

Board Digest

George A. Bee Administration Center
2480 Opdyke Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-2266 (248) 341-2020 Fax (248) 341-2126

**Regular Meeting
November 18, 2002**

Chancellor's Comments

Chancellor Thompson made the following observations and comments:

- As an outcome of the board's November planning session covering cuts in state funding, an e-mail has been distributed to the college staff requesting suggestions for cost reductions in their areas; a compilation of responses will be presented to the board in December, along with scenarios for budget reductions.
- Two friends of the college will occupy positions of influence in the new state legislature; Senator Shirley Johnson has been made chair of the senate appropriations committee, and Representative Tony Stamas is a likely pick as chair of the community college appropriations subcommittee.
- Two significant events took place at CREST recently. On November 13 the Oakland County Sheriff's Department conducted a major training exercise. The following day CREST's "Pathway of Honor" was dedicated.
- Several staff reports will be presented this evening: Jim Curran of Karoub Associates will provide a legislative update; Dr. David Adams will report on cablecasting of board meetings and related issues; Dr. Ernest Harrison will review the chancellor search; and Vice Chancellor George Keith will introduce faculty members Suba Subbarao and Alicia Paramo-Dionne who will report on on-line instruction.
- Six new employees are to be introduced to the board.

The college's new chief human resources officer, Catherine Rush, was introduced by Chancellor Thompson. President Sharon Blackman introduced new employees Janice Brown-Williams and Karen Riley. President Gordon May introduced Kelli Van Buren, and President Martha Smydra introduced Sue Work and Lloyd Crews. Jim Curran of Karoub Associates provided an update of the Lansing political scene.

- In the wake of the recent election eight of Oakland County's 13 house members remain and three of the four new senators have moved up from the house.
- Another half-billion state budget shortfall can be expected due to decreased revenues; an executive order cutting 2 ½ percent (plus a ten percent cut in revenue sharing funds) is anticipated.

- Passage of legislation limiting elections to certain days in February, May, August and November is still possible.
- When congress passes the Homeland Security Bill, \$100 million in funding will be available for distribution through the Michigan State Police. Seventy-five percent of this amount will go to local governments, and 25 percent for training, some of which is likely to come to CREST.

Executive Director of Marketing David Adams provided an overview of public access television training and equipment use opportunities, as well as the results of a state-wide survey of community colleges as to whether they cablecast board of trustees meetings; none do. Dr. Adams also presented television clips illustrating the extensive media coverage of the recent CREST training exercise, and the Lansing Community College television program based on CareerFocus magazine.

Reporting on the chancellor search process, Dr. Ernest Harrison noted that Consultant David Ponitz has developed a profile draft which has been forwarded to all advisory committee members and trustees for comments. The profile must be adopted by the board before publication; once this is accomplished a brochure advertising the position will be produced and disseminated.

Negotiator Rod Chase reported that the next Teamster bargaining session is scheduled for tomorrow. Intensive negotiations will follow to bring the quickest possible resolution.

College Resources

The faculty appointment of Kimberly Ball, PE instructor (AH) was approved as were the management staff appointments of Patrick Baldwin, public safety sergeant (AH); Brian Larmor, telecommunications specialist (DO); and Dorothy Marotta, accounting supervisor (DO).

The classified appointments of Kamal Subnani, CIS paraprofessional (AH – part-time); Charissa Kaufman, student services specialist (AH) and Marina McKenzie, accounting specialist (DO) were also approved.

The annual board resolution requesting cities and townships within the district to collect 2003-2004 summer taxes on the college's behalf was approved.

The board authorized the naming of four sites at the CREST facility in recognition of certain corporations' contributions to the project: the CREST bank will be called "Standard Federal", and roadways are named in honor of TAKATA, the Auch Company and Consumers Energy Foundation.

The monthly progress report on millage-funded construction projects was presented. The following contracts and agreements were approved by the board via consent agenda procedure: an affiliation agreement providing on-site learning experience for nursing students with GENESYS Regional Medical Center; the purchase of replacement reference and circulation desks for the Auburn Hills Campus Library from Library Design Associates for \$25,000.

The following workforce development contracts with third party providers were also approved via consent agenda: Freer Computer Consultants, to provide training and materials to DaimlerChrysler employees in the amount of \$45,000; Quantum Controls, Inc., to provide training and materials to DaimlerChrysler employees in the amount of \$42,000; New Horizons Computer Learning Center, to provide training and materials to Akebono Corporation employees in the amount of \$40,000; Morell, Inc., to provide hydraulic and electrical drive training to DaimlerChrysler employees in the amount of \$35,000.

Academic and Student Affairs

Vice Chancellor George Keith introduced English faculty member Suba Subbarao and Counselor Alicia Paramo-Dionne who provided an overview of on-line instruction and support services at OCC. Ms. Subbarao reviewed strategies developed on her own, and through a Department of Education grant to enhance student retention in on-line courses. Ms. Paramo-Dionne reported on activities by support service professionals such as librarians and counselors to assist on-line learners.

Reports

Secretary Anne Scott noted a report received through the Michigan Community College Association indicates that student and staff involvement makes OCC the largest participant in the Michigan Virtual University.

For further information on this session, contact College Communications (248) 341-2122.