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Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College N7
Tuesday, March 12, 2024
5:30 pm

Board Present: A. Clark, S. Gannon, B. Handley-Miller, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Wood

Board Absent: A. Baldwin, M. Thomas

Others Present: R. Battinkoff, J. Berry, T. Brown, P. Clark, A. Cramer, W. Childs, R. Curry, J. Foco, M. Gavin, L. Govitz, D. Hopkins, T. Johnroe, K. Katzer, G. Luczak, D. McQuiston, J. Mulders, J. Perry, D. Pearson, P. Ross McClain, K. Schuler, E. Suniga, A. Ursuy, C. Wilson

Press Present: None

Board Vice Chair, S. Gannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. She turned the meeting over to Andrea Ursuy, Executive Director of Administrative Services and Institutional Effectiveness. A. Ursuy began her presentation on the Accreditation Update by stating that the College is accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). Accreditation assures that quality standards of operation are met and is also a requirement for offering federal financial aid.

The HLC has two pathways for accreditation and Delta is a part of the “standard” pathway. This pathway has a 10-year cycle which includes an annual institutional update, a comprehensive evaluation in year 4 and a comprehensive evaluation and federal compliance review in year 10. The five criteria for accreditation include:

- Criterion 1. Mission
- Criterion 2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
- Criterion 3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support
- Criterion 4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
- Criterion 5. Institutional Effectiveness, Resources and Planning

A. Ursuy shared Delta’s accreditation timeline. The College was last reaccredited in October of 2020. A monitoring report on governance was submitted in September of 2022. Two additional monitoring reports for assessment and program review were submitted in September of 2023. Our comprehensive evaluation takes place in April and our next reaffirmation of accreditation is scheduled for 2029-2030.

She explained the work that has taken place in preparation for the evaluation in April. A steering committee was established in the Summer of 2023. Committees for each criterion were appointed, evidence files were built, a faculty writer was appointed and narrative drafts were developed. These drafts were due to the writer in Fall of 2023 and the assurance argument is being finalized right now.

A peer review team has been assigned to us. A student satisfaction survey was administered in early February. Our steering committee is finalizing the assurance argument and the criterion committees are fact checking their respective sections. The materials in the assurance system lock on March 25. The

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peer review team will then begin reviewing our assurance argument and our onsite visit will take place April 22-23, 2024.

A. Ursuy asked Trustee, Michael Wood to explain to the Board their role in the accreditation process as a trustee. M. Wood has been a peer reviewer for 12 years and was actively involved in Delta's previous visits. M. Wood encouraged trustees to be knowledgeable about the College and how it is operating, the content of our recent monitoring reports, and the accrediting process. M. Wood said we are fortunate to not have any debt and no conflicts or issues between the Board and the President.

A. Ursuy ended her presentation by letting the trustees know that more information can be found on the HLC's website as well as Delta's accreditation webpage.

Jon Foco, Interim Vice President of Business and Finance presented the Tuition and Fee Recommendation. He began by sharing that the President appoints the Budget Cabinet members. The Cabinet's role is to make recommendations to the President for tuition and fees and budget related issues, while also establishing and maintaining two-way communication with faculty and staff across the College regarding the budget. J. Foco noted that the strategic plan and budgeting process are systematically aligned. The tuition and fee recommendation aligns with our strategic initiatives and action projects.

J. Foco shared our financial landscape and acknowledged challenges which included state aid revenues remaining relatively flat or having a minimal increase; budget pressures with the continuous rise of inflation; and tuition constraint language being proposed by the Governor. He also shared our opportunities and commitments which include the fact that our tuition and fees have remained below the state average of other Michigan community colleges. We remain affordable for students while maintaining quality instruction at an exceptional value. Our students must have opportunities to be successful in light of their growing needs that require financial resources for us to respond. Finally, we must ensure that we align the budget to support our strategic plan.

The Budget Cabinet used data in making their recommendation. This included the in-district tuition and fees rate versus that of the other Michigan community colleges; the governors tuition constraint proposal of a max increase of 5% or \$241.00 whichever is greater; tuition rates compared to nearby colleges and universities; and other information. J. Foco showed the enrollment of our students for Fall of 2023 with 83% being in-district and 17% out-of-district. He also shared the student's county of residence: Saginaw 42%; Bay 25%, Midland 17%, Other 9%, Tuscola 5% and Huron 2%.

Pell funding is the largest federal source of aid awarded to Delta annually with \$11,088,273 being awarded in 2022-2023. The max awarded amount in 2023-2024 was \$7,395. The estimated max award for 2024-2025 is \$7,645, or a \$250 increase. The average Delta student takes 10 contact hours per semester. The average Pell award per student in 2022-2023 was \$3,401 and the annual cost for the majority of our student is \$3,093. In 2022-2023 3,260 students received Pell.

Finally, the proposed tuition and fee recommendation to the Board for approval this evening is for a \$6 increase in in-district tuition to \$133; a \$10 increase in out-of-district tuition to \$224; and an \$11 increase in out-of-state tuition to \$235. The \$6 increase also applies to our dual enrollment rate making it \$133. All other fees will remain the same with no increases.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:46 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary