

Delta College
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Delta College Lecture Theater (G-160)
Tuesday, February 1, 2022
7:00 p.m.

BOARD PRESENT A. Baldwin, M. Benecke, R. Emrich, S. Gannon, D. Middleton, M. Rowley, M. Thomas, M. Wood

BOARD ABSENT M. Nash

OTHERS PRESENT R. Battinkoff, L. Brown, T. Brown, W. Childs, P. Clark, A. Cramer, R. Curry, C. Curtis, A. Dickinson, S. DuFresne, M. Gavin, S. Gormley, L. Govitz, A. Guy-Lee, M. Jackson, M. Jackson, E. Lazzari, C. Miller-Bellor, A. Proux, S. Raube, K. Rische, K. Schuler, E. Suniga, A. Williams, E. Yaworski

PRESS PRESENT None

CALL TO ORDER Board Vice Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA Board Vice Chair Thomas called for approval of the agenda.
M. Benecke made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Wood seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously. (D. Middleton and R. Emrich were not present for the vote.)

PUBLIC COMMENT M. Thomas called for public comment.

TREASURER’S REPORT S. DuFresne said that the Board has received the financial statements for the month ended January 2022 and has no material variances to report.

CONSENT AGENDA M. Thomas called for approval of the consent agenda.
M. Rowley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. M. Wood seconded the motion.
The Board voted unanimously (D. Middleton and R. Emrich were not present for the vote.) to approve the consent agenda resulting in:
Acceptance of Minutes:
1. Board Regular Meeting, January 11, 2022

APPROVAL OF 3D PRINTER PURCHASE FROM ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES CONSULTANTS (BA5429) It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of (2) Stratasys 3D Printers to Advanced Technologies Consultants in the amount of \$150,000 using Perkins Grant Funds.
M. Rowley made a motion to approve the recommendation. A. Baldwin seconded the motion.
M. Rowley asked what Perkins was. S. DuFresne said that it’s a federal grant. M. Gavin noted that the College receives an allotment of money each year based on our enrollment.

This money is specifically for those programs that lead directly to the workforce. They cannot be used for transfer programs.

The motion passed unanimously. (R. Emrich was not present for the vote.)

**APPROVAL OF
COMPUTER
PURCHASE FROM
DELL CORPORATION
(BA5430)**

It is the recommendation of the administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of 366 Dell computers for academic classrooms, computer labs, faculty, and staff as part of the college's lifecycle replacement at a cost of \$496,675.37 from Dell Corporation.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. S. Gannon seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF HIGH
FLEX CLASSROOM
EQUIPMENT SYSTEMS
PURCHASE
(BA5431)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve the purchase of 40 High Flex Classroom equipment systems, including the required installation with a project budget of \$400,000, and authorize the Business Services administration to award contracts as the components are ordered.

M. Rowley made a motion to approve the recommendation. S. Gannon seconded the motion.

M. Wood asked if there were any annual maintenance costs. S. DuFresne said that the purchase is for hardware.

The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD
POLICY 8.013 -
STUDENT LEAVE OF
ABSENCE (LOA)
(BA5432)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy 8.013 - Student Leave of Absence (LOA) for inclusion in the Board Policy Manual, the College Catalog, and the Student Handbook.

M. Benecke made a motion to approve the recommendation. M. Wood seconded the motion.

M. Rowley said that he appreciates the second look by legal counsel and likes the changes that were made.

D. Middleton asked when the policy would go into effect. S. Raube said as soon as the Board approves it.

The motion passed unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BOARD
POLICY 8.014 – TITLE
IX RIGHTS OF
PREGNANT AND
PARENTING
STUDENTS AT DELTA
COLLEGE
(BA5433)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve Board Policy 8.014 - Title IX Rights of Pregnant and Parenting Students at Delta College for inclusion in the Board Policy Manual, the College Catalog, and the Student Handbook.

M. Wood made a motion to approve the recommendation. A. Baldwin seconded the motion.

D. Middleton asked if adoption was included in the policy. L. Brown said that it is not.

Motion passed unanimously.

**SALE OF THE
MIDLAND CENTER
(BA5434)**

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Board of Trustees approve the sale of the Midland Center on 1025 Wheeler Rd, Midland MI 48642 for \$350,000.

M. Benecke made a motion to approve the recommendation. R. Emrich seconded the motion.

R. Emrich asked if \$350,000 was a reasonable amount. He also asked for the original purchase cost and cost of any investments that were made to the building. S. DuFresne said that she did not have those specific numbers with her. However, she said that the price was based on recent comparable listings from various other properties in that area and that they felt it was a fair price in today's market.

M. Rowley said he appreciated the comparable listings and that the offer was 89% of the listing price. He was afraid that the building would have to be demolished.

M. Wood asked if all usable equipment was removed. S. DuFresne said that everything was removed and repurposed.

The motion passed unanimously.

