Approved 3-04-09
Meeting Minutes
Bluegrass Community and Technical College Board of Directors
Wednesday, December 3, 2008
Board Room – Leestown Campus

Members Present:

Florence Huffman, Chair; Bob McNulty; Becky Critchfield; Annissa Franklin; Bob Rowland; Janella Spencer; Luke Taylor; Ron Walker

Absent: Dr. Jonah Mitchell, Maraskeshia Smith

Others Present:

Dr. Augusta Julian, Ren Bates, Lisa Bell, Mike Binzer, Dr. David Hellmich, Vern Kennedy, Mark Manuel, Tri Roberts, Dr. Palisa Williams Rushin, Charlene Walker, Karman Wheeler

Special Guests: Dr. Michael B. McCall, Mr. Richard A. Bean

I. Welcome/Introductions

Florence Huffman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked all present to introduce himself or herself. She then welcomed special guests, Dr. Michael McCall, President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), and Mr. Richard Bean, Chair of the KCTCS Board of Regents. Mr. Bean was given the floor to bring greetings to the board.

Mr. Bean stated that he wanted to thank the BCTC board members for their service to the college as volunteers. He noted that their service and input is valued, desired, and appreciated. Further, he acknowledged that the current budget situation is difficult for all the colleges at this time, and the system office is well aware there is not enough funding to go around. He stated he was very disappointed in the resistance of the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) to tuition increases for KCTCS for this year. He acknowledged the difficulties in continuing to provide programs and services, and, at the same time, implementing savings and efficiencies wherever possible. "We are accomplishing miracles in a very poor fiscal environment," he noted.

Mr. Bean stated that the KCTCS Board of Regents wants to address a number of barriers to our students transferring, such as lack of a common course numbering system. Many of these issues will need leadership by the Governor or CPE. He acknowledged that with fewer faculty, it is difficult to meet the needs of students who are looking for flexibility in class schedules. He mentioned a workshop on advocacy the Board of Regents will be having, indicating "we are all advocates for KCTCS." Mr. Bean then stressed again that the Board of Regents appreciates all that board members do for BCTC, saying "You have a great president at BCTC, and we are pleased with the college and all its accomplishments despite a tight budget situation."

Dr. McCall then spoke briefly and thanked Richard Bean for his passion and his leadership over many years. He noted that Mr. Bean is one of the founding members of the Board of Regents and that he has been a strong advocate for KCTCS. Dr. McCall

then thanked the BCTC board for all they do for the college, and stated he was delighted to be able to visit at this time.

Chair Huffman thanked both guests for their support of BCTC and pledged the board's full and continuing support to students and the college.

II. Business Meeting

A. Approval of Previous Minutes

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

B. Revision of Board By-Laws

Dr. Julian reminded the board that they had discussed a change at the September 3, 2008 meeting to revise board by-laws regarding the time for the annual meeting. The proposed language amends the by-laws. Currently, Article V, Section 5.1 (Regular Meetings) states, "The Fall meeting shall be considered the annual meeting for the Board of Directors and shall occur on the first Thursday in September." The recommendation is to delete the last part of that sentence, which will allow the board to set the Fall meeting at a convenient date. Proposed language would state, "The Fall meeting shall be considered the annual meeting for the Board of Directors."

Bob Rowland moved to accept the proposed revision, it was seconded by Becky Critchfield, and the motion carried. The current by-laws will be amended as approved, with today's date and signature by the chair.

III. Information – Discussion

A. 2008-09 Budget Update

Dr. Julian made preliminary remarks concerning the quarterly budget update, informing the board that the Governor has asked all higher education institutions to prepare for a further state budget cut. If a reduction of four percent is required, for example, it will mean a reduction of \$651,000 for BCTC. That would add up to budget reductions of approximately \$2 million for BCTC over the past year.

Lisa Bell reviewed the quarterly report and shared a bit of good news. Figures for the 2007-08 fiscal year now reflect all final calculations, and the net loss is not as great as predicted. Lisa reported that increased enrollment has helped bring in extra revenue, thus BCTC has been able to meet budget projections. Other factors which have made it possible to meet our budget projections include increased faculty workload, the new security charge, and the hard work of faculty and staff to cut division and department budgets to their leanest levels in many years.

We will probably not know the extent of the next state budget cut until January 2009, when the Governor is expected to make an announcement. For now, we have tuition revenue funds to absorb any required cuts and do not anticipate needing to make staffing reductions. We anticipate being able to continue current operations if enrollment increases hold and more cuts are not necessary. However, it is necessary for BCTC administration to continue to be very lean in budgeting while doing as little damage as possible to student services and programs.

Ron Walker asked about the status of the Regency Campus facility. Dr. Julian replied that we continue to operate the Classroom Building, but the lease to the annex facility has ended and staff have moved into offices at the Leestown Campus. We do not want to lose current Regency Campus students and have moved the majority of business classes to Regency. For now, Regency is a revenue source, and prospects there appear positive. Dr. Hellmich remarked that we are developing further plans to have Friday night and Saturday classes at the Regency Campus location in conjunction with offering more transfer possibilities to Eastern Kentucky University and other four-year institutions.

