

North Shore Community College
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, October 17, 2018, 8:15 am - 10:00 am
Lynn Campus Board Room

In Attendance

Anhdao Tran-Moseman; Dharma Cortes; Dr. J.D. LaRock; Jon Gjorga; Kevin Harron; Maria Vega-Viera; William DeRosa

Not In Attendance

Alex Stone; Dale Pyatt; Joseph Riley; Nicole Bluefort

Additional Attendees

President Patricia Gentile, Dr. Jermaine Williams, Dr. Karen Hynick, Vice President Madeline Wallis, Vice President Janice Forsstrom, Linda Brantley, Trish Callahan, David Houle, Rick Reney, Jamieson Wicks, Chief Doug Puska, Deputy David Cook, Matt Noyes, Ken Tashyk, Miranda Gualtieri

1. Call to Order

Chair LaRock opened the meeting and asked guests to introduce themselves. Matt Noyes is Director of Trustee and Government Relations for the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education. Ken Tashyk is the attorney for Massachusetts Community Colleges.

2. Public Comments

None.

3. Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Jon Gjorga reported that there are giant posters by the cafeterias to inform students about parking and transportation options. Anhdao Tran-Moseman thanked Jon for taking the initiative to get the signs up and continue working on the transportation concerns. There was discussion about adding a third Uber location and Jon will poll students as to where to add a potential third location. Maria Vega asked if the college looks at usage. Dr. Jermaine Williams answered that the Uber location at the North Shore Mall is the most used.

a. Student Showcase: Horticulture

• Timothy Reynolds

Tim Reynolds is a 4th semester horticulture student. He is working full time as a groundskeeper in a private residence. Tim enjoys the hands on aspect of the horticulture program at NSCC. He became interested in the program through his work landscaping and gardening. He is looking forward to the Greenhouse opening on the Lynn Campus, which will expand the types of classes being offered as well as expand career possibilities.

Chair LaRock asked Tim about his general experience at the college. Tim is having a good experience. Most of his classes are in Lynn and he is able to get in and out quickly. He feels supported and has had opportunities to use tutors when needed. Anhdao Tran-Moseman asked what challenges there are. Tim is challenged by work/school balance. It will take him longer than 2 years to earn his degree because he is working.

President Gentile added that the horticulture program is growing despite the decline in overall enrollment. The ribbon cutting is Friday and the greenhouse will be ready for utilization in the Spring. The indoor lab and classroom will be connected to the outdoor greenhouse.

4. Finance & Audit Committee, Doc: 18, 19

Steve Cohen reviewed the Audit, which was focused on OPEB. OPEB books the liability created by health insurance for community college retirees. Chair LaRock commented that the liabilities belong to the Commonwealth, not the College.

Steve Cohen reviewed the balance sheet and reported that North Shore Community College is very healthy and stable. Vice President Forsstrom added that the results are very similar for all of the community colleges.

Chair LaRock commented that it was another clean audit and asked what the trends and challenges are. Vice President Forsstrom answered the challenges include long term stability, revenue markets, demographics and programs, and added that there are many constraints with the way the state provides only annual appropriations.

Kevin Harron underscored Vice President Forsstrom's concern about revenue and stressed that more students need to be coming in or the problem will become more acute. Chair LaRock expressed agreement and a discussion about enhancing current revenue streams ensued.

There was also discussion about getting more public support and advocating for the importance of community colleges. Chair LaRock commented that if community colleges can do more on a workforce level, that may open state scholarships for those programs.

- a. Motion 19:03 to approve Financials subject to no material changes to OPEB

Move: Kevin Harron Second: William DeRosa Status: Passed

5. Chair's Report

Chair LaRock commented that there is 7.2M in new aid in the FY2019 budget. There have been a lot of questions as to the disbursement of the aid and questions about policy design.

Chair LaRock brought this issue up at the most recent Board of Higher Education Financial Affairs Committee meeting. Leadership understands the challenges of the program design.

Chair LaRock indicated the outlook is not good for immediate changes, but that there may be recognition for institutions like NSCC, who provide extra supports.

