

Alpena Community College Board of Trustees
Workshop

October 19, 2006

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees met for a Workshop to host Michigan Community College Association (MCCA) President Mike Hanson, on Thursday, October 19, 2006, beginning at 6:00 p.m., in the Roger C. Bauer Board Room, Room 400 of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center, 666 Johnson Street, Alpena, Michigan.

Present: John Briggs, Marc Ferguson, Joseph Gentry II, Dr. Judith Grenkowicz, Florence Stibitz, Thomas Townsend, and Paul Wegmeyer

Guests: Those guests signing the register were: Mike Hanson, Bruce Johnson, Jay Walterreit, and Amber McLarney Vesotski

President Joynton introduced the Trustees to new MCCA President Mike Hanson, and he asked Mr. Hanson to update the Trustees regarding community college issues at the state level. Mr. Hanson told the Board about the issues surrounding the four-year versus the two-year registered nursing degrees and indicated the shortage of nurses will only increase if the two-year degree no longer qualifies for registered nursing certification. He told the Board the MCCA position advocates maintaining the two-year degree granted through community colleges. He told the Board of statistics suggesting that 1) two-year degreed nurses do better on the state certification boards than do four-year degreed nurses, and 2) if the state mandates four-year nursing degrees or continuing education for two-year degrees, the nursing shortage will become greater. Mr. Hanson told the Board of the K-16 initiative and indicated MCCA is essentially neutral on the issue. The premise being if you give us dollars we will put people back to work. Mr. Hanson indicated it is bad public policy, and if it passes, the Legislature will likely not look favorably on future community college capital outlay projects. Mr. Hanson told the Board that capital outlay is rotated between the two branches of the Legislature every two years, and since state revenues are down between 12-13% for the year, capital outlay project funding may be less for next year. President Joynton told the Board that Member Stibitz and he had voted not to support the legislation when the issue was put before the directors at a recent MCCA meeting.

Member Townsend told the Board that Pathways' funding seemed to be backwards, and that the College should first have secured state funding. President Joynton told the Board it would be best for future projects to pursue funding from the state before embarking on public campaigns for private match dollars.

Member Ferguson asked what MCCA is doing directly with community colleges to mentor, and how is MCCA impacting ACC directly? Mr. Hanson told Member Ferguson of strategic plan work done by participants at the last MCCA directors' meeting held in September. He told the Board that four elements dominated the discussion: effective

advocacy; improvement of the image and credibility of community colleges; training for both trustees and presidents; and promotion of collaboration, connections, and partnerships. Next steps in the strategic planning process will be the formation of a committee of six presidents and six trustees to work through the remainder of the calendar year to produce a more refined and polished mission, value, and philosophy statement with an action plan on how to achieve the organization's goals. A formal approval of the new plan would come at the Winter In-service Board of Directors meeting in early February. Mr. Hanson told the Board of examples of MCCA direct services to ACC, citing the virtual learning collaborative, which could not have happened without MCCA's involvement. Questions regarding lobbying versus professional development were asked, and Mr. Hanson indicated MCCA provides approximately 50% lobbying and 50% professional development services to their member institutions.

Member Grenkowitz asked for an explanation of why ACC needs a lobbyist if MCCA provides that service. Mr. Hanson indicated MCCA lobbies for community colleges as a group and does not lobby for individual community colleges. He told the Board the Kheder Davis lobbying firm represents us specifically on legislative issues. It was agreed community colleges could use individual lobbyists more effectively by working with MCCA more closely on issues affecting community colleges.

Mr. Hanson told the Board of his personal goal to identify those things that MCCA can do well and develop a road map to reach that objective. Chairman Briggs thanked Mr. Hanson for his presentation and indicated that it was the first time a MCCA President had come to Alpena to meet with the Board.

Chairman Briggs asked Member Stibitz, ACC's designated representative to MCCA, to forward communications from MCCA to all Board members. Member Grenkowitz told Mr. Hanson she would communicate directly with him as opposed to getting information through a third party.

President Joynton told the Board of the valuable work Mr. Hanson had done with MCCA in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth L. Spragg
Secretary of the Board of Trustees