

LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

July 6, 2023

Volume 59

The scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lehigh Carbon Community College was held in a conventional manner with virtual access via a telecommunications device on Thursday, July 6, 2023. Public in-person access was available in the Nevin Earl Remaley Technology Center, Room TC203, on the Schnecksville Campus, PA. Mr. David Krause, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Ms. Sharon L. Albert

Mr. Daniel C. Bosket

Mr. Samuel P. DeFrank

Mr. William P. Fonzone, Sr.

Mr. Mathias J. Green, Jr.

Mr. David J. Hein

Dr. Barbara C. Kistler

Mr. Matthew T. Korp

Mr. David L. Krause

Ms. Audrey L. Larvey

Mr. Paul R. McArdle, Jr.

Mr. William Miracle

Mr. Kenneth H. Mohr, Jr.

Mrs. Ann L. Thompson

Staff Present:

Dr. Ann D. Bieber, President

Ms. Ann C. Conte, Office Assistant to the President's Office and Board of Trustees

Dr. Cindy Haney, Vice President for Enrollment Management

Mr. Joshua Mitchell, Chief Information Officer

Ms. Stefanie Nester, Vice President for Finance and Administrative Services

Dr. Melanie Turrano, Professor of English

Ms. Larissa Verta, Vice President for Academic Services and Student Support

Counsel Present:

Attorney Jerome B. Frank

Press Present:

None.

Others Present:

None.

Members of Public Present:

None.

Public Comment –
Agenda Items

None.

Minutes of
June 1, 2023

On a motion by Trustee Mohr, seconded by Trustee DeFrank, the minutes of the June 1, 2023 LCCC Board of Trustees meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Trustee William Miracle, Treasurer, provided the Treasurer's Report as listed below:

Cash Balance 5/01/23	\$40,916,280.00
Receipts	<u>+3,213,274.00</u>
Total	\$44,129,554.00
Disbursed	<u>-6,605,455.00</u>
Cash Balance 5/31/23	<u>\$37,524,099.00</u>

President's Report

Dr. Bieber provided an update on the status of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges (PACCC). President and CEO, Elizabeth Bolden, will be leaving the Commission on Friday, July 7, after having served in this capacity for ten years. The community college presidents discussed and agreed to fill the position on a one-year interim basis, keeping an eye to changes within Higher Ed. Candidates will be chosen from the registry for retired individuals who have signed up for interim positions, which includes some retired college presidents. The resumes should be coming in next week and the goal is to fill the position by August. In the meantime, Dr. Bieber along with Dr. Tuesday Stanley, President, Westmoreland County Community College, will co-administer the Commission and their staff. Elizabeth Bolden will be in close proximity to provide guidance if needed.

Dr. Bieber announced her acceptance of an invite to serve on a PA Higher Education Work Group, with the redesign being led by the Secretary of Education Movement. The group will convene in August and a final report will be available by December. Dr. Bieber stated that although she would love to provide updates, there are two ground rules. The first being that you cannot talk about or promote your sector, and secondly that you cannot discuss anything that occurs in the meetings.

Dr. Bieber also announced the exciting news of the college receiving the takeoff initiative, Men of Color Grant, in collaboration with the University of Southern California. Out of the 152 applications received from colleges and universities, LCCC was one of only 15 awarded the grant. The team is very

excited; the grant will provide the opportunity to explore some exciting initiatives.

Dr. Haney reviewed the enrollment update for Summer 2. With one week remaining, headcount is down 13.8% and credit hours down 10.2%. Approximately 57 students were dropped for nonpayment for Summer 2; the hope is for some of these students to be re-registered this week.

For Fall 2023, it is approximately 8 weeks until the start of the semester, and for same point in time, headcount is down about 10.6% and credit hours down 12.7%. Some of the neighboring community colleges are reporting the PASSHE institutions are sweeping up many potential students. Dr. Haney stated, “It is definitely going to be a challenging year for recruitment.”

Personnel,
Curriculum, and
Government
Relations
Committee
*Presentation:
Excelencia In
Education*

Dr. Kistler introduced Dr. Cindy Haney, Vice President for Enrollment Management, to provide an overview of the partner program, Excelencia in Education.

Dr. Haney reported it was not long after the college received the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation, that Excelencia in Education became available. Dr. Haney requested to use it as part of her practicum project for her doctorate dissertation and Dr. Bieber and Vice President Verta agreed. This program is completely out of the realm of enrollment management and provided a wonderful opportunity to work with the teams on different initiatives.

Excelencia in Education was founded in 2004 to help HSIs not only enroll Hispanic and Latino students, but also ensure they are successful in reaching their academic goals. The organization is data driven and wants to ensure HSIs have the disaggregated data on how the Hispanic and Latino students are performing, in addition to using that data for analysis in developing policies nationwide, institutionally, and for statewide advocacy work for this population. There is a network of professionals, who are available to help students as well.

As a quick reminder, the U.S. Department of Education defines an HSI as an institution with 25% of their FTE population identifying as Hispanic. In Fall 2021, the IPEDS data reflected LCCC’s Hispanic full time population at 27%. To provide some perspective, in Fall 2019, just prior to the pandemic, that number was 28%, and by Spring 2020 during the pandemic, that population dropped to 27.1%. In Fall 2021, it bumped back up to 27.5% and in Fall 2022, the number is back up to 28.9%. This is a good sign and indicates that population of students are returning,

The first major initiative, Presidents for Latino Student Success (P4LSS), is a group of presidents that Excelencia brings together. After looking at different HSI initiatives, Dr. Bieber agreed to join this initiative. A steering committee, comprised of college community members, was formed and works with other working teams all focused on helping this population of students. The teams report back and then these initiatives are used to help achieve the ultimate goal, which is to receive the Seal of Excelencia. Once received, the seal can be placed on the website, on published materials, and advises the community that the college is here to support that population of students.

The Seal of Excelencia is built on several frameworks. The first pillar is Data; the second is Practice; and the third is Leadership. There are key data elements and practices they look at that include Hispanic/Latino enrollment, retention of students; transfers; financial support; and representation of Latino students in administration, faculty, and staff to model success; and degree completion. Under Leadership, they examine five areas that include mission and strategy, data and practices, how the data is disaggregated by race and ethnicity, and institutional practices tied to that data. They look at how Human Resources recruits, on boards, and provides professional development specifically for faculty to prioritize serving Latino students. They also look at communications where internal, external communications are leveraged to share information, making the intentionality to serve Latino students clear, and then institutional culture on how the institution articulates authentically, it is intentionally serving Latino students.

The second major initiative, Community Colleges Transforming by Engaging Latino Students (CCTELS), was a pilot project designed specifically for community colleges. The college received an invitation to apply because of the work being done with a presence for Latino success. LCCC ended up being one of eight institutions who received the invite and are a sub-grantee for Excelencia, who received a grant through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the intermediate areas for scale initiatives. The CCTELS team consists of five members that will work with the National Student Clearinghouse. They will be able to provide more comprehensive data on Latino student success and that will help the college to be more proactive in making changes in real time. As part of the project, the college had to complete the SSITA application and following completion of the application, the team was able to attend an in-person convening meeting at Austin Community College, Austin, Texas.

So why should the college be working with Excelencia to support this group? LCCC's Hispanic population increased by 18% in the

past five years. Lehigh County's Hispanic population is 28.7%; Allentown is 54.5%. Carbon and Schuylkill counties' Hispanic population increased 150% and 144% in the past decade. Most Hispanic students enter higher education through a community college and in Fall 2018, 31% of First-time, Full-time students were Hispanic and only 17% completed their program within 150% of normal time vs. 31% completion for white students. The Hispanic students are definitely lagging behind and there is a need to support them. Excelencia is aware of this and they know all of the work they provide to build programs will end up helping all students. The college learns much from working with this population and adding some of the initiatives to the other groups of students will end up helping all students.

Dr. Haney reviewed the positive outcome data for some of the initiatives already in place that include the Success Coaches, Early College, Aspira, and ReUp Educational Services. The Aspira program, although in its infancy, had 18 FT students who got a C or higher and were retained as full time students for the next Fall semester. For ReUp Educational Services, 31% or 793 students referred were Hispanic, and 41% or 311 students were reenrolled. The college is seeing many positive outcomes in trying to grow these initiatives.

Chair Krause thanked Dr. Haney for an excellent presentation

PACCC
Legislative and
Governmental
Affairs Update

Trustee Ann Thompson provided an update on the State budget. The Senate passed the budget with certain parameters somewhat similar to the Governor's budget with \$100M for private school vouchers, called the Pennsylvania Award for Student Success Pass. The vouchers support children who go to a school that is not doing well by providing funds for private school. The House decided they will not support private schools with public school money and will not support the budget the Senate approved. The Senate's focus is that if they do not get what they want, there will be other cuts. In addition, the Senate has adjourned until September 18. Governor Shapiro has stated that he is not going to support the Student Success Pass part of the legislation.

Trustee Thompson remarked that many of the trustees might remember the nine-month impasse with Governor Wolf's first budget. The PA Secretary of the Treasury estimated the nine-month impasse created about \$1M in bonds to school districts.

Dr. Bieber added she just received an update from Senate Majority Leader, Joe Pittman, who stated there is not a state budget until the Senate acts on the other bills required to implement the budget and that he did not see it happening in the immediate future.

At this time it is unknown if the Senate will return to Harrisburg to sign the budget, or return in September. Both the House and the Senate have approved the budget, just not the same budget.

Dr. Kistler reviewed the minutes for the June 15 committee meeting. The committee reviewed the annual report of the Curriculum Committee and the year-end dashboard summary for *Many Voices, One Vision*. There was an Executive Session for Negotiations prior to the start of the meeting and more information should be available by the next committee meeting.

A complete report of this committee can be found in its minutes of June 17, 2023.

Finance and
Facilities
Committee

Trustee Mohr reviewed this committee's minutes for June 15, 2023. The committee reviewed the CARES/CRRSA/ARP update and for the future, a condensed format will be used due to the closing down of the operation.

The committee also discussed the 2022 Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA), which is looking for a better assessment tool to measure how students are served. The Facilities Master Plan was reviewed and tailored to address long-term needs relative to debt service.

A complete report for this committee can be found in its minutes of June 17, 2023.

Negotiations
Committee

No report.

Joint Coordinating
Committee

Trustee Larvey reported the committee would meet again in the Fall.

LCCC Foundation

Dr. Kistler reported the college is in the process of hiring a new Executive Director and Administrative Assistant for the Foundation. Temporary staff are currently covering both positions.

The Foundation is holding an Art, Rhythm, and Tasting event on Thursday, August 3, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Glass Box Art Gallery located in the Rothrock Library. The event is free and will benefit the arts, communications, and design programs where equipment and other items can be very expensive. Since this is just prior to the Board meeting, Dr. Kistler encouraged trustees to meet at the Rothrock Library to help support the Foundation, especially during this time of transition. There will be food and

music, and business sponsorships are available to anyone who is interested.

Old Business

Dr. Bieber reported information on the EdReady Program was provided to all of the superintendents. To date, the Salisbury Township School District has responded, along with the Parkland School District.

New Business

Attorney Frank addressed the Board noting the absence of an Executive Session. Attorney Frank provided a brief update on the Right-To-Know requests, which are the following normal patterns of requests.

Public Comment
Non-Agenda

None.

Announcements

Trustee Krause noted the Lehighon teacher recently arrested was scheduled to teach a Dual Enrollment class for the college and arrangements have been made to change that.

Adjournment

Trustee Krause called for a motion to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Barbara C. Kistler, Secretary
Board of Trustees
Lehigh Carbon Community College