Kevin Harron asked who to appeal to. Chair LaRock said the Department of Higher Education. Kevin Harron also asked what happens if the money does not get used. Chair LaRock said the money is unlikely to rollover. The College administration is working closely with DHE personnel to answer some remaining questions regarding implementation and hopes to have all in order so that spring financial aid packages can include the new financial aid.

- a. Minutes of 9/26 approval Doc: 13

- Motion 19:04 to approve minutes 9/26

Move: William DeRosa Second: Dharma Cortes Status: Passed

6. President's Report

a. Deferred Maintenance Spending, Doc: 14

In response to a request at the September BOT meeting, President Gentile provided information on the deferred maintenance funding allocation given to the college. A spreadsheet showing the timing and distribution over five years was provided to the Trustees.

Kevin Harron commented that some of the expenses seem to be capital expenses. President Gentile replied indeed deferred maintenance dollars support capital expenses. Rick Reney, AVP of Facilities, provided an explanation of how the State defines deferred maintenance as opposed to replacement and renewal.

b. NECHE, Doc: 15

Dr. Michael Badalato gave an overview of the NECHE 2019 Narrative Draft. Dr. LaRock commented that the document is very well written and reflects the Board's discourse from the 9/26 meeting. President Gentile stressed to the Board that the most important chapters for the trustees to read are chapters 1, 2 and 3. Dr. Badalato said the draft will be launched to the campus community and comments from trustees are appreciated as soon as possible.

Dr. Karen Hynick added that the next major update will be in January due to the upcoming appraisal and projection sections.

Chair LaRock suggested that the strength of the college's strategic plan be reflected in the document.

c. Discussion on Enrollment, Doc: 16

President Gentile gave an overview of current enrollment details, as requested by Trustees at the 9/26 Trustee meeting. She reviewed the data for the Trustees. Kevin Harron asked about ending programs with 10 or less students. President Gentile answered that some of those programs are certificate programs that will contribute to a degree, a credential to use in the workforce, while earning a degree. There is a routine program review process (every 5 years) that looks at enrollment, completion data as part of the decision making regarding changing, continuing, ending specific programs.

d. Lynn Campus Ribbon Cutting; Champions Breakfast Outcomes

President Gentile reminded the Trustees that the Ribbon Cutting for the Lynn Greenhouse and Bookstore is Friday, October 19th. She also reported that the Champions Breakfast exceeded the goal.

e. Discussion of Wearing a Religious Symbol, The Kirpan.

Chair LaRock welcomed Frank Mahoney, NSCC student, Ken Tashyk, MA Community College attorney, and Campus Police Chief Doug Puska and Deputy David Cook. President Gentile read the mission of the college and said the request to carry the Kirpan would go to the Policy and Planning Committee to make a recommendation.

Chair LaRock invited Frank Mahoney to present on why he was asking to carry a Kirpan onto NSCC campuses. Mr. Mahoney presented his explanation as to his baptized Sikh status and explained his views on why he wanted to carry the Kirpan on campus. He thanked the Board for being welcomed to give his input.

Chair LaRock asked the student to tell the Trustees about himself. Mr. Mahoney is originally from Revere and has been a student at NSCC for 10 years. He is most recently a student in the Drug and Alcohol Rehab program, as he would like to do more community service as a trained counselor.

Ken Tashyk, Esq. provided legal background for the Board and examples of how other public education institutions have handled such requests

Trustee Gjorga asked if he has brought the Kirpan other places. The student answered yes.

There was discussion about where and how the Kirpans are made and worn, Chief Puska and Deputy Cook reported that their overall concern is for the safety of both the student and others.

The student expressed that he was willing to make accommodations to size, blade sharpness but stated that he preferred to wear the Kirpan in a visible manner.

Chair LaRock noted that there are multiple important ways of addressing the issue of religious freedom and expression while balancing safety for all. The Board's Policy and Planning Committee will further discuss the request and come back to the Board with a recommendation at a later meeting.

7. Human Resources Development - Vice President Madeline Wallis

Doc: 17

Vice President Wallis reported there were no significant issues.

8. Other Business

- a. Dec. 11 - 6pm Evening Social at Ferncroft Club with Foundation Board
(RSVP's encouraged)

President Gentile encouraged trustees to attend the Dec. 11 combined Social Event with the Foundation Board.

9. Adjournment

Move: William DeRosa Second: Jon Gjorga Status: Passed