

**HAGERSTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES

*Joint Meeting with County Commissioners
March 15, 2005*

A Joint Meeting of the Board of Trustees of Hagerstown Community College and the Washington County Commissioners was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2005, in the College Center Conference Rooms 1 and 2, beginning at 12:00 noon. In attendance:

Board Members

Guy Altieri, Secretary / President
Carolyn W. Brooks
Anton T. Dahbura, Vice-Chair
Merle S. Elliott, Chair
Margaret E. Hetzer

Commissioners and County Staff

Debra Bastian Murray – Director of Finance
James Kercheval – Commissioner
John Martirano – Deputy County Attorney
Doris Nipps – Commissioner
Greg Snook – Commissioner, President
William Wivell – Commissioner, Vice President

Others

Anna Barker – Dean of Administration and Finance
Nathan Himes – HCC Student
Barbara Macht – Director, Planning, Governance and Institutional Research
Robert May – HCC Student
Diana Reyes – HCC Student
Barbara Roulette – Recording Secretary
Donna Rudy – Dean of Student Affairs
Joe Sidlowski – Dean of Academic Affairs
George Soterin – Director, Plant Operations and Maintenance
Elizabeth Stull – Director, Public Information / Government Relations
Wanda Williams – Reporter, Herald Mail

Call To Order

Mr. Merle S. Elliott, Chair, presided and convened the regular meeting at 12:05 PM.

Report to the Commissioners

President Altieri presented a Powerpoint. Discussion included the mission and vision of the College, which encompasses university parallel or transfer programs, occupational or career

education programs, developmental / remedial education, continuing and lifelong education, and student services and community development. He cited the College's recent double digit enrollment increases and new and expanded partnerships with local and regional universities and health care systems.

Student Speakers

Nathan Himes is a student athlete from Boonsboro, Maryland. He chose HCC because it provided a close, affordable opportunity to attend college and also play baseball. Nathan likes the fact that academics come first at HCC. Student athletes must maintain their grade point averages to continue to compete.

Diana Reyes came to the United States from Colombia, South America eight years ago. She earned her GED and subsequently enrolled in the JTI program, the flexibility of which helps her to coordinate motherhood, employment, and classes. Diana has recently been hired by the College as a part-time student recruiter in local Hispanic communities.

Robert May is an ESSENCE student who is currently enrolled at HCC and St. Maria Goretti High School. Robert has primarily concentrated his college work on art classes. He plans to transfer to a four year college and major in graphic design. The ESSENCE program gave him an opportunity to get a head start on his college courses.

Keeping HCC within Reach

President Altieri discussed a comparison of student, state, and county shares of educational costs from FY81 through FY06. In FY81, the cost was shared equally at approximately 33%. As the state and county shares have systematically dropped to a current 24% and 27% respectively for FY06, the students' share has increased to 48%. In comparison to cohort community colleges in Maryland, HCC receives the least amount of local funding at 27%, excepting Allegany College at 25%. Based on FY04 data, 61% of the College's operating budget goes toward direct teaching and support services for students, which is a higher percentage than most other community colleges.

President Altieri said that the key principles that shaped the plan and budget for 2005-06 were: (1) quality service to students and the community, (2) inspection and reallocation of money before asking for additional funds, and (3) creating internal and external partnerships.

The College requested that the County: (1) increase the current level of county support to equal 27% of the operating budget in FY06, which would require a 15% increase over FY05 funding, (2) explore ways to increase County support to the state average of 32%, and (3) continue to support the College's CIP requests through FY10.

Commissioner President Snook commented that there has been a positive turnaround in the direction of the College in the past 2-1/2 years, and there is renewed enthusiasm and excitement under Dr. Altieri's leadership. But he felt that the percentage of increase in the County's share

of the operating budget requested over several years is a significant challenge. He also cautioned that the College should not grow for the sole purpose of being the fastest growing community college in Maryland, but should manage the growth with thought to existing infrastructures.

Commissioner Kercheval mentioned that the additional \$2 million dollars requested at the College's recent CIP meeting was a late request, which caused additional work for the Finance Department in preparing the County's capital budget. He respectfully asked that budget requests be submitted as early as possible in the future. President Altieri apologized for the late submission and explained that new information to the College precipitated the late request.

Commissioner Kercheval also mentioned that Hagerstown Business College has submitted a request to MHEC to offer some four-year courses. MHEC will notify HCC of their final decision regarding this request.

Commissioner President Snook asked if off-campus operations are cost effective for the College. The Commissioners also requested information on the cost per FTE for in-county students, and how HCC's costs per FTE compare with those of the Washington County Public Schools.

Director Soterin said that the schematics for the Career Programs renovations will be completed on March 17, 2005. Final bids are expected to be in and the project underway by Fall 2005. Work on the loop road and the CP building will be done simultaneously. Classrooms, offices, and labs that can be moved out of the CP building have been relocated. Those remaining will be relocated within the building to accommodate the renovations. Seventy-five percent of the building will remain open and in use while the other 25% is being renovated.

Commissioner Kercheval suggested that the College review estimates for future capital projects and anticipate any increases in costs so capital projects requests can be adjusted accordingly.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation and support for the College's substantial contribution to the community.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the joint meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Guy Altieri, Ed.D.
President/Secretary

GA/bwr