

**Delta College  
Board of Trustees  
Dinner Meeting  
October 8, 2019**

**Delta College Downtown Bay City Center and Planetarium**

**Board Present:** M. Benecke, R. Emrich, S. Gannon, K. Lawrence-Webster, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley

**Board Absent:** A. Buckley, M. Thomas

**Others Present:** B. Aldrich, D. Allen, R. Battinkoff, N. Bovid, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, E. Clement, A. Cramer, M. Crammer, R. Curley, R. Curry, S. DuFresne, J. Foco, P. Fox, J. Garn, J. Goodnow, L. Govitz, L. Krukowski, S. Lewless, D. McQuiston, J. Miller, M. Mosqueda, G. Przygocki, S. Raube, S. Roche, E. Roth, D. Sabourin, K. Schuler, A. Sovis, K. Syring, C. Thomas, M. Uhl, A. Ursuy

**Press Present:** M. Piwowarski, Delta Collegiate

Board Chair, D. Middleton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She then turned the meeting over to Reva Curry, Vice President of Instruction and Learning Services. R. Curry then introduced the presenters, Brian Aldrich, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Karol Syring Associate Professor of Office Administration and Technology to present on Accelerated Classes Development.

B. Aldrich and K. Syring served as co-chairs of the Accelerated Classes Development Committee. They shared with the Board the makeup of the committee which includes faculty for all five divisions as well as staff from various areas such as Financial Aid and Institutional Research.

The charge of the committee is to offer ten pairings of accelerated class sections for the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) beginning Fall 2020. K. Syring further explained that an accelerated class section runs for 7 ½ weeks. Therefore, a pairing means offering two different accelerated class sections Term 1 and Term 2 on the same day and at the same time, so students can build a completely accelerated schedule.

Offering accelerated class sections helps with student success, offers students benefits, and an improved classroom environment. During the Odessa College Leadership Institute, our team learned how Odessa focused on getting prepared for the students instead of the students getting prepared for college. B. Aldrich and K. Syring also talked about the “block teaching across the university” taking place at Victoria University in Australia and provided Board members with a copy of the article that was published on *Inside Higher Ed*. Eighty percent of the classes offered at Odessa are accelerated. The number of students receiving a grade of “C” or better increased because of this change.

B. Aldrich and K. Syring also shared with the Board an analysis of current Delta College accelerated courses. Using just the courses offered during Fall and Winter of 2016, 2017, and 2018 that are part of the Michigan Transfer Agreement were part of the analysis. The following table was shared:

Section Length	Sections	Completion Rate	Success Rate
6 to 8 weeks	40	96.28%	86.43%
14+ weeks	2,855	91.12%	76.20%

Based on the results, the College will continue to further investigate accelerated courses.

The various benefits to our students include fewer classes to juggle at a given time, more frequent entry/exit points for classes in case of retake, earlier sense of completion, reduced distraction time, and reduced burnout. The classroom environment is improved with more frequent student-to-student interactions, an increased sense of belonging for students, more frequent teacher-to-student interactions, as well as larger blocks of time to finish lessons and develop questions.

In planning for the implementation of the accelerated classes, B. Aldrich noted that the faculty were surveyed to see who was interested and who would volunteer to serve or pilot these courses. Interested parties were asked to serve on the committee. B. Aldrich indicated that for Fall 2019, there is a new offering of MTH 119 and CHM 101. This class will meet on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. By Fall of 2020, the committee's charge is to offer ten pairings.

The committee also wants to establish a balance between the first part of the semester and the second part of the semester in regards to accelerated class sections being offered so that students can have a full schedule. The trend has been to offer the >8 weeks courses at the beginning of the semester with much fewer offerings for the second half of the semester. An additional goal is to condense 8, 10 and 12 weeks courses to 7 ½ weeks allowing for better pairing with another 7 ½ week course for the other half of the semester.

Future planning for Fall 2020/Winter 2021 include identifying potential MTA courses for each meta major: Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences; Business; Health; Human Services/Education/Public Safety; STEM; and Technical Trades & Manufacturing. Meetings will take place with the Associate Dean from each division as well as the coordinator for each discipline. There is also the need to address potential challenges with the misconception that accelerated courses are more difficult and that students will earn a degree sooner.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary