

Roxbury Community College
Board of Trustees
Gerald Chertavian, Chair
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2017

Board of Trustees Members:

Present: Gerald Chertavian, *Chair*; Michael Curry, *Vice Chair*; Mark Culliton, Jusu Coker; Amanda Fernandez; Mayra Leith

Absent: Josiane Martinez, Sheriff Tompkins, Jeffrey Greenberg, Amanda Schaefer, Glynn Lloyd

Others Present:

Valerie Roberson, *President* Cecile Regner, *Vice President*; Kevin Hepner, *Vice President*; Lorita Williams, *Vice President*; Patricia West, *HR Chief/Officer*

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and determined that a quorum was present.

I. Guests

- a. President Roberson introduced 9 graduates of the College's Successful Women in Clean Energy (SWICE) Program. The program is housed on the non-credit side of the College in conjunction with Goodwill Industries. The program was a 12 week, 5 days a week program. The graduates addressed the Board and expressed their thanks and excitement.

Trustee Fernandez asked the participants how they learned of this opportunity. They responded through Boston Career Link.

Trustee Leith thanked the graduates for allowing RCC to be part of their journey. She wanted to hear about their next steps in terms of their education and hoped RCC would be a part of that as well.

II. Public Comment

- a. Sadiki Kambon began by asking what the Board was going to do about the situation inside the walls at RCC, explaining that he believed the community is privy to that information. He stated that Dr. Gomes was dismissed for resisting corporate training programs for low level tech jobs. He worries there is too much emphasis on these programs today with a de-emphasis on the associates degree. He stated the College was on the brink of losing the RLTAAC to outside forces. He wants it to be under the jurisdiction of the College, but is very uncomfortable with the current administration of the College. The infrastructure piece looks good, but we have a real crisis.

III. Reports and Approvals

Finance and Budget *(VP Kevin Hepner and Glenn Lloyd, Trustee)*

Vice President Hepner began his report by alerting board members that the 3rd quarter financial report was in their packets. There has been improvement in these quarter's numbers. The College's pension liability will decrease.

He then presented on the preliminary FY 18 budget for the College. He reminded trustees that the budget was a two part process due to the state not yet approving its budget. He noted that the state, through DCAMM, was covering depreciation expense; so, unlike other community colleges, we wanted our budget to be in the positive before depreciation expense, not after. The preliminary budget is very conservative with a decrease in tuition and fees, but that will depend on what fall enrollment numbers look like. On the expense side he noted an increase in staff budgets due to the increase in staff in the IT line, with a corresponding decrease in the IT contract services line.

Chairman Chertavian asked if the College was on track with its IT department hiring? Vice President Hepner responded in the affirmative.

Vice President Hepner continued, noting some savings in energy costs, and hoping for more in the next fiscal year; but, that is dependent on how quickly Eversource connects us to the grid.

Trustee Culliton offered his assistance. He also stated he'd like to see revised numbers on current and proposed credit hour enrollment.

President Roberson stated that they had been conservative due to the risk of over extending college resources, but noted that the College has a new director of admission with experience in the Boston school system, which will aid in increasing enrollments from Boston Public Schools.

By a motion of Trustee Culliton and seconded by Trustee Leith the FY 18 preliminary budget was approved unanimously.

Institutional Advancement *(Vice President Lorita Williams and Josiane Martinez, Trustee)*

Vice President Williams presented a report on gifts received by the College during the current 2017 fiscal year. The total was \$176,000, including several individual donor gifts. Going forward this will be presented on a quarterly basis. She hopes that the College will be able to participate with the Boston Marathon again next year.

President Roberson stated that this report was an important piece of information related to the audit of the RCC Foundation. It helps to have a document from the College that can be reconciled with the Foundations files.

Trustee Curry asked about the source of the funds, where the money was pledged and what events the funds were raised at.

Vice President Williams responded that this data was available and could also be provided. She also noted the difference between grants and gifts in kind.

By a motion of Trustee Fernandez and seconded by Trustee Curry the gift report was accepted unanimously.

Academic and Student Affairs (VP Cecile Regner and Dr. Jeffrey Greenberg, Trustee)

Vice President Regner offered a correction to the tenure approval of Autumn Haag, correcting a typographical error in the spelling of her name.

By a motion of Trustee Coker and seconded by Trustee Leith the corrected tenure notification was approved.

Human Resources (HR Director Patricia West and Amanda Fernandez, Trustee)

Trustee Fernandez began by discussing the President's performance evaluation. She thanked the board members for their contributions and thanked Director West in her efforts in assembling the report. The evaluation's executive summary stated that the evaluation was based on one-on-one interviews with the Board, cabinet members, community stakeholders and aligned the evaluation against the Commonwealth's vision data.

The summary stated which goals were met and which have fallen short along with rationale to explain mitigating circumstances such as campus renovations. Generally respondents felt good about the continued fiscal focus and management of the construction project. The President's goals for Fiscal Year 2018 are also included. The board unanimously recommends to the Board of Higher Education that President Roberson be given a merit compensation of 100% of the maximum allowable percentage effective July 1st 2017.

Trustee Leith thanked Trustee Fernandez on the clarity of the process and being able to weigh in.

Trustee Curry asked what stuck out in terms of the key stakeholder's feedback. Trustee Fernandez stated the feedback had not been individually desegregated but that was data that could most likely be provided.

Trustee Culliton offered that he thinks the President is doing an exceptional job, and that it is a challenging job.

Chairman Chertavian echoed the comments of the other trustees and offered his praise to President Roberson on the progress made and the expected progress to come. He stated the

feedback he receives from the community has been positive. He added that the Board would like to review the recruitment strategy at the September board meeting.

By a motion of Trustee Curry and seconded by Trustee Coker the performance evaluation was accepted.

President Roberson thanked the Board.

IV. Approval of Minutes April 25, 2017

By a motion of Trustee Culliton and seconded by Trustee Leith the minutes were approved.

V. President's Report

Dr. Roberson began her report by following up on the presentation made at the last board meeting by the Black Economic Justice Institute (BEJI) and Priscilla Flint. Since then she has met with that group twice to see if it is possible for the College to support their request of adopting the Roxbury Master Planning Committee hiring standards. She presented such a statement to the Board for their approval with the hope that the College's local legislators would work with DCAMM to urge these changes. She reiterated that DCAMM and not the College must make these changes, but we continue to work with DCAMM to improve the hiring standards.

Additionally, President Roberson has been preparing for the hearing next week regarding the Reggie Lewis legislation, which is currently before the Joint Committee on Higher Education. She stated that she had had several meetings to prepare for this hearing and drafting testimony. Additionally, individuals on campus are drafting their own testimony in support of the College's position. The head of the Mass Community College Presidents' Council will also speak against the legislation as the current legislation would undermine the authority of all college boards. She has met with the co-chairs of the committee hearing the bill as well as the Speaker of the House and members of the higher education committee and their staff. Her chief of staff, Peter Antonellis, has taken meetings with staff. Additionally the College has proactively met with the state's athletic directors as well as the Mass State Track Coaches Association. Likewise, members of the Roxbury community continue to enjoy access to the facility. The goal remains using the RLTA to help build partnerships within the community.

Trustee Curry suggested tracking and communicating the amount of space utilized by the community so it can be reported. He also offered that trustees could be deployed to community meetings to continue to talk up the good work being done at RCC.

Chairman Chertavian agreed and noted how well, in his opinion, the center is being run. The College must continue to push back on the assertion that the center is not being run well.

VI. Chairman's Report

Chairman Chertavian noted this was Student Trustee Coker's final meeting and he thanked him on behalf of the entire board for his service to the Board and the College.

Trustee Coker thanked the Chairman and also offered his praise to Dr. Roberson and noted her professional demeanor while often having to sit through difficult meetings. He hoped all the parties involved could put aside tribal sentiments and work together for the betterment of Roxbury Community College.

VII. Executive Session

There was no need to enter executive session. The chairman wished the general public a good evening and thanked them for their attendance.

VIII. Adjourn

7: 38 PM

Roxbury Community College

Board of Trustees

June 20, 2017

RESOLUTION

This resolution is for the preliminary approval of the operating College Budget for Fiscal Year 2018, from July 1st 2017 until June 30, 2018.

WHERE AS,

- An Annual Review of the budget is prudent to endure compliance with all pertinent Commonwealth legislation and policies; and
- A comprehensive review of expected revenues and expenditures is needed to ensure that the College is operating within a balanced budget; and
- The College administrators will be responsible for evaluating all expenditures and requests and ensuring that the College is operating within this budget; and
- The FY '18 General Appropriations Act of the Commonwealth has yet to be signed by the Governor

NOW THEREFORE,

It is resolved by the Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees that the attached preliminary budget shall be effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. The President or her designee shall take the necessary steps to implement the budget as voted.

Roxbury Community College

Board of Trustees

April 25, 2017

Resolution

This resolution is to accept a report of all donation made to Roxbury Community College in fiscal year 2017.

WHERE AS:

- Roxbury Community College has been gifted several donations in fiscal year 2017, and

WHERE AS:

- As part of the duties of the Board of Trustees must acknowledge these donations, and

WHERE AS:

- The Roxbury Community College Board has been furnished with a report on donations received; and

WHERE AS:

- These funds are instrumental to the continued operation of essential services at Roxbury Community College.

NOW THEREFORE,

It is resolved by the Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees accept a report from the Development Office detailing the gifts received by the College during the 2017 fiscal year.

Roxbury Community College

Board of Trustees

June 20, 2017

**Resolution
(Corrected from April 25th, 2017)**

This resolution to grant tenure to the following Roxbury Community College faculty.

WHERE AS:

- During the past six years, as a full-time member of the faculty, Professor John McColgan demonstrated competence in the classroom; commitment to students; service to the Math department and to Roxbury Community College. Professor John McColgan successfully meets all of the requirement of tenure.
- During the past six years, as a full-time unit professional, Ms. Autumn Haag, demonstrated competence as a librarian; commitment to students; service to the Library and to Roxbury Community College. Ms. Autumn Haag successfully meets all of the requirement of tenure.

NOW THEREFORE,

It is resolved by the Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees that Professor John McColgan and Ms. Autumn Haag for tenure.

Roxbury Community College

Board of Trustees

June 20, 2017

Resolution

This resolution is for the adoption of the Presidential Evaluation for Dr. Valerie Roberson that covers Academic Year 2017, from July 1, 2016 until June 30, 2017.

WHEREAS:

- An annual review of the President is prudent to ensure College compliance with all pertinent Commonwealth legislation and policies and advancement of the College goals; and
- The Board of Trustees conducted an evaluation consisting of the following components: four surveys (All College Survey, Community Partnership Survey and Board and Sr. Administrators Survey), President self-evaluation, and the Vision Project Dashboard; and
- The Board of Trustee is satisfied with the overall performance of the President.

NOW THEREFORE,

It is resolved by the Roxbury Community College Board of Trustees that the contract of the President, for Academic Year July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018, be recommended to Dr. Carlos Santiago, Commissioner of Higher Education. If funds for an increase are available, The Board recommends an increase of 100% of the maximum.

