FULL BOARD MEETING
February 16, 2022
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Geri Herlihy, Alex Zequeira
TRUSTEES REMOTE: Linda Cavaioli, Jennifer Davis Carey, John Lafleche, Juan Gomez (5:30pm)

Meeting commenced in person and on Zoom at 5:05pm by Interim Chair Zequeira and attendance taken by roll call. Juan Gomez noted as absent.

The Board of Trustees of Quinsigamond Community College, at its regular meeting held in person and virtually via Zoom (due to COVID-19 Pandemic) on Wednesday, February 16, 2022, took the following actions:

Update from Trustee Zequeira relative to Board vacancies and his conversation with Lt. Governor Polito on Board Appointments- all candidates are in background check and the hope is to have appointments in place in March.

The Consent Agenda was moved down the agenda since no quorum present (Juan joined late).

Consent Agenda: The purpose of the Consent Agenda is to expedite business by grouping routine agenda items together to be dealt with by one Board motion without discussion. Any member of the Board or staff may ask that any item on the Consent Agenda be removed and placed later on the agenda for full discussion. Such requests will be automatically respected.

If any item is not removed from the Consent Agenda, the action on the agenda is approved/accepted by single Board action adopting the Consent Agenda.

1. Minutes from the December 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting (approve)
2. Trust Fund Reports –FY22 through Current period (accept)
3. Informational Personnel Items (accept)
4. President’s Out-of-State Travel (accept)
5. President’s Leave Time (accept)

Upon a motion duly made and vote by roll call, the Consent Agenda was approved as presented.
The Committee of the Whole report was moved ahead of the consent agenda.

Standing Committee Reports:

A. Committee of the Whole (1/26/22)
Trustees Zequeira, Cavaiolli, Davis Carey, Gomez, Herlihy and Lafleche

1. COVID Spending- VP Marini gave an overview of funding and spending of GEER, CARES, CRRSAA and ARPA funds. Remaining funds to spend was discussed, specifically the $3.2million set aside for HVAC and $1.5million for student debt.

2. Preliminary FY23 Budget Planning- VP Marini noted the College is deferring review of preliminary budget and approval to April. Fees will not be increased for students.

3. College Updates
   a. COVID-19 Operations Update: President Pedraja presented an update on the campus mask mandate, new communications from the State and shared that currently the College will wait to make any changes to the mask policy until March.
   b. FA21 Enrollment Report – President Pedraja noted the enrollment freeze was February 11th and the final report will be available at the April meeting. VP Ortiz shared we have many new tools to track student service. Student Success Center served 3729 students in-person & virtual between November and January. 3051 PELL Students reported and awarded $10million in the fall. She shared numbers for business office and bookstore and noted final freeze numbers for Spring 22 are down 2.4% in heads down and 6.3% in FTE.

   Trustee Gomez joined and a quorum is noted.
   c. Academic and Student Affairs Collaboration for Student Success – VP Keane and VP Ortiz presented a shared partnership presentation and their vision for holistic student support services. Lillian talked about work of the Enrollment Management team, Admissions and smooth handoff to Advising. Jim noted this collaboration is supported by theory – importance of relationships and early intervention. They shared the holistic approach to the student experience from the Student Success Center to SOAR – Student Outreach and Resource Wing. Paths to S.U.C.C.E.S.S. (Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Support). Jim shared work on an Academic Commons approach with tutoring and library services.

4. Sabbatical Approvals for Fall 2022 -

   Upon a motion duly made and vote by roll call the following applications for sabbatical leave were approved for Fall 2022.

   Susan McPherson
   Kirsten Patey
   Nichole Wheeler

Return to the Consent Agenda
B. Executive (1/12/22)

Trustees Zequeira, Cavaioli, and Lafleche

Comprehensive Presidential Evaluation – Timeline presented and no questions. Next steps are for a meeting of Trustees with ACCT around the evaluation instruments, surveys and interview process. Selina will assist with setting this up.

4. Other Business

1. NECHE Accreditation Update – NECHE Co-Chairs AVP Kevin Li and Professor Judy Colson - They discussed the approach and process for the self-study. Kevin noted the timeline process was developed based on visitation dates (October 2023). The final visit in 2023 will include a kick-off meeting with dinner with the Trustees. He highlighted items such as new website, enhanced webpages, and evaluation of our governance system. The full timeline presented noted the kick-off with NECHE Senior VP Pat O’Brien at All College Day back in January. There are 8 Standards Committees each with 2 Co-Chairs. Judy gave an overview of the 8 Cross-functional Standard Committees. Kevin shared the note from 2018 from NECHE about the requirement to review governance and its effectiveness including Board of Trustees.

President Pedraja highlighted the Governance piece also relative to Board evaluation and governance review. He proposed the idea of incorporating the governance system review in conjunction with ACCT. It will be a review of the internal processes and structures in place, and not Trustee structure or appointments. Trustee Cavaioli brought in the idea of the past few years operating under the pandemic and its impact and also the fact that there has not been a full board in place for a year to 18 months, which is out of the College’s control. This needs to be taken into consideration. Would like to revisit the Strategic Plan in near future as well to assess work of Board, faculty and staff as we move into the self-reflection.

2. 22-23 Academic Calendar – Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples’ Day – The name for this holiday was raised at the Committee of the Whole and tabled until legal shared their recommendation, which is to list both names, but noted it is ultimately up to the individual colleges to make the change. The State currently still uses Columbus Day. Trustee Cavaioli noted to achieve a true statement of equity, the Board should recommend not using both but changing to Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

Upon a motion duly made and vote via roll call, the Board voted 4 in favor and 2 against to change the academic calendar to state Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the calendar moving forward. The motion passed.

3. Equity Update – There was no new update from the Equity Task Force. VP Keane shared an update on the Academic DEI Liaisons and work taking place with the President’s Advisory Council on Equity. Jim talked about the liaisons focus on curriculum, pedagogy and development and a state-wide equity
inventory document, which the College is looking at, as a guide. Following the meeting, the document was shared with the Trustees.

5. **Student Trustee Report (No Report)** - Student elections are currently taking place to replace Tara Rudolph who resigned.

6. **President's Report**

   a. President Pedraja shared the sad news about the loss of a faculty member – Jacob Longacre. A QCC memorial service and time of remembrance on campus is being planned.

   b. **ACCT Legislative Summit Update** – Dr Pedraja discussed his trip to Washington DC highlighting some key areas - First lady Biden spoke, advisory Councils met, Advocacy for resources, representative meetings with Jim McGovern, Richard Neal, and others. He shared other updates such as changes to Pell, increases in amounts, Early College, workforce development.

   c. Dr. Pedraja noted a letter is being send to all Representatives on behalf of the presidents advocating for items to include in the budget such as Success Fund (asked for $14million and funded at current level). Following the meeting the list was sent to all Trustees. Dr. Pedraja asked for support and advocacy from Trustees to legislators.

   d. **Quinsigabration Gala** – Saturday after graduation, May 21st. Save the Date

**Upon a motion duly made and vote by roll call, the Trustees adjourned at 6:35pm.**

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Executive Committee** – Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 4:00pm,
- **Audit & Oversight Committee** – Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 4:00pm,
- **Strategic Planning, Education and Student Success Committee** – Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at 5:00pm,
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, April 13, 2022 at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

**Selina M. Boria**

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QCC Board Secretary