Board Chair, M. Thomas, called the meeting to order at 5:50 pm. She turned the meeting over to Sarah DuFresne, Vice President of Business and Finance to present the 2023-2024 budget. S. DuFresne began with a summary of the proposed budget which includes: revenue and expenditure assumptions based on data available; maintaining fiscal conservative practices, meeting all state and federal budget guidelines; a balanced budget; maintaining our 10% fund balance; budget align with the strategic plan; and enrollment that is trending upwards.

S. DuFresne provided a national and state economic update. Economic leaders are cautiously optimistic of Michigan’s economy however, state revenues are expected to be lower than originally anticipated. Michigan’s economy continues to face post-pandemic challenges, including supply chain issues that are improving. Forecasts project state revenue growth in coming years. The national economy is expected to slow in fiscal year 2023-2024.

General fund revenue budget assumptions include a 3.5% increase to current base appropriation or $556,000. The legislative proposals vary in language and increases and the state funding legislative process is being negotiated. Total state appropriations revenue is $18.4 million. In regards to property taxes there is a net taxable valuation increase of 5.97%, or $1.5 million, from the previous year. Total property tax revenue is $26.2 million.

S. DuFresne showed the enrollment contact hours over the last decade noting that the budgeted contact hours for fiscal year 2022-2023 were 164,000 and that they are budgeting 165,000 for fiscal year 2023-2024.

General fund revenue assumptions include the board approved increases to tuition and fees that were approved in March. The legislature has proposed tuition constraint language. The College’s overall tuition and fee revenue increase is 3.5% or $966,000 from last year. Total revenues are $28.4 million. There is an increase to investment income of $1 million from last year. That along with other revenues and fund transfers total $1.9 million.
General fund expenditures include total compensation which incorporates all approved salary and wage increases for 2023-2024. Salaries and wages account for 52% of total expenses. Fringe benefits are 25% of total expense making the total compensation 77% of expenses or $57.5 million.

S. DuFresne shared examples of new and ongoing strategic and operational funding including: Medical Unit Mobile; Ten16 Collegiate Recovery Program; NURO Student Survey; UWILL; Public Safety Initiatives; Dual Enrollment and Middle College; Ellucian Contract, Website and Utilities; Reserve for Future Strategic Initiatives; Student Transportation – STARS; Food Pantry Supplies; and Operational Cost Increases.

General fund revenues total $75,054,783. Tuition and fees account for 38% or $28,404,927; property taxes for 35% or $26,198,480; State appropriations for 25% or $18,491,320; and other sources of 2% or $1,959,756. General fund expenditures total $74,902,293. Salaries account for 45% or $33,822,703; fringe benefits for 25% or $18,855,805; supplies and services of 18% or $13,627,729; part time wages of 7% or $4,801,234; equipment and capital expenses of 4% or $3,233,497; and travel and professional development of 0.7% or $561,325.

The designated fund records transactions of revenue and expenses that have been set apart from the general fund and examples include Workforce Strategies, Presidents Scholar and the Criminal Justice Program. Total revenues are $4,051,620 and total expenditures are $3,923,712. The restricted fund accounts for transactions resulting from revenue received by the College from outside donors, and agencies such as student financial aid grants, MiWorks, Perkins and HEERF Funding. Total revenues are $16,727,440 and total expenditures are $16,169,061.

The auxiliary fund accounts for transaction of those activities that deliver a product or perform a service such as the bookstore, food service, the fitness and recreation center and printing. Total revenues are $4,429,030 and total expenditures are $4,590,589. The plant fund had revenues of $4,415,100 which came from private gifts, grants, state appropriations, transfer from the general fund and investment income. Total expenditures total $8,362,635. Our buildings total over 1 million square feet, our main campus is on 640 acres and there is a replacement value of $418 million. The largest project for 2023-2024 is the renovation of the Information Technology and Computer Science (K Wing) of $5.7 million which has been submitted to the State. The College just recently completed the Broadcasting A Wing renovation.

M. Gavin introduced Kathie Marchlewski, Professor of English. She shared with the Board that her students read You’re More Powerful Than You Think by Eric Lui. Through this book the students learned about identifying power structure and how to access them in order to create change. Their assignment required them to identify a local issue, take a position and contact individuals or organizations who have the power to create policy and/or take action. The recent Michigan State University shooting prompted the students to research what campus safety measures Delta has in place.

She introduced four of her students from her English 112 class including: Abby Woycik, Kasia Johnson, Morgan Leigh, and Benjamen Thompson. They created a student safety survey asking various questions in regards to what would help students feel safer on campus including the locking of classroom doors, where public safety is located and the College’s emergency text system. The survey was emailed to all students enrolled in Winter 2023 semester and was open for one week. They received 514 responses.
Based on the responses received the students came up with the following recommendations:

- Requiring students to sign up for Nixle emergency texts;
- requiring faculty to lock classroom doors;
- greater awareness of who is entering the campus;
- protecting officers with tactical vests; and
- adding additional public safety officers.

Robert Battinkoff, Director of Public Safety, began by thanking the students for taking an interest into the safety of our campus. This provided him the opportunity to share with the Board various safety measures that are already in place.

R. Battinkoff began talking about a hypothetical active assailant incident and the practices that we have in place which include prevention, response and mitigation. In regards to prevention we have police on campus, video/door access controls, a behavioral intervention review board, first responder partnership and an incident reporting system. In the event of an active assailant there are coordinated response trainings with local first responders including Bay, Midland and Saginaw counties. There are annual drills and tests for staff and students, as well as equipment and training for the officers. In the event of an incident public safety has medical supplies, the proper training, the coordination with other area first responders as well as policies and procedures in place.

R. Battinkoff shared with the Board the Stop the Bleed program through the American College of Surgeons. These kits are placed around campus and contain items such as gauze, tourniquet, and personal protective gear. This came as a result of surgeons wondering why victims were dying in the emergency room when they could have lived. The two biggest issues were cardiac issues and extremity bleeds.

Next steps include a comprehensive external assessment, more effective alerting system, enhanced technology and working with the Marketing and Admissions Offices to increase the awareness and use of the Nixle emergency alerts.

Finally, Josh Berry, Chief Information Officer, presented on Cyberthreats. J. Berry shared that in March of this year, Lansing Community College was shut down for 5 days due to an unspecified cyber-attack. Today’s hackers are logging in with compromised credentials that were gained through phishing. The FBI crime statistic reports show a 1,240% increase in successful phishing attempts from 2016 to 2020. In regards to money, the FBI crime statistic reports show a 447% increase in cyber extortion or ransomware from 2016 to 2020. And in regards to identity theft, there was a 257% increase from 2016 to 2020 and 164% in personal data breaches during that same time.

J. Berry noted that cybersecurity experts urge a “not if, but when” approach to cyber-attacks. Delta College has several safeguards in place to protect us from a cyber threat including security monitoring, identity monitoring and ongoing cybersecurity training for staff and students. Our IT department is watching to see where individuals are logging in from to make sure they are valid logins. Multi-factor authentication has helped, but hackers have now begun spoofing cell phone numbers.

The College’s last full assessment was done in 2020. The College has an active disaster recovery and incident response plan in place.
M. Gavin thanked all of the presenters and said that we have great individuals leading the charge on these efforts with a focus on continuous improvement to keep both our students and College safe.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

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Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary