

## VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### BOARD MEETING 194

The Virginia Western Community College Board met on Thursday, March 18, 1999, 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  
Ms. Margaret Grayson  
Dr. Charles Downs, Executive Secretary  
Mr. Stan Lanford  
Ms. Harriet Lewis  
Mr. William Reid, Chair  
Ms. Audrey Wheaton

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. George Logan  
Mr. Geoffrey Ottaway  
Mr. Jimmy Morris  
Mr. David Spigle

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Reid called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. He announced that commencement will be held on May 14 at the Roanoke Civic Center at 7 p.m.

**2. MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 1999, BOARD MEETING**

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

The VWCC Board approve the minutes of the January 21, 1999, meeting as written.

The motion was unanimously approved.

**3. PRESIDENT'S GOALS**

There were no questions or comments regarding the information that was provided at the last meeting relative to the President's goals and accomplishments. Mr. Reid shared a letter from Dr. Oliver acknowledging receipt of the Board's evaluation of Dr. Downs and asked that the letter be placed in the file.

**4. APPOINTMENT OF A NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Mr. Reid informed the Board members that a Vice Chair needs to be selected for the July 1, 1999, to June 30, 2000, term. He asked that Mr. Ottaway and Mrs. Grayson serve with him on the Nominating Committee. A recommendation from the committee will be presented at the next Board meeting. (Mr. Lanford, as current Vice Chair, will become Chair for the upcoming term.)

**5. SMITH FARM**

Mr. Reid informed the Board members that he, Dr. Downs, and Mr. Lanford (Ms. Wheaton & Mr. Arend had schedule conflicts) visited the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center to tour the facilities in response to the 4-H Center's proposal for use of the Smith Farm. The committee agreed that the Center's proposal is worthwhile & would honor the wishes in Mr. Smith's will that the farm be..."preserved in its farmlike & woodland condition, used and developed by the Commonwealth or one of its agencies for the benefit and good of the public." Mr. Reid has been negotiating with 4-H administrators on behalf of the College, but has been unsuccessful, even after offering to contribute money to be applied to the funds that would be given to

the College in return for the farm. (The 4-H Center offered the College \$25,000 for the farm, \$15,000 of which would have been contributed by Mr. Reid. The tax value of the farm is \$500,000.) The committee recommended that this offer was not a good option for the college and that other opportunities should be considered in order to provide scholarship money or some other benefit to students. Therefore, the 4-H Center's offer was deemed unacceptable. The Board members deemed it prudent to consider other options and to maintain status quo in the meantime. Mr. Lanford mentioned that our Board members will have an opportunity to speak with State Board members in Roanoke in May to let them know of the college's goals relative to the Smith Farm.

## 6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Downs provided information relative to the actions taken by the General Assembly this year. He mentioned that we received \$600,000 to build a facilities services building and \$125,000 for the addition of an elevator in the Humanities Building. He also noted that general maintenance funds and funds for faculty & staff raises were also provided by the General Assembly. It was noted that construction of the facilities services building could not begin immediately, as state procedures will have to be followed.
- Dr. Downs mentioned that college administrators recently reviewed membership dues paid to local chambers of commerce, with the goal of reducing expenses incurred for such items. Botetourt County graciously agreed to an educational discount for the college. However, when approached with a request for that consideration, Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce did not agree to reduce the membership dues for the college. Mr. Arend offered to talk with Robert Lawson, chairman of the board of the Chamber, regarding an educational discount.
- Dr. Downs asked Dr. Emick to report on the Greenfield project. Dr. Emick noted that the Greenfield project is a 900-acre education and training center between Daleville and Fincastle. He noted that we are working with Botetourt County, Botetourt County Schools, and Dabney S. Lancaster Community College regarding the training facility, and that the plan is to break ground in the next thirty days. Dr. Emick informed the Board members that Greenfield will be owned by Botetourt County, the State will lease space in the facility, and Virginia Western will manage the facility. Virginia Western will benefit through additional training space, opportunities to develop certification programs as well as standard credit and non-credit programs, dual enrollment programs, and occupational/technical offerings. The anticipated completion date is June 2000.

## 7. INNOVATIONS IN THE HUMANTIES

Dr. John Capps, interim Chair of the Humanities Division, provided information regarding innovations in that program area of the college. Among recent enrichments mentioned were incorporation of technology into the curricula, language lab enhancements, new weekend college offerings, and the addition of an acting program.

With no further business on the agenda, Ms. Grayson moved and Mr. Lanford seconded the motion that the meeting adjourn at 4:17 p.m.

APPROVED:

May 20, 1999  
Date

Charles P. Downes  
Executive Secretary