

Board Digest

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Regular Meeting December 15, 2008

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Meyer distributed copies of the expanded Clery Report, which annually provides statistics on crimes at the campuses. He noted that the document is available on the college website. Dr. Meyer observed that the report gives the college a "clean bill of health" and thanked Public Safety Director Terry McCauley and his staff for their good work.

Chancellor Meyer noted that the Michigan New Jobs Training Program proposed by Governor Granholm enables employers to partner with community colleges to retrain workers by underwriting their education through college-issued bonds, which are then paid back through tax revenues.

Dr. Meyer stated that he was privileged to attend the governor's news conference on the Keep Michigan Working Coalition, at which OCC Workforce Development Dean Sharon Miller was a presenter in her capacity as chair of the Talent Retention Team. Dean Miller also chairs the Michigan Community College Association Implementation Team for the New Jobs Training Program.

Dr. Meyer also noted that the OCC Forensics Team, under the tutelage of Orchard Ridge English/speech faculty member Carole Bennett, won 10 awards at the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament at Delta College on December 12, and placed second overall out of 12 competing Michigan schools. Team members Ernesto Chavez and Amb Beaver took firsts in the Programmed Oral Interpretation and Poetry categories, respectively.

Royal Oak/Southfield President Steve Reif introduced new employee Jean Murphy, a student services specialist.

Academic Student Affairs

College Academic Senate Chair Mary Ann McGee noted that the Duo Interpretation prize won by students Adam Ston and Amb Beaver at the Michigan Intercollegiate Speech League Tournament involved the reading of a play by Orchard Ridge faculty member David James. Ms. McGee went on to state that the senate has conducted extended discussions on the issue of economic challenges, and is developing quick response strategies in cooperation with the administration.

Trustee Ritter noted that Governor Granholm had spoken highly of Michigan's Community Colleges in her appearance on "Meet the Press" last Sunday.

Interim Vice Chancellor Cathey Maze noted that the college is in the process of identifying courses that can be offered to the unemployed, and is recommending the hiring of 11 faculty members for late-starting classes. The proposed additional faculty includes four in biology, three in math, three in English, and one in construction management. The recommendation will be presented to the board in January.

College Resources

The faculty appointment of humanities instructor Erin Scott (AH) was approved, as were the temporary faculty appointments of humanities instructor John Corbin (AH); EWD instructor Ed Houchen (AH-M-TEC); and fine and performing arts instructor Peter Schade (OR).

The interim administrative (exempt) appointment of Vice Chancellor Cathey Maze (DO) was extended by six months. The administrative (non-exempt) appointment of Cynthia Roman, director of nursing (HL) was approved, as was the management staff (exempt) appointment of PDTC training assistant Antuan Bell (DO at PC) and the interim appointment of manager of academic services Robert Spann (OR).

Consent Agenda – Maintenance Projects

The following maintenance projects were approved via consent agenda procedure: low voltage lighting control/lighting replacements, campus-wide, at the Royal Oak Campus, \$1,111,600; northeast parking lot asphalt paving/site lighting replacements, Southfield Campus, \$1,425,000. The monthly report on the progress of millage-funded renovation projects was presented.

Consent Agenda – Contracts and Purchases

The following contracts and purchases were approved via consent agenda procedure: an agreement with Deaf & Hearing Impaired Services for interpreting services at a rate of \$36 per hour through December 31, 2009; lighting supplies from Gexpro for \$42,000; technology enhanced classroom systems from National Satellite for \$13,978 per standard system; a three-year Microsoft Campus License agreement from the low bidder, Dell, for \$256,115; film training from the low bidder, S3 Entertainment Group LLC at a rate of \$1,250 per student; scenario-based training for the Oakland Police Academy for \$33,000 through December, 2009.

Unfinished Business

The selection of a Higher Learning Commission Action Plan consultant was deferred until the January meeting.

The date for the board's organizational meeting was set for 6 p.m., Monday, January 5, 2009.

New Business

The Board of Trustees Chancellor Evaluation Instrument was not approved.

A motion to extend the appointment of the interim executive director of student services until a new vice chancellor of academic affairs is selected did not pass.

Comments

Trustee Scott extended best wishes for the New Year, which, she noted, will present challenges for community colleges in their retraining efforts.

Trustee Ritter thanked Trustees Cunningham and Abraham for their time, efforts and energy and wished them well for the future.

Trustee Davis wished all a Merry Christmas and safe holidays. Regarding her comments on classified negotiations at the last meeting, Ms. Davis noted that she had once been employed by a union, meant no disrespect and wished them nothing but the best.

Chairperson Zimmerman wished a Merry Christmas to all and expressed her appreciation for the college community's patience.

Plaques of appreciation were presented to Trustees Cunningham and Abraham.

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