B. Strategic Needs Analysis

Dr. Julian explained that the Strategic Needs Analysis (SNA) document is prepared every other year and contains a listing of capital items for BCTC to be presented for possible inclusion in the KCTCS biennial budget request. Our items will be ranked to become a part of the larger KCTCS six-year capital budget list for capital items such as buildings, renovations, large equipment items, etc. Legislators review this list as they consider appropriations for future capital projects. The SNA will be prepared and submitted in February and will be reviewed by the board as part of the budget report at the next meeting.

C. Fall Enrollment Report

Dr. Rushin presented a brief update on fall enrollment, reporting that most campus enrollments had increased. The overall enrollment picture looks positive at this time, and Fall II enrollment is also up (1640 this year compared to 555 last year). Lawrenceburg Campus figures are down slightly, due to the Fire/Rescue program which had fewer seminars and short-term training this fall. A construction program has been added there which will open in January, and many displaced workers may be attracted to the new program.

Dr. Julian remarked that the Lawrenceburg Campus has not yet reached its potential, and efforts are underway by the faculty and Campus Director Rhonda Wheeler to develop partnerships and recruit students. Tri Roberts added that over time, growth at Lawrenceburg Campus should continue.

Annissa Franklin commended Dr. Rushin and her entire division for progress in enrollment growth, and for their excellent work. Dr. Rushin remarked that the BCTC

Blue+ program, a partnership with the university, shows promise for added future enrollment growth.

D. Vision & Values - Discussion

Karman Wheeler presented information on the college's work on developing new values and vision statements. She discussed how to identify core values for the college and why it is important to identify values. She gave examples of core values for several colleges. Karman also discussed the power of a vision for the institution, giving examples of vision statements. She explained why it is imperative to stay focused on where the college is headed, especially in tough financial times. Finally, Karman asked board members to pair up for discussion, so they could identify and discuss core values for BCTC in service to the surrounding communities.

Dr. Julian added that this exercise is part of a larger, positive process called Appreciative Inquiry, as we identify aspirations and successes for BCTC. Board members completed an exercise in which they discussed their values and vision related to BCTC.

IV. Announcements

Chair Huffman recognized Mike Binzer, Chair of the Faculty Council, and Janella Spencer, Faculty Representative to the Board, to present their concerns to the board regarding the proposal to the KCTCS Board of Regents to cease hiring of tenure-track faculty. She noted that Mr. Richard Bean was still present.

Janella Spencer referred to two policy review items listed on the upcoming Board of Regents agenda for December 5, 2008. The first proposed revision is KCTCS Board of Regents Policy 2.0 *KCTCS Employment Status*, and the second proposed revision is KCTCS Board of Regents Policy 3.7 *Retirement Plan Policies*. Ms. Spencer explained that BCTC faculty are very concerned about the climate and future of the college should these policy revisions be approved.

Mike Binzer further stated that BCTC has enjoyed a tenured culture over the years, and a result has been the development of a very rigorous tenure process. BCTC has set very high standards for faculty members, which enhances the culture, thus giving a feeling of security and a sense of belonging to faculty members. While such a policy revision would not affect current faculty members, it would certainly change the culture for future hires.

Mr. Binzer explained this would have a great impact upon BCTC faculty and how they would be seen by the broader community and the university, because BCTC faculty would be viewed differently. He stated that faculty realize this issue is being explored nationally, especially in community colleges.

Becky Critchfield noted that removing the tenure process would only affect new hires. She also voiced concern on the other issue, that KCTCS would have no responsibility for retiree health benefits. She stated she feels that both policy changes, if enacted, would have a huge impact on recruitment of new faculty.

Bob McNulty asked about the driving force behind these policy changes. He noted that, while there are financial aspects to the proposed changes, the national trends in both areas play a role as well. Dr. Julian reminded the group that such changes would not affect the promotion process. All faculty are now eligible for promotions in rank. Bob Rowland remarked that the promotion process is further enhanced by the fact that faculty are very cautious about granting tenure. He added that KCTCS needs to be careful not to give the impression that the status of our faculty is being diminished.

Mr. Bean stated that the Board of Regents does not have a position on these issues yet, but is in a fact-finding mode at this time. He remarked that the tenure issue and the retirement healthcare benefits were two totally separate issues. The health benefit issue for retirees is a billion dollar future expense to KCTCS. He praised faculty of KCTCS colleges, stating that they are generally outstanding and are viewed as excellent faculty. He noted that there many systems of community colleges that have never had tenure and have excellent, well respected colleges.

Mr. Bean reiterated that any changes to the tenure policy would not affect any who are currently on a tenure track. As a board, the Regents will be cautious and will gather all facts before making a final decision. He again thanked the BCTC board for allowing him to come and share his views. Chair Huffman closed the discussion by thanking Mr. Bean for his comments and his insight regarding the two policy items.

Dr. Julian recognized student board member Luke Taylor for his honor of being named to the subcommittee on cost of education in Kentucky which will have input to the Governor. She also noted the art exhibit currently hanging in the board room and the flyers on an arts event upcoming this weekend.

V. Adjournment

With no further business or announcements to be brought before the board, Luke Taylor moved to adjourn, and the board adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be Wednesday, March 4, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Williams

Office of the President