**STUDENT SUCCESS –
FOCUSING ON
RETENTION**

Karl Rische, Vice President of Student and Educational Services and Shelly Raube, Dean of Students shared a presentation on retention initiatives.

They reported a 2% increase in our retention rate from Fall of 2021 to Winter of 2022. There was also a 5% increase in the number of African Americans that accepted aid and registered.

Numerous retention strategies were discussed including – communication, early alert system, enhanced counseling services, student success scores, student success webinars, pop-in registration events, and a reengagement specialist.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

M. Gavin said he would like to acknowledge the work of many individuals that resulted in the 2% increase in our retention rate.

A complete report of hires, promotions, and separations for the month of January can be found in Board packets this evening.

M. Gavin said in preparation for questions in regards to the High Flex Classrooms, he wanted to share the following: Faculty and staff having been doing things to survive during the pandemic which are actually very innovative. One example is faculty teaching onsite but allowing numerous students unable to attend in person for various reasons to attend the class virtually. The new equipment approved tonight will greatly improve the experiences for both the staff and students.

Congratulations to Janet Alexander, Professor of English; Loyce Brown, Director of Employee Development and the Equity & Title IX Coordinator; and Daisy McQuiston, Professor of Nursing as recipients of the League Excellence Award. They will be recognized at the League for Innovation in the Community College's Innovations Conference taking place virtually February 28-March 3. The award was previously called the John and Suanne Roueche

Excellence Award which recognizes faculty and staff who exemplify exceptional teaching and leadership.

Delta College was awarded the Michigan Collegiate Voting Challenge Award for 2020 for highest voter registration for a two-year institution from the Secretary of State. Delta was also honored for having the “Best Action Plans to increase student engagement on campus.”

The challenge was in collaboration with ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge – a national nonpartisan nonprofit that works with local and national nonpartisan organizations in the Student Learn Students Vote Coalition. Thanks to Lisa Lawrason and Kim Klein for their leadership.

We have been talking with legislators about HSB 5556 and 5557 allowing community colleges to offer BSN (Bachelor of Science, Nursing) degrees, which we support. An alternative bill is out there prohibiting community colleges from collecting property taxes as part of their revenue if they do offer BSN degrees, which we are against.

We have worked with the astronomy faculty and facilities to reconsider the building of the observatory. Rather than locating it near the sports fields, we will be locating it closer to our building. This will save us nearly \$1 million in costs, but will also align with a long-term piece of equipment that we may purchase for a hands-on lab, around \$250,000. In the process, the staffing costs and human resources in facilities will be greatly reduced long-term. Lab professionals will be able to serve the observatory and other lab areas more easily.

R. Emrich and M. Rowley both mentioned that previous plans for having it closer to campus were an issue due to ambient lighting.

R. Emrich said that he understood that the project was postponed but is concerned with what is being advocated now versus what the Board originally approved. R. Emrich said this is the first that he has heard of the “new” plan. He also said that the project needed to be brought back to the Board for approval.

Michigan New Jobs Training Program is an incentive program for businesses allowing tax dollars normally paid to the State of Michigan in payroll withholding tax, instead to be diverted to pay for employee training. Delta College secured two new training contracts with SK Siltron, Auburn, MI and Advanced Total Wound Care, Bay City, MI. The contracts are valued at \$500,000 and will train 123 new employees in the region.

Delta College is actively recruiting for two short-term job training programs: Chemical Process Operator Fast Start™ and Warehouse & Logistics Fast Start™.

Delta College will be hosting a virtual event for National Girls and Women in Sports Day on February 2, from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm. Guest panelists include:

- Nicole Clay – NBA & WNBA Agent Attorney
- Jennifer Klein – Head Women’s Soccer Coach, U of M
- Brittini Merchant – Assistant Softball Coach, CMU
- Jashell Mitchell – Sr. University Relations Manager, Rock Center
- Tonya Edwards – WNBA Assistant Coach Chicago Sky, Head Varsity Basketball Coach, Carmen Ainsworth

The Achieving the Dream Conference will be held virtually February 14-17. Twenty-three individuals from Delta will participate. Delta has been designated as a Leader College which means we need to provide the data to show student success.

The President's Speaker Series: "Environmental Summit – Climate Change and How it Impacts Us" is being held on Thursday, February 23 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The Phi Theta Kappa Annual Awards Program and Luncheon will take place on Monday, March 7 at the Lansing Center. Registration begins at 9:00 am with the program beginning at 10 am. If you would like to attend, please let Kay know by Wednesday, February 16.

I encourage you to take a look at this month's Fantastic Faculty which has been uploaded to your BoardBook.

I, along with some of our Trustees will be in a virtual meeting with Senator Peters and Senator Stabenow next week as part of the ACCT's National Legislative Summit.

