

**DELTA COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DINNER MEETING  
December 13, 2016  
Delta College Main Campus Room N7**

**Board Present:** R. Emrich, K. Houston, K. Lawrence-Webster, D. Middleton, M. Morrissey, M. Nash, M. Rowley, E. Selby, D. Wacksman

**Board Absent:** None

**Others Present:** T. Allen, W. Baker, R. Battinkoff, Q. Beckman, S. Bishop, V. Bledsoe, V. Bond, L. Brown, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, E. Crane, R. Curley, R. Curry, D. Doster, J. Goodnow, L. Govitz, J. Harrison, H. Helgren, F. Hoffman, S. Jensen, S. Lewless, D. Lutz, J. Miller, M. Moore, M. Mosqueda, D. Peruski, G. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, E. Randolph, K. Randolph, K. Schuler, J. Stahl, C. Urbano, A. Ursuy, J. VanHouten, B. Webb

**Press Present:** J. Hall, WSGW; B. Henika, Delta Collegiate

Board Chair M. Rowley called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m.

Valerie Bledsoe, Chair of the Support Staff, gave a brief presentation to the Board. She introduced Chair Elect, Sheryl Jensen. She began with a brief history, shared their mission statement and logo as well as how their roles have changed over the years. V. Bledsoe also spoke about the various strengths of the support staff:

- technological skills and education beyond what is required for their positions;
- staff longevity;
- providing an engaging, and professional work experience for student assistants;
- contributing to the success of college initiatives beyond their positions;
- volunteering for college wide events;
- funding the purchase of a Star at the Planetarium; and
- annually coordinating the Toys for Tots collection campaign.

J. Goodnow then introduced Karen Randolph, Senate President. K. Randolph shared with the Board the responsibilities of the FEC (Faculty Executive Committee) which are to represent and pursue any faculty interests that appear relevant and pertinent and to initiate and recommend academic change and innovation in the areas of faculty concerns, instructional programs and instructional change. K. Randolph then introduced Jill Harrison, Chair of Sabbatical Leaves and Grants Committee.

J. Harrison began with an explanation of the purpose of a sabbatical. It is a privilege provided to all full-time Senate Assembly members for study, research or other creative activity with a mutual advantage to both the College and the individual. In our specific roles at Delta we are

encouraged to be innovative and contribute to student success. The sabbatical leave is a way to encourage faculty and staff to take a more challenging project that can't be done while still fulfilling their daily duties.

J. Harrison went over the requirements of a sabbatical which are outlined in Senate Policy 2.090.

- Must be employed at the College for at least 6 years.
- Applicant must show evidence that the leave will be mutually beneficial to both them and the College.
- The project must show alignment with the College's mission, vision and values.
- A sabbatical is granted for one semester for faculty or 6 months for non-faculty positions.
- The individual granted the sabbatical is expected to return to normal responsibilities at the College for at least two years following the leave.
- A written report is to be submitted to the Senate Office and the chair of the Sabbatical Leaves and Grants Committee within 30 days of completion.

J. Harrison also shared with the Board a list of recent sabbatical leaves granted to faculty and staff along with a brief description of their project.

J. Harrison then introduced Charissa Urbano, who spoke about her Sabbatical taken back in the Winter of 2013 on the possibility of offering on-line lab science courses. In working with Scott Schultz, the then Science Division Chair, they offered BIO 111 as an INET course (online lecture/online lab) and as a CNET course (online lecture/lab face-to-face). The ability to offer this course as a fully INET course was made possible by a lab kit offered by eScienceLabs. The kit included hand-on materials, modularized kit contents, lab manual CD, virtual learning activities and learning management system integration. It also includes a safety box and video. Each student is required to sign an eScience Labs Safety Agreement along with the Delta College Science Division Safety Pledge to the discussion board.

C. Urbano shared with the Board three years' worth of data from years 2013-2016. Retention Rate was calculated by taking the number of students completing the course divided by the number of student enrolled on day 15.

BIO 111 INET – 89%

BIO 111 All Course – 82%

The Success Rate was calculated by taking the number of students earning a transferable grade divided by the number that completed the course.

BIO 111 INET – 86%

BIO 111 All courses – 88%

C. Urbano noted that the completely online courses are the first ones to fill each semester. It is helping to fill a need for students who otherwise would not be able to complete this course.

Wendy Baker began her presentation by sharing with the Board her purpose for her sabbatical. It provided for professional development and skills improvement for faculty; a partnership between Delta College and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge; curriculum development including course proposal and planning; and creating meaningful research opportunities for student and faculty.

W. Baker attended ESRI Course (an international supplier of geographic information system (GIS) software) in August at the ESRI Training Center in Gahanna, Ohio. This helped her to prepare for her work at the Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge.

In regards to curriculum development, W. Baker visited Lansing Community College which helped with envisioning a program here at Delta. There is a need for GIS curriculum in this area and W. Baker worked intensively with the GIS program developed by the USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Curriculum was develop for two GIS courses currently offered at Delta, GIS 101 and GIS 102. Delta is continuing to actively work with other institutions on transferability of these courses.

W. Baker also noted that she was asked to help with a research project which allowed her to take some of Delta's students to the Upper Peninsula and collaborate with students from the University of Wisconsin, Steven's Point. She also noted a highlight for her was when she was able to help in rescuing a bald eagle from the Shiawassee Refuge while conducting field studies in the area.

T. Allen noted the huge importance of how these projects came to be with the support of the Sabbatical Leaves and Grants Committee and the appreciation from Delta in continuing to offer them.

J. VanHouten gave a very brief overview of his sabbatical which included travels to Prague in the Czech Republic and Dublin, Ireland along with the connections he has made with other colleges and in the community.

R. Emrich stressed his continued support for this program and the need for additional support from the foundation.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

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Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary