

New River Community College Board  
(Region 10)  
Meeting Number Three Hundred Fifty-Nine

*MINUTES*

June 5, 2023

Meeting number three hundred fifty-nine of the New River Community College Board was held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at the NRCC, Christiansburg.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mr. Christopher (Chris) Calfee (Radford City)  
Mr. Craig Chancellor (Floyd County)  
Mr. Richard Chidester (Giles County)  
Mr. William (Bill) Cunningham (Pulaski County)  
Dr. Margaret (Peggy) Dewald-Link (Floyd County)  
Mr. Eric Johnsen (Montgomery County)  
Ms. Bobbie Potter (Montgomery County)

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT**

Ms. Jessica Littlejohn (Montgomery County)  
Mr. Chris McKlarney (Giles County)  
Ms. Tosha Mosier (Radford City)  
Mr. Cameron Peel (Pulaski County)  
Mr. Jonathan Sweet (Pulaski County)

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ms. Stephanie Addikis, Adult Career Coach and Community Outreach Specialist  
Ms. Melissa Anderson, Director of Human Resources and Business Operations  
Dr. Peter Anderson, Vice President for Instruction and Student Services  
Ms. Angie F. Covey, Executive Director NRCC Educational Foundation  
Dr. Patricia B. Huber, President  
Dr. Deborah Kennedy, Dean of Student Services  
Mrs. Kathy T. Ridpath, Administrative Assistant, President's Office  
Dr. Mark C. Rowh, Vice President for Workforce Development and External Relations  
Dr. Fritz M. Streff, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research  
Dr. Sarah Tolbert-Hurysz, Dean of Arts and Sciences

**GUESTS**

Mr. Ed Dalrymple, VCCS State Board Liaison  
Mr. Andrew Leser, member of the public

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed and published.

## 2. **Welcome and Introductions**

Mr. Cunningham welcomed Mr. Ed Dalrymple, State Board Liaison; and Mr. Andrew Leser, member of the public.

## 3. **Agenda for Approval**

Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

**Motion:** Mr. Craig Chancellor made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Eric Johnsen seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion was unanimously approved.

## 4. **Minutes for Approval**

The minutes of meeting number three hundred fifty-eight, held on Monday, March 6, 2023, were disseminated in the meeting packet. No questions were posed. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Motion:** Mr. Richard Chidester made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Chancellor seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion was unanimously approved.

## 5. **President's Report**

Dr. Huber welcomed everyone in attendance.

Dr. Huber reported that another academic year was successfully completed and expressed gratitude to faculty and staff. She also provided a report on commencement ceremonies held in May. She expressed appreciation to the board members who were able to attend and to the faculty and staff for their diligent work. Highlights included:

- Students and families were appreciative of the ceremonies.
  - Three large ceremonies (full capacity at each ceremony)
- Update on the process of certifying graduates
  - Approximate numbers for the 2022-2023 academic year (fall, spring, summer)
    - 900 awards (degrees, diplomas, certificates, and career studies certificates)
    - 500 graduates
    - 319 participated in the ceremonies
    - Diplomas will be mailed to graduates after certifying process

Dr. Huber reported that Dr. David Doré, VCCS Chancellor, visited all 23 community colleges in his first 36 days in office. She expressed appreciation to those who joined his listening session on campus on April 5. She informed the board that the Chancellor recently brought the 23 presidents together with his direct reports from the system office for discussion and planning.

Dr. Huber provided a brief update on the budget and tuition. At this point, no action has been taken on the budget by the General Assembly (budget is on hold until after the June 20 primaries). The tuition will be set by the State Board during their July meeting (the state board is waiting on approval of the state budget by the General Assembly). She reported that during their May meeting, the State Board advertised a potential rate increase of between 0 and 4.7 percent. Currently tuition rates are \$154/credit hour, which is approximately \$2,400 for 15 credits. More information will be forthcoming on tuition.

Dr. Huber provided an update on college personnel. Highlights included:

- The vice president for finance and technology and the facilities manager are both on medical leave.
- Other changes/hires include:
  - Ms. Gwen Houston named as the Student Success Coordinator
  - Mr. Jack Watkins hired to replace Ms. Houston as career services advisor
  - Ms. Helen Wolfe hired as the dean of health professions (effective July 1)
  - College is advertising for a G3/FastForward career coach (grant-funded three-year position)

Dr. Huber provided an update on the solar project. Highlights included:

- Pre-bid meeting was held on May 17
- Bids will close on June 6
- Bids will be opened (in Richmond) on June 7
- There is a 30-day “waiting” period to follow

Dr. Huber provided an update on the Southwest Virginia Governor’s School that is relocating to the NRCC Dublin campus. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed, and official move has occurred.

Dr. Huber informed the board that three of the five school systems in the college’s service region have new superintendents. They include:

- Floyd County – retirement of Dr. John Wheeler
  - Dr. Jessica Cromer has been named new superintendent.
- Montgomery County
  - Dr. Bernard Bragen
- Pulaski County – Dr. Kevin Siers has accepted a position as superintendent for Franklin County schools. No new superintendent has been appointed at the time of this meeting.

Dr. Huber introduced Ms. Stephanie Addikis, NRCC Adult Career Coach and Community Outreach Specialist, who provided information on the College Attainment for Parenting Students (CAPS) program. This pilot program is a three-year grant the VCCS received from a non-profit entity to fund a pilot program at five VCCS colleges. NRCC was one of the colleges selected for this pilot program. The purpose of the program is to expand Virginia’s talent pipeline and ensure parent students have access to education, as well as provide critical resources to help them succeed. After the presentation, questions were posed and discussed.

## 6. **Instruction and Student Services**

### Industrial Advisory Committees

Proposed membership lists for all industrial advisory committees for the Career Technical Education programs (exhibit B) were distributed in the meeting packet. The committees consist of educational and industrial members. Dr. Anderson stated that these committees are vital to the work of the college. The committees formally meet with faculty in September of each year to discuss the direction of the programs and informally during the year. No questions were posed. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion and second to approve the Industrial Advisory Committees.

**Motion:** Ms. Bobbie Potter made a motion to approve the advisory committees. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion was unanimously approved.

## 7. **Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research**

Dr. Fritz Streff provided a report on enrollment for the spring and summer semesters. There was a 1.55 percent increase in FTEs for the spring semester. The college was ahead of the VCCS, which showed an increase of .25 percent. The college shows an increase of 8.79 percent in FTEs over last year for the summer semester. He stated that it is too early to report on enrollment for the fall semester, but noted that the new student intake looks good at this point. Questions were posed and discussed.

## 8. **Workforce Development and External Relations**

Dr. Rowh provided an update on the new FastForward, short-term courses Workforce Development offers.

- Heavy Equipment Operator class
  - Partnered with another college
  - First class will finish later this month
- Production Technician
- Plumbing program (beginning in the fall semester)
- Solar Technician course in the works
- Drone training provided at the request of the Town of Christiansburg

Questions were posed and discussed.

Dr. Rowh provided an update on the process of the SACSCOC fifth-year interim report that is due in September. Questions were posed and discussed.

## 9. **NRCC Educational Foundation**

Ms. Angie Covey informed the board that the VCCS Philanthropist of the Year for NRCC was awarded to the New River Valley Health Foundation at an event in Richmond in April. The Health Foundation has provided more than \$1 million in funding for both scholarships and equipment for the nursing program. On a related note, Ms. Covey reported that an event was recently held to recognize the NRV Health Foundation nursing scholarship recipients in which members of the Health Foundation attended. She reported

that this foundation also provided funding for all nursing pins for this year's nursing graduates.

Ms. Covey reported on scholarships received since the last meeting. They include:

- Kevin and Linda Browne endowed a scholarship in honor of their parents.
- John and Mary Jean Brown endowed their eighth scholarship.

Ms. Covey reported that there were 301 graduating students who received either ACCE or Educational Foundation scholarships this year.

#### **10. Schedule of Meetings for 2023-2024**

The schedule of meetings for 2023-2024 was presented in the Board packets that were previously disseminated. Mr. Cunningham asked for a motion and second to approve the schedule.

**Motion:** Mr. Johnsen made a motion to approve the schedule. Mr. Chidester seconded the motion.

**Action:** The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **11. Report of the Nominations Committee**

On the recommendation of the Nominations Committee, Dr. Dewald-Link nominated Mr. Cunningham as Chair and Mr. Chris Calfee as Vice-Chair for the upcoming year.

**Action:** The recommendation was approved unanimously.

#### **12. Report of the Personnel Committee – Evaluation of the President**

Mr. Cunningham informed the Board that he, along with Mr. Chris Calfee and Mr. Chidester, served on the Personnel Committee for the evaluation of the president. He referred to a copy of the letter that was written and sent to the Chancellor along with supporting information (exhibit B). No questions were posed on the evaluation process.

#### **14. Open Discussion/Q&A Session**

Mr. Chidester provided a report on the Giles County appreciation banquet for the ACCE program that was held on April 26. Ms. Lauren Sisler, ESPN sports reporter and native of Giles County, was the guest speaker. He reported that even though Giles County has stopped hosting the Muddy ACCE Race, donations for the ACCE program have not declined. On a related note, he reported that the county is focusing more on the community service components for the ACCE students. The students are participating in more community service projects.

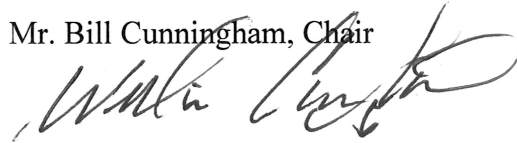
Mr. Ed Dalrymple stated the Chancellor was impressed with the college on his recent visit and also with the recent president's retreat. He also provided information on the VCCS "ask" of the General Assembly for additional counselors/advisors, the Virginia Infrastructure Academy, and the upcoming Chancellor's Retreat scheduled for August 7.

Mr. Calfee expressed appreciation to Dr. Huber and faculty and staff for their diligent work and for their “heart” for the community.

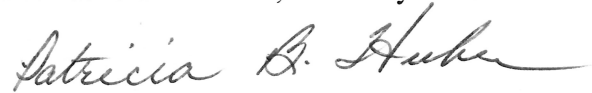
The next regular meeting of the New River Community College Board is scheduled for Monday, September 11, 2023, at the Christiansburg site.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Bill Cunningham, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Cunningham", written in a cursive style.

Dr. Patricia B. Huber, Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia B. Huber", written in a cursive style.

Attachments