

Approved 6-03-09

Meeting Minutes

Bluegrass Community and Technical College Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 4, 2009

Board Room – Leestown Campus

Members Present:

Florence Huffman, Chair; Becky Critchfield; Annessa Franklin; Bob McNulty; Dr. Jonah Mitchell; Bob Rowland; Janella Spencer; Luke Taylor

Absent: Ron Walker, Maraskeshia Smith

Others Present:

Dr. Augusta Julian, Lisa Bell, Dr. David Hellmich, Vern Kennedy, Mark Manuel, Tri Roberts, Dr. Palisa Williams Rushin, Charlene Walker

Special Guests: Stan Harvey (Principal/Urban Collage), Richard Polk (Principal/EOP), Jody McKee (KCTCS), Eric Shaffer (KCTCS)

I. Welcome/Introductions

Florence Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m. and asked all present to introduce himself or herself. She then welcomed special guests, Richard Polk, Principal, EOP Architects; Stan Harvey, Principal, Urban Collage; Jody McKee, KCTCS; and Eric Shaffer, KCTCS.

Chair Huffman thanked the guests for coming to bring a special presentation to the board concerning the Newtown Pike Campus project.

II. Business Meeting

A. Approval of Previous Minutes

Previous minutes from December 3, 2008 were presented for approval. Janella Spencer moved to accept, Bob McNulty seconded, and the motion passed. The December minutes were approved with no corrections noted.

III. Presentation – Newtown Pike Campus Planning

Dr. Julian welcomed the guests and stated that she appreciated their hard work to assist the college with the planning of the new campus. She asked Richard Polk and Stan Harvey to present the status of the project to the board. Mr. Polk gave brief remarks, citing all the consultants on the project steering team. He also noted that there is a community advisory team that has had input as well. Those involved in the project steering group, in addition to EOP Architects, include Perkins & Will, a national firm experienced in campus planning; M2D as the landscape design group; Urban Collage as the urban planning firm; and HDR as engineers for the project, as

well as representatives of the Kentucky Heritage Council, the Kentucky Finance Cabinet, and KCTCS. He stated that input would be sought from all stakeholders in this project including community members, the college advisory team, the college community, and the general public. Dr. Julian remarked that an open forum is planned on April 17 to solicit thoughts, suggestions, and opinions from BCTC faculty and staff.

Mr. Harvey then discussed guiding principles for the Newtown Pike Campus planning and explained how academic needs of the college were translated into actual facilities plans. Further, he explained benchmarking basics and discussed the existing context of the site, remarking that the new campus will be part of “a college education triangle” in Lexington with BCTC, UK, and Transylvania.

Mr. Polk discussed specific buildings on the site which were of particular interest or had historical significance. He remarked that decisions need to be made to determine which buildings have sufficient value that they should be restored and reused. Mr. Polk indicated that the current administration building is the most iconic building on the present site, dating back to the 1800s. A large ballroom is an interesting feature on the third floor.

Some relatively new buildings, built in the 1980s, include a cafeteria and a gymnasium. He discussed an old laundry building which is architecturally significant. It sits in the middle of the site as a potential campus asset. However, he noted that it is in dire need of stabilization. The steering team is interested in saving significant existing buildings if it is feasible, but this decision remains to be made. One way to remember the site’s history is with a museum. He stressed that they need to work with the Heritage Council to determine potential “use value” for any existing structures.

The entrance “circle” was discussed, since it appears to have some historical significance and could be adapted for BCTC use. Some discussion ensued regarding the location of existing grave sites on the property and the challenges involved during actual construction should other burial sites be located. The architects are nearly at the end of the assessment phase, and will be entering the design phase of the project. The ultimate goal is to have a Campus Master Plan which is workable for BCTC.

Eric Shaffer of KCTCS discussed the current timeline, indicating much depends upon when the new Eastern State Hospital is completed. At least two years is an estimate for construction of the new hospital. Construction of the new BCTC building could also occur in that timeframe, but the best scenario is likely as much as four years before the old hospital is moved to its new site and BCTC could occupy the Newtown Pike Campus location.

Discussion continued, regarding the changes that would take place around the entire new college site, since Newtown Pike will become a main corridor into downtown Lexington. The Board would like a tour of the existing site and buildings, if this is

possible. Mr. Polk suggested that perhaps a “virtual tour” could be worked out using existing slides. Mr. Polk thanked the board for the opportunity to present current plans and progress, remarking the architectural firm was pleased to have the opportunity to bring an early assessment to the board.

At 7:20 p.m., the Chair called for a 5-minute break, as the architects concluded their presentation. The board meeting was re-convened at 7:25 p.m.

Dr. Julian suggested the architects could return to bring the board another update at the June board meeting. She stated they had done an excellent job thus far, and everyone looks forward to future updates.

IV. Information – Discussion

A. 2008-09 Budget Update

Lisa Bell and Dr. Julian presented a brief budget update. Ms. Bell distributed a one-page budget update, and explained various items on the sheet. She emphasized that Fall 2008 tuition revenue is up over \$1 million, and the Spring 2009 revenue figures show a 10.9% increase.

Ms. Bell indicated that this good news is a result of each individual college department and division working hard. She praised faculty and staff efforts to limit expenditures, allowing the college budget picture to show improvement. She re-emphasized to the board that since February 2008, BCTC has experienced three state-mandated budget cuts.

Becky Critchfield asked how or when BCTC would be able to pay back what is currently owed. Dr. Julian remarked that we must wait until the end of March, for a better picture of the financial situation, and at that time a determination could be made about applying revenue to prior year deficits. Once the financial picture is clearer, BCTC would be in better position to determine its budget going forward.

