

DELTA COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING
Virtually via Zoom (1-929-205-6099 Webinar ID 585-924-977)
Held virtually per Governor Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-15 (COVID-19)
Wednesday, April 1, 2020
11:00 a.m.

BOARD PRESENT M. Benecke, A. Buckley, R. Emrich, S. Gannon, K. Lawrence-Webster, D. Middleton, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Thomas

BOARD ABSENT None

OTHERS PRESENT D. Allen, D. Baker, D. Baskind, L. Brown, T. Brown, John Carroll, P. Clark, E. Clement, M. Crawmer, R. Curley, R. Curry, C. Curtis, A. Dickinson, S. DuFresne, D. Fairchild, P. Fox, J. Garn, J. Goodnow, T. Gould, L. Govitz, M. Groulx, B. Harkness, B. Kelch, C. Kramer, S. Lewless, G. Luczak, D. McQuiston, J. Miller, M. Mosqueda, G. Przygocki, S. Raube, S. Roche, D. Roebuck, E. Roth, K. Schuler, G. Teter, C. Thomas, A. Ursuy, B. Wesolek

PRESS PRESENT J. Hall (WSGW), M. Piwowarski (Delta Collegiate)

CALL TO ORDER Board Chair, D. Middleton, called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m.

Board Chair Middleton provided the following guidance on how this Board Meeting would run.

“Good morning,

I would like to take a minute to explain how I will run today’s meeting.

The Board is authorized to hold this virtual meeting with participation through the Zoom platform in compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act as modified by Governor Gretchen Whitmer’s Executive Order 2020-15 that was issued on March 18, 2020.

The Zoom platform allows participants to participate virtually via phone or computer and ensures that the public can participate in this meeting.

For those joining us today, we want to ensure everyone can hear the board meeting. To minimize audio feedback, we ask all virtual participants to NOT use any speakerphone options.

All participants are currently muted to prevent any background noise or feedback. Board members will be unmuted to allow full participation during the meeting when recognized by the Board Chair. For clarity, please state your name prior to speaking.

•If you are joining via phone and wish to be recognized, please press *9.

•If you are joining via the video option on your computer, please press the “raise hand” option.

I have asked our Assistant Board Secretary, Talisa Brown; and Kay Schuler, Administrative Assistant in the President’s Office to service as moderators to assist me with today’s meeting.

Our moderators will note those who wish to address the Board and unmute your lines one by one, announcing who is being unmuted.

Please note that all votes will be taken via roll call by our Board Secretary, Andrea Ursuy.

If members of the public wish to address the Board, you may do so during the public comment portion of the meeting, which is on our agenda and will be announced by the Board Chair. At that time, those wishing to address the Board should indicate their desire to speak by pressing *9 (star-9)

Notes on rules for public comment, please press*9 to be recognized by the Board Chair. When you are acknowledged by the Board Chair, we ask that you state your name and you may state your county of residence. As outlined in the Board of Trustees Bylaws, please limit your comments to five minutes.

Again, note that all lines have been muted, except for the Board Chair. I will recognize you and you will be unmuted.”

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Board Chair, D. Middleton read the agenda so that those participating by phone would know what the Board was being asked to approve. Board Chair Middleton called for approval of the agenda. R. Emrich made a motion to approve the agenda. M. Thomas seconded the motion.

The results of the roll call vote to approve the agenda are as follows:

M. Benecke – Yes
A. Buckley – Yes
R. Emrich- Yes
S. Gannon – Yes
K. Lawrence-Webster – Yes
D. Middleton – Yes
M. Nash – Yes
M. Rowley – Yes
M. Thomas - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair, D. Middleton, called for public comment.

C. Curtis, President of the Delta College Faculty Association (DCFA), said that on behalf of the DCFA he would like the Board of Trustees to know that he has sincerely

appreciated working with the Administration to support our students. He said he looks forward to helping the Administration craft the communication to help students understand the temporary changes that the Board is being asked to approve today.

BOARD ACTION

Approval of temporary changes to Senate Policy 4.005 Academic/Student Records and Senate Policy 4.015 Course Drops/Adds and Withdrawals to extend the date of filing for Pass/No Credit, Course Drops and Instructor-Initiated Drops to Friday, April 24, 2020
(BA5322)

It is the recommendation of the Administration that the Delta College Board of Trustees approve temporary changes to Senate Policy 4.005 Academic/Student Records and Senate Policy 4.015 Course Drops/Adds and Withdrawals, as detailed further in this memo. These temporary changes are intended to ensure student success at the conclusion of the Winter 2020 semester; however, the Board also agrees the Administration may again suspend these same rules in subsequent semesters, if the current coronavirus (COVID-19) health situation continues to impact students.

