students between fall 2020 and fall 2021. The REV program concludes on December 31, 2021.

Transfer Virginia

College contact: Dr. Peter Anderson – ptanderson@nr.edu

Transfer Virginia is a legislatively mandated collaboration among SCHEV, the VCCS, and Virginia's public four-year institutions of higher education. It is designed to reform the transfer experience and enable Virginia to make progress on student success and equity. The initiative aims to do the following:

- engage key stakeholders to improve communication and facilitate collaboration;
- involve faculty across institutions to align academic expectations and courses at two-year and four-year schools;
- develop a 16-credit Passport and 32 credit Uniform Certificate of General Studies at the community college level composed of transferable courses that are guaranteed to meet lower-division general education requirements at four-year schools;
- develop program maps to guide students from high school to community college to university degree completion;
- streamline transfer articulation agreements and guaranteed admission agreements; and
- develop an online transfer portal that serves all Virginia students.

New River Community College Bridge to Radford University (NRB2RU)

College contact: Dr. Peter Anderson – ptanderson@nr.edu

The New River Community College Bridge to Radford University (NRB2RU) Program is a partnership between NRCC and RU. First-year applicants to RU who do not meet the

university's standard admission criteria may be selected to participate in the program. Participating students take courses at NRCC for their first year, while living, dining, and engaging in student life at Radford University. NRCC support services include tutoring, study halls, and specialized advising. Transportation between the two campuses is provided each weekday.

The Bridge Program enrolled its first student cohort in fall 2020. A total of 54 students participated in the program during the 2020-21 academic year with 29 students “bridging” to RU to continue their academic studies. The second student cohort for the fall 2021 semester has 57 participating students.