Bob McNulty inquired if the college would receive any funding from the recently approved government stimulus package. Dr. Julian replied that working with the Workforce Investment Boards and possibly through grants, BCTC hopes to provide short-term training programs to assist unemployed and dislocated workers. BCTC is examining areas of opportunity and need. However, Dr. Julian stressed that yet another state-mandated budget cut is not out of the question. We need to continue to be very conservative yet optimistic.

Ms. Bell reported the college had to return \$15,000 in unawarded scholarships, and this brought questions from the board. She explained that only \$15,000 out of a total of \$300,000 was not awarded and had to be returned, since students did not maintain adequate grade point averages for the scholarship funding.

B. Strategic Needs Analysis

Dr. Julian explained the Strategic Needs Analysis process, which occurs every other year. The KCTCS biennial strategic needs analysis process is designed to provide colleges with an opportunity to identify local budget requests and needs to be considered during the development of the KCTCS biennial budget. Prioritized programmatic, operational, and capital funding needs are collected for the upcoming six years, and capital projects are then determined from those prioritized lists. Lisa Bell distributed a summary of BCTC's Strategic Needs Analysis requests, which lists BCTC's prioritized capital construction requests from first priority (establish a campus in Scott County) to last priority (improvements to the Danville Campus facilities). Ms. Bell indicated that the deadline for submitting prioritized requests to the System Office was February 17 for capital requests, and April 13 for operating requests.

C. Spring 2009 Enrollment Report

Dr. Rushin reported an increase of 700+ students from last year at this time, bringing our current enrollment to 10,683 as of March 1, 2009.

D. SACS Update

Dr. Julian reported that SACS Compliance Certification is due at the end of next week (March 13, 2009), and many within the college have worked long hours to reach this goal. She further stated that the Quality Enhancement Planning team is working well, and on March 27 faculty and staff would have the opportunity to give input and suggestions for its development.

V. Announcements

Resignation of board member

Chair Huffman announced that a resignation message had just been received from board member Maraskeshia Smith, with immediate effect. Maraskeshia indicated she regrets leaving the board, but has taken a new position out of state. Anissa Franklin proposed a motion to accept the resignation of Ms. Smith, it was seconded by Becky Critchfield, and the motion carried. Dr. Julian mentioned that BCTC can make suggestions for a suitable replacement for the board vacancy, and these would be submitted to KCTCS President McCall, who would in turn make recommendations to the Governor's Office.

Faculty resolutions on tenure and post-retirement benefits

Janella Spencer brought an additional agenda item to the board at this time. She distributed a resolution, passed by BCTC faculty, which will be presented to the KCTCS Board of Regents at their March meeting. The faculty resolution urges

continuation of tenure for newly-hired faculty and provision of post-retirement benefits for newly hired KCTCS employees. Speaking on behalf of BCTC faculty, Ms. Spencer asked if the board would like to send a statement of support to the KCTCS Board of Regents.

Much discussion followed. Various questions about the two issues were asked, including which faculty would be affected by the discontinuance of tenure-track hiring. Ms. Spencer indicated the change would not affect current faculty but only new hires in the future.

Bob McNulty proposed a motion to support BCTC faculty opposed to the elimination of tenure for new faculty hires. No second was offered to this motion. The Chair again asked for a second, indicating the board could discuss the issue after the motion was seconded. However, she stressed that while this was a critical issue to BCTC faculty, the item had not been placed on the official March 4 agenda; therefore board action could not be taken. Board members could individually convey their approval or disapproval, but a board resolution was not in order. Bob McNulty withdrew his motion, and further discussion ensued.

Annis Franklin noted President Obama's new initiatives regarding benefits offered to employees, particularly those leaving a current employment. It was understood that an employer must offer benefits for a certain extended period of time. Bob McNulty remarked that it sends a very bad message when an organization removes health insurance benefits for loyal employees. Luke Taylor offered his support for the continuance of post-retirement benefits. The Chair circulated the resolutions as presented by Ms. Spencer, asking individual board members who are supportive of either or both of the resolutions to acknowledge their support by signing the resolution. She stated she would then convey these sentiments to the KCTCS Board of Regents.

Chair Florence Huffman thanked Ms. Spencer for presenting the BCTC faculty resolutions and assured Ms. Spencer the individual expressions of support would be conveyed to the Board of Regents. There was no official board action on the matter.

Tobacco-Free Campus

Dr. Julian announced that some conversations had been ongoing regarding joining the University of Kentucky in becoming a tobacco-free campus. A survey has been sent out to all students, faculty and staff to gain opinions.

May Commencement Venue

Dr. Julian reported that the decision had been made to utilize the Frankfort Convention Center for this year's Commencement Exercises on May 9. Since there was concern that some students may have difficulty with transportation for the event, the possibility of utilizing a bus or buses is being explored. Carpools are also being

discussed. Jonah Mitchell asked if indeed there was no other facility large enough to accommodate the event. Dr. Rushin replied that several other options had been explored, but none were suitable or large enough or were too expensive. A facility large enough to accommodate seating for 3,000 is required.

Evaluation of BCTC President

Dr. Julian reported that Dr. McCall's office will be sending out a mailing for individual board members to evaluate the BCTC president. These are to be completed in April.

Corrections Education

Dr. Julian reported there is a bill in the legislature now, which proposes to remove Corrections Education from KCTCS and place it under the Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC). The Corrections budget would then go to the DOC. Dr. Julian emphasized that the college maintains the Corrections portion of the college budget only for education. She also noted that DOC is believed to support passage of this bill and is mainly concerned that students get marketable skills.

Adjournment

With no further business or announcements to be brought before the board, Luke Taylor moved to adjourn, Becky Critchfield seconded the motion, and the board adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Wednesday, June 3, 2009. However, this is a tentative date, dependent upon the KCTCS budget calendar requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Williams

Office of the President