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

J. Goodnow said that this recommendation is truly a joint effort of the faculty, administration, and staff as we work through different strategies to ensure student success with the move to distance learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

M. Thomas asked when communication would go to students. J. Goodnow said it should be out by tomorrow.

M. Nash asked if faculty leadership would have the opportunity to review and contribute to the communication. J. Goodnow said they would.

M. Benecke thanked all who worked to bring this proposal forward. She asked if the College had information about courses that will not be able to transfer with a P/NC grade. J. Goodnow said that each university differs and that students would be advised to contact the transfer institution. She said that our advisors would use the most current information we have but that it is changing.

D. Middleton asked if Counseling and Advising was working with students virtually. J. Goodnow said yes, they are working to support students virtually.

S. Gannon said that she has a unique perspective as a Trustee and a Delta College student. She said that communications from faculty and staff have been outstanding and that faculty support has been amazing.

The results of the roll call vote to approve the recommendation are as follows:

M. Benecke – Yes
A. Buckley – Yes
R. Emrich- Yes
S. Gannon – Yes
K. Lawrence-Webster – Yes
D. Middleton – Yes
M. Nash – Yes
M. Rowley – Yes
M. Thomas - Yes

Motion passed unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

J. Goodnows said that we have a fantastic team at Delta College. She said that she feels really good about the way that people have stepped up to work together for the good of our students and the community. She expressed her gratitude for the faculty and staff at Delta College.

She said that internally, the College is having daily conversations regarding how to address the changing landscape that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to daily conversations, J. Goodnow said she is meeting regularly with the Michigan Community College Presidents and is corresponding with the League Presidents.

She said that there are many challenges ahead. For example, how do we facilitate completion of courses for students in which hands-on experiences are required (such as studio and lab time)? Another consideration is the Spring/Summer semester. When should it start? Should it be online?

J. Goodnow discussed the good news of the recent decision that will allow nursing students to graduate. The state will now allow 100 percent of online education to count for completion of studies, which was previously not allowed. The temporary changes were announced March 30 in an executive order signed by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and supported by the Michigan Board of Nursing. Because of this decision, we will have 70 students who can enter the work force.

Dr. Goodnow said that several disciplines from Delta College have come together to provide much-needed medical supplies and equipment to area hospitals and medical centers treating patients and those affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

The list of supplies includes surgical masks, gloves and gowns, as well as oxygen concentrators, flowmeters and safety goggles. Five ventilators that are used in Delta's respiratory care program have been delivered and are on loan to hospitals.

The donation supports Transforming Health Regionally in a Vibrant Economy (THRIVE).

To support access to students who needed it, The Delta College Foundation recently purchased about 65 restored computers from Resourceful Recycling, that is owned by Delta alumnus Wesley Peterman.

J. Goodnow said that with the Governor's Order to stay home and stay safe, providing internet access to our students who need it continues to be a challenge. She said she welcomes any suggestions the Board can provide.

A. Buckley asked about the operating systems on the computers that were purchased. P. Clark said that the operating systems were loaded by Resourceful Recycling and ready for use when the students received them. A. Buckley said that we may want to think of ways to use our old systems for such a purpose in the future. S. DuFresne said she would have J. Foco look into this moving forward.

TRUSTEE COMMENTS

R. Emrich asked about the financial impact of this pandemic on the College. S. DuFresne said that it is hard to assess at this time. The College is working to actively protect its investments. We are watching very closely. It may be necessary to adjust our projections for fall.

S. DuFresne said that the College is in a positive position. We have zero debt, great cash flow, and are working to safeguard our assets. The total impact will be more evident as we move through summer and fall.

M. Thomas asked what we are doing with our temporary staff at this time. J. Goodnow said we continue to reassess but have made the commitment to pay all staff through the end of the Winter semester.

M. Benecke thanked Dr. Goodnow and the staff for their hardwork in times of uncertainty. K. Lawrence-Webster supported Trustee Benecke's comment.

A. Buckley said that he is proud of what the College has been able to accomplish so far in these challenging times.

S. Gannon echoed the comments of her colleagues but from the perspective of a student as well. She also congratulated the staff who organized this virtual meeting.

M. Thomas said she appreciated the collaboration that is occurring. She said the basic needs of our students weighs on her heart. She asked if the next Board Meeting would take place on Zoom. J. Goodnow said that it will.

M. Nash said "great job to the College."

R. Emrich said he expects nothing less from one of America's leading community colleges.

J. Goodnow said that today would have been R. E. Selby's birthday. She thanked Talisa, Kay, Andrea, and Eric Roth for their work in organizing today's meeting.

CHAIR COMMENTS

D. Middleton said her daughter is in a couple of classes that have moved online. D. Middleton said kudos to her instructors. They are figuring it out together.

D. Middleton thanked everyone who helped get ready for today's meeting. She thanked Dr. Goodnow for leading the College.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Board Chair Middleton adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary