

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BOARD MEETING 186

The Virginia Western Community College Board met on Thursday, September 18, 1997, at 3:30 p.m. in the President's Conference Room in Fishburn Hall on the North Campus of the college.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. James Arend
Ms. Betty Corvin
Dr. Charles Downs, Executive Secretary
Ms. Margaret Grayson
Mr. Stan Lanford
Mr. Geoffrey Ottaway, Chair
Mr. Jimmy Morris
Mr. David Spigle
Ms. Audrey Wheaton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. LaVerne Dillon
Mr. George Daniels
Mr. William Reid

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. J. Andrew Archer, Dean of Academic and
Student Affairs
Mr. Dwight Blalock, Dean of Finance and
Administrative Services
Dr. Mark Emick, Assistant to the President
Ms. Brenda Shepherd, Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Ottaway called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

2. MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 1997, BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Lanford and seconded by Ms. Wheaton that:

The VWCC Board approve the minutes of the July 17, 1997, meeting as written.

The motion was unanimously approved.

3. LOCAL FUNDS YEAR END REPORT

Mr. Blalock outlined the sources of local funds and noted that the Local Board controls the expenditure of these funds through established guidelines for the Student Activities, College Activities, and President's Activities budgets. He noted that these budgets are audited by the Auditor of Public Accounts as well as the Virginia Community College System internal auditors. Mr. Blalock also noted that during the most recent audit, the only comment made was in regard to computer security; all other remarks were positive. The Board members reviewed and discussed the local funds reports. Mr. Arend suggested that future reports might include a summary sheet to present an overview of the year's activities.

Dr. Downs reported that in January 1996, the Board granted Alouf Construction a power-line easement to provide service to a subdivision bordering the Smith Farm property. In return, Mr. Alouf agreed to make a \$1,000 contribution to the Virginia Western Educational Foundation. Attempts to obtain the contribution have proved unsuccessful. Mr. Spigle agreed to write a letter to Mr. Alouf on behalf of the Board requesting that he honor his commitment.

Dr. Downs provided a summary of the contributions made by the local political subdivisions over the past several years. It was noted that Virginia Western's site development projects have received favorable support from the service area subdivisions with the exception of Roanoke County (who contributed after persuasion in 1995-96, did not contribute in 1996-97, and awarded only partial funding in 1997-98). Dr. Downs has, on several occasions, discussed with them the need for their support, and the explanation given for their partial or no support stance is that they are required only to fund development projects as stated in the Policy Manual ("...to within five feet of the building..."). The Board members representing Roanoke County indicated they have contacted the Board of Supervisors and have received the same response. The Board members elected to check with members of other college local boards at the annual meeting in November to see if they have encountered similar problems. Another suggestion was that a group of Board members attend a meeting of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors in behalf of the requests. The points were made that the workforce training provided by the College has been a determining factor in the location of a number of businesses to the Valley, and when site development requests are denied, the funds not provided by the localities must be taken from other sources which have been earmarked for direct student assistance.

4. ENROLLMENT REPORT

Dr. Archer provided enrollment information and noted that we continue to experience enrollment growth. He mentioned that Virginia Western was the only college among the five largest colleges to report an increase in annual FTES in 1996-97. He also noted Virginia Western is predicting an increase of around 6.7% in FTES for the Fall 1997 Semester.

Dr. Archer discussed the topic of remedial education at the college, noting that in 1995, thirty-four percent of our students took remedial classes, the lowest percentage of any other school in the state. He emphasized that the need for remedial education is not indicative that students are ill-prepared by the high schools, only that students may choose a different career path after high school or are retraining and/or reentering the workforce and need remedial courses to prepare for curricular courses. Since remedial courses are not offered at four-year universities, our courses offer the opportunity through which goals can be met and fulfills another aspect of our mission to the citizens we serve.

With no further business on the agenda, Mr. Lanford moved and Ms. Grayson seconded the motion that the meeting adjourn at 4:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

January 15, 1998
Date

Charles H. Davis
Executive Secretary