Board Chair Nash asked me to explore the potential change to the regular board meeting time. This would require action of the Board in an open meeting. I wanted to share this so you can prepare for the discussion at next month's meeting and consider what implications a change would mean to each trustee personally. Dinner meetings would also be discussed.

Finally, M. Gavin shared a flyer with the Trustees indicating events taking place for Black History Month.

R. Emrich asked M. Gavin to speak in regards to the Trustees not attending the ACCT Legislative Conference. M. Gavin said that the College currently has a no travel policy due to COVID. The senators are holding virtual meetings.

R. Emrich noted the importance in keeping our relationship alive with ACCT.

M. Gavin shared with the board the definitions for Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion that were written by the Diversity Council based on college-wide feedback.

**BEDI (BELONGING,
EQUITY, DIVERSITY
AND INCLUSION)
OPERATIONAL
DEFINITIONS**

Belonging

A sense of belonging is the result of continuously embodying socio-cultural support, integration, empathy, acceptance, and respect for all, thereby creating a safe space that invites individuals to experience an increasing awareness of and appreciation for their individuality and connectedness within the community.

Equity

Equity is the progressive practice of recognizing and eliminating barriers to opportunities for students, employees, and community members. Equity involves recognizing and eliminating both conscious and unconscious biases within institutional and organizational policies, procedures, and process so all stakeholders may thrive.

Diversity

Diversity encompasses the full range of differences and uniqueness that embody the lived human experience including, but not limited to ability, age, education,

ethnicity, family status, gender identity/expression, geographic location, heritage/history, immigration status, income, indigenous status, language, occupation, race, religion, and sexual orientation.

Inclusion

Inclusion welcomes the contributions, experiences, ideas, and perspectives of all people by proactively addressing obstacles that impede equitable access to opportunities, resources, and decision-making, thereby creating and sustaining a culture of belonging, compassion, respect, appreciation, and recognition.

D. Middleton asked if there was a need or value in having the Board adopt these definitions.

M. Thomas said that they could be approved as a way of documenting that the Board agrees with the definitions.

**ACCEPTANCE OF BEDI
(BELONGING, EQUITY,
DIVERSITY AND
INCLUSION)
OPERATIONAL
DEFINITIONS
(BA5435)**

R. Emrich made a motion to accept the Belonging, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Definitions.
D. Middleton seconded the motion.

R. Rowley made a motion to amend the original motion by including the words “experiences” and “thoughts” to the diversity definition in the proper alphabetical order.

M. Wood seconded the motion.

M. Benecke said that she doesn’t want to set the precedent that the Board would approve operational language for the College. However, she understands the reasoning if the Board finds this valuable and important. M. Thomas said that with this being new and very important, the Board’s approval sends a message to the community. M. Benecke said that this is an exception.

The amended motion passed unanimously.

The original motion with the amended language passed unanimously.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

M. Benecke thanked K. Rishe and S. Raube for their presentation on the College’s retention efforts and congratulated the League for Innovation award winners.

M. Rowley said on the topic of the Bachelors of Nursing degree, as a member of MCCA, he has made some calls to our local senators on this issue. He also echoed M. Nash’s comment from last month in regards to his appreciation of the faculty showing up and the fact that Delta has remained open.

D. Middleton wanted to reiterate R. Emrich’s comment that Delta’s involvement with ACCT is important as well as our continued relationship with the legislators. In regards to the presentation on retention, she said that it’s important to take care of the students we already have. She showed appreciation to all the faculty that were highlighted in the Fantastic Faculty, especially Lori Ziolkowski and Kelly Peckham. She congratulated Ceil Lusk on her retirement after 25 years.

M. Wood thanked K. Rishe and S. Raube for the update on the College retention efforts. He said that he would like to see the data behind the percentage increases.

CHAIR COMMENTS

Board Vice Chair Thomas thanked everyone for their patience as she chaired the meeting in M. Nash’s absence. She also appreciated the retention update presentation. She also congratulated the League for Innovation award winners. She is very happy about the sale of the Midland Center. Lastly in regards to the BEDI definitions, it is important to show as a Board that we truly support what is being done.

**VOTE TO GO INTO
CLOSED SESSION
PURSUANT TO
SECTION 8(C) OF THE
OPEN MEETINGS ACT
FOR STRATEGY
CONNECTED WITH
THE NEGOTIATION OF
THE FACULTY
COLLECTIVE
BARGAINING
AGREEMENT**

M. Thomas made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to section 8(c) of the Open Meetings Act for strategy connected with the negotiation of the faculty collective bargaining agreement. D. Middleton seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote to go into closed session are as follows:

- A. Baldwin – Yes
- M. Benecke – Yes
- R. Emrich – Yes
- S. Gannon – Yes
- D. Middleton – Yes
- M. Rowley – Yes
- M. Thomas – Yes
- M. Wood – Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board went into closed session at 8:29 p.m.

The closed session ended and the open session resumed at 9:29 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Vice Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary