

ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING PROCEEDINGS

March 19, 2009

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees convened its regular March meeting on March 19, 2009, in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room.

Chairman Briggs called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Present: Joseph Gentry II, Dr. Judith Grenkowicz, Lisa Hilberg, Florence Stibitz, and Thomas Townsend.

Absent: Marc Ferguson

Chairman Briggs led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of February 19, 2009, Board Proceedings, and February 26, 2009, Special Board Proceedings

The February 19, 2009, board proceedings, and the February 26, 2009, special board proceedings were approved as presented.

Introduction of Guests and Public Comment

The following guests signed the register: Crystal Nelson, The Alpena News; Dick Sutherland, ACC; Mark Curtis, ACC; Todd Artley, ACC; Jay Walterreit, ACC; Sue Weathers, ACC; Mike Lamb, ACC student; April Polaski, ACC student; Josephine Bitler, ACC faculty; and Mark Hunter.

Communication(s)

Dr. Joynton acknowledged a thank you note from the family of former faculty member Henry Valli.

Board Member and Subcommittee Reports

Property Subcommittee Chairman Thomas Townsend told the Board the Subcommittee had recently met to discuss options for Van Lare Hall. It was agreed the Board would conduct a workshop prior to the April meeting to review those options.

Faculty Report

Sociology instructor Josephine Bitler presented the faculty report.

Student Report

Student Senate President Michael Lamb updated the Board on recent Student Senate activities.

President's Report

The president's report follows as it was presented.

1. MCCA Presidents Committee Meeting

On Friday, February 27, I represented ACC in Lansing at a meeting of the Presidents Committee of the Michigan Community College Association. By far the most pertinent topic was freezing tuition for the upcoming budget year. As I have already conveyed to ACC Trustees and key decision-makers within the college, I am giving very serious consideration to recommending a freeze to the Board, which sets tuition in accordance with its by-laws. Here's why:

- Every year for the past five years I have asked for, and the Trustees have enacted, tuition increases in the 5-6% range.
- These increases have kept us in the top four or five community colleges in the state for rate of tuition.
- It appears feasible to balance the ACC budget next year without a tuition increase, even though the college would have to forego some important improvements.
- The governor has demanded/requested that higher education freeze tuition. It may well end up being a requirement for us to receive some types of federal stimulus funds.
- It appears certain that \$20 million over three years will come from federal stimulus funds and go to keeping community college funding up to the FY08 level.
- The governor could use political support for her controversial budget recommendation of keeping community college funding level for next year, while recommending a 3% cut to universities because of their high tuition hikes during recent years. We may be smart to provide it for her.
- Lansing Community College froze tuition in FY09 and appears headed for the same in FY10. That has reaped big benefits for the college's reputation in the community and lent credibility to its stand for access to higher education.
- It's just the right thing to do during particularly tough economic times that are adversely affecting our students and their families. .

2. Other Updates from Lansing

Within the past week MCCA President Mike Hansen has sent the following commentary on the action in the Capitol:

- Tuition Freeze: There continue to be discussions between the administration and the four-year universities regarding a deal that would provide federal stimulus money for a freeze in

tuition. The latest proposal apparently being considered would allow universities to raise tuition 4% and then rebate the 4% increase to in district students. This would allow the “published” or base rate to increase while keeping the impact on students essentially at a freeze. According to the administration, they are negotiating with the universities first, since they are the real offenders, the stimulus money is significantly greater (\$500 million vs. about \$60 million for community colleges) and the assumption (maybe erroneous) that community colleges would likely take the deal anyway. At first, it was thought that if the deal were accepted, it would have to be applied to universities and CC’s equally, and it would have to be accepted by all or the deal would fall through. While it still looks like the deal would have to apply to both segments, I think we can convince them that each college should be able to decide if the deal looks right for them. Also, if a college didn’t accept the tuition restraint deal, then that college’s portion of the stimulus money would go back into the pot for others who did take the deal. Nothing has been agreed to yet, but that’s the latest.

- **Budget:** Regardless of the tuition freeze/stimulus money deal, one thing remains for sure, namely, that for this year, next year (2010) and 2011, community colleges will receive the same level of funding as currently appropriated. The federal stimulus language requires the money to be used to restore cuts, so if the legislature were to cut community colleges in the current year, next year or 2011, those cuts would be made up with Federal stimulus money, so your gross or total appropriation won’t (can’t) change. This should at the very least give you some predictability in terms of budgeting and planning for the next two years.

- **Property Tax Cap:** The Senate Finance committee this week reported SJR H which would prohibit taxable value to increase when assessed value (SEV) decreased. This is in response to home owner’s complaints that their property taxes continue to increase even when the assessed value of their homes is decreasing. Clearly, this proposed constitutional amendment would have significant implications for all entities (including schools, local units, and community colleges) that rely on property tax revenue. This amendment, if approved by voters, could result in rather significant property tax revenue losses at least in the short term (during declining home values). It is expected that SJR H will pass the Senate, and since a similar proposal passed the House last year, it looks likely that the issue will go to the voters for approval. The MCCA is on record of opposing this legislation. You may want to contact your legislators to voice your opposition.

- **MEA/MPERS Retirement “Sweetner”:** The Senate Education Committee will report out the MEA proposal to increase the MPERS multiplier from 1.5% to 1.75% next week. The MCCA is on record opposing this legislation due to the increased cost (through the increased contribution rate) that this proposal will create. Estimates indicate that it could result in an increase of 0.5% to 1.0% in your annual contribution rates.

- **Baccalaureate Degrees:** We are making progress at finding a bill sponsor in the House for this legislation. We continue to talk to key stakeholders (the chairs of the Education Committees in the House and Senate) to gain support for this legislation. I think we’re making slow but sure progress. I also think that the BSN is increasingly gaining traction in terms of what makes sense for community colleges. I think one thing we may want to consider is developing a three-year BSN (through creative scheduling, use of online, etc.), similar to what some other states are moving toward. This would make the community college BSN look like a very attractive alternative to the four-year programs.

- **Financial Aid:** The House Higher Education Subcommittee will be holding a hearing on the Governor’s proposal to consolidate many of the current State funded financial aid programs into

one College Access Scholarship. I am trying to gather information from your financial aid officers to determine the impact of this proposal on community college students. Based on this analysis, we will either be supporting, or opposing the proposed changes.

3. Wind Farm Tour

Trustee Lisa Hilberg and I accepted an invitation from Wolverine Power Cooperative to tour a wind farm on March 7 in Michigan's Thumb. She and I will provide an oral account of the tour and its relevance for ACC curriculum under development for the proposed Electrical Power Technology Education and Training Center.

Trustee Hilberg added her commentary of the wind mill farm visit.

4. Career Pathways Night

Director of Admissions Mike Kollien has submitted this report on yesterday evening's Career Pathways Night.

We had over 250 people in attendance. After an Opening General Session in the Arena where participants received the schedule for the night and had the opportunity to collect information from MI Works, Star Staffing, ACC, and Northwood University, they headed out to participate in three of over 30 career presentations. These presentations were put on by ACC staff and some selected community members.

An added feature to this year's event was the "Mock Classes" put on by Dr. Karol Walchak (English), Dr. Amber Vesotski (Psychology) and Tim Ratz (Math). The purpose of these classes was to expose potential students to a college classroom setting. Finally, special thanks go to Sandy Sengenberger and Bob Newton with Educational Talent Search. Both of them put in some extra effort to make this event happen and were a big part of its success.

2.452 Persual of Tuition Freeze (New Business)

Moved by Member Grenkowicz that Alpena Community College pursue a tuition freeze for the Fall Semester 2009.

Ayes: Briggs, Gentry, Grenkowicz, Hilberg, Stibitz and Townsend.

Nays: None

Motion carried. All ayes.

Regular Action Items

2.448 Second Reading: Revision of Appointment of Auditor's Policy

Moved by Member Grenkowicz that the Alpena Community College Board of Trustee approves on second reading the revision of Policy 1010 as presented below.

The Board of Trustees shall periodically review auditing services and solicit proposals from auditors to ascertain options for procurement of best services for Alpena Community College. Such review and solicitation shall comply with all applicable federal and state requirements. Upon concluding such review the Board of Trustees shall appoint an auditor for Alpena Community College for a suitable interval until the next review and solicitation of proposals.

Ayes: Briggs, Gentry, Grenkowicz, Hilberg, Stibitz, and Townsend.

Nays: None

Motion carried. All ayes.

2.449 Resolution: Community College Month

Moved by Member Stibitz that the Board of Trustees designates April as "Community College Month" and directs appropriate College officials to bring the unique contributions of Alpena Community College to the attention of public policymakers and the general public.

Ayes: Briggs, Gentry, Grenkowicz, Hilberg, Stibitz, and Townsend.

Nays: None

Motion carried. All ayes.

New Business items 2.450 and 2.451 were presented at this point in the agenda.

2.450 Computer Purchases (New Business)

Moved by Member Grenkowicz that the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees authorizes the appropriate College officials to purchase 24 computers from Dell Computer for a total cost not to exceed \$21,708.72.

Ayes: Briggs, Gentry, Grenkowicz, Hilberg, Stibitz and Townsend.

Nays: None

Motion carried. All ayes.

2.451 Memorandum of Agreement: United Way (New Business)

Moved by Member Grenkowicz that it shall be the policy of Alpena Community College to provide equal membership/employment/service opportunities to all eligible persons without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, citizenship, age, sex, marital status, handicap, membership in any labor organization, political affiliations, and, for employment only, height, weight, and record of arrest without conviction.

Ayes: Briggs, Gentry, Grenkowicz, Hilberg, Stibitz, and Townsend.

Nays: None

Motion carried. All ayes.

Information Items

3.625 Financial Report

President Joynton reviewed the president's report with the Board.

3.626 Personnel Report

The personnel report showed no additions/replacements, one resignation, no retirements, and one other.

3.627 Gifts and Grants Report

The gifts and grants report showed the attached activity.

New Business

New business items 2.450 and 2.451 were addressed during the action items portion of the agenda.

Suggested Future Agenda Items

None

Next Regular Meeting

The chairman asked the secretary to poll the Board for availability to meet on April 23, 2009, as opposed to April 16, 2009, due to a schedule conflict. The Board tentatively changed the regular April meeting date from April 16, 2009, to April 23, 2009, contingent upon the secretary's confirmation of trustee availability.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth L. Spragg
Secretary of the Board of Trustees