

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
LOCAL BOARD MEETING
 Minutes No. 223 March 16, 2006

The Virginia Western Community College Board met on Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 3:30 PM in the President's Conference Room in Fishburn Hall on Virginia Western's campus.

ROLL CALL	
Members Present	Mr. Barry W. Baird (Roanoke City) Mr. Dennis R. Cronk (Roanoke City) Mr. William M. Hackworth (Roanoke City) Dr. Walter A. Hunt (City of Salem) Mr. Richard A. Shoemaker (Franklin County) Mr. Joseph C. Thomas, Sr. (Roanoke County) Mr. Joseph B. Wright (Roanoke City)
Members Absent	Mr. David P. Mitchell, Jr. (Roanoke County) Mr. Randy Rakes (Botetourt County) Mr. Bill Wilcher (Craig County) Mr. Gary Hancock (State Board Representative)
Staff Present	Mr. Dwight Blalock, VP of Financial & Administrative Services Dr. John Capps, VP of Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Gary Dent, Assistant Professor of History Dr. David Hanson, Director of Institutional Research and Planning Ms. Tara Nepper, Administrative Assistant Dr. Robert H. Sandel, President Mr. Mike Shelton, Human Resources Manager Dr. Chuck Terrell, VP Workforce Development Mr. Kevin Witter, Facilities Management

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Baird, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

Mr. Baird announced a local board appointment from Roanoke County to fulfill Will Davis' unexpired term. Dr. Lorraine Lange, Deputy of Superintendent of Instruction of Roanoke County Schools, will serve as a Roanoke County representative until June 30, 2007. Dr. Lange will be invited to the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. Hunt seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, Minutes No. 222 from the regular meeting of January 19, 2006, were approved as written. The motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Mr. Shelton presented information on the general assembly session which ended March 11, 2006 with out adoption of a new state budget. Two bills which will have an impact on community colleges are HB 1478 which addresses how textbooks and accompanying CD's are bundled. Currently students do not have option of purchasing only the needed components. With HB 1478 faculty will have to affirmatively acknowledge the cost of any instructional materials that is required for offered courses. Current school policy allows faculty to use a new edition for three years before requiring a newer textbook. One piece of legislation that did not pass was the Student Tuition Assistance Grant. This bill would have made it possible for community college graduates with an associate's degree to retain their community college tuition when moving to a four-year in-state university. The State would issue a grant based upon the difference between the two-year and four-year institution cost. This measure would save the state from paying for a student's first two years at a four-year institution. The house did not support this measure because it was viewed as an increase and their position during this session was to not support any new cost measures. The cost would have offset the spending that will be needed to accommodate projected enrollment growth.

There were two critical items in the Governor's Budget that have been cut that will have a direct effect on Virginia Western. Cuts in the budget have taken away the funds for equipment in Webber Hall and the proposed building to replace Anderson Hall. Without the funds for Webber Hall no new equipment will be installed when the building is completed. Anderson Hall is a major facility for math, science, and health technology. Since the Anderson Hall project moved from being a renovation to a replacement, the project fell off the priority list because VWCC has not outlived on-campus space and the additional building was seen as additional available space. Mr. Shelton encouraged the board to communicate with conferees the importance in keeping the funding for Webber Hall equipment and for the need for Anderson Hall to be replaced.

Mr. Baird stated that he has a letter he will provide to board members and Mr. Hackworth would also like some pictures to send.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

Dr. Capps announced a new articulation agreement between VWCC and the University of Richmond. Students who graduate with an Associates of Arts or Associates of Science degree will be able to transfer to the University of Richmond's liberal arts program on the VWCC campus. This will allow students to obtain a bachelor's degree in liberal arts in two years while taking weekend classes. It is a dual admission agreement. Students are guaranteed admission at UR upon their admission to VWCC. Richmond has made a concentrated effort to work with community colleges. This will be the second off-campus sight for Richmond. Financial aid packages will be available to students transferring and Richmond will employ their own faculty and they will also employ some VWCC faculty. This speaks highly of the faculty and programs of VWCC due to the reputation of our academic programs.

Dr. Capps asked for the board's approval for the Intensive Welding Training career studies certificate. This certificate is comprised of 18 credits. Having this welding program is in response to the needs of the business community. There is a growing need for welders in the Roanoke Valley. Board approval is needed to make this into a career studies program so that students will be able to secure financial aid. This course is designed for students to be enrolled for a short time in order to turn-around students who can become gainfully employed immediately upon completion. Workforce development sought out business input and needs and the program is the result of those studies. This speaks to the diversity of the programs and the ways in which the community college is meeting the needs of the community.

On a motion by Mr. Wright and seconded by Mr. Cronk, the board unanimously approved the curricular changes.

Mr. Shoemaker added that he received six telephone calls after Mr. Rick Clark spoke about engineering programs available at VWCC on the local cable accesses program in Franklin County. VWCC's engineering courses are approved to transfer into the programs at Virginia Tech as our courses have been designed very closely with theirs. Dr. Sandel praised Mr. Clark as an outstanding young faculty member.

Dr. Gary Dent presented information on the Honors institute. The Honors Institute was established to meet the needs of higher GPA students looking for a challenging academic career. Dr. Dent and Dr. Annemarie Carroll head up this program. Participants in The Honors Institute receive honors credit which transfer to other institutions and a notation on their diploma. During the second semester there were 54 applicants. The goal for 2006-2007 is 100 participants. This spring two students will graduate with 18 hours from The Honors Institute. Dr. Dent thanked Dr. Sandel and campus administrators for their guidance in getting this program started. Honors classes are smaller which allows an honors student to take a class but do extra work to receive honor credit.

FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Mr. Blalock advised the board of the results of the most recent auditor visit. This year the auditors' emphasis was account receivables. Auditors looked at receivables that were not reported correctly. The auditors found that current policies are not clear and not adequate in reporting receivables from areas such as the library where fines are charged for copyrighted materials not returned. The Business Office will be working with the library to be sure that materials are returned and that students are being charged appropriately. The second point dealt with inventory of physical equipment. In general terms, when items are needed to be discharged then the process needs to be done timely. The current inventory system is outdated and only allows items to be deleted one time a year. On-campus procedures will be reviewed and updated. This is a protection to the college and employees to make sure that adequate document takes place.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Chuck Terrell, VP Workforce Development, presented information about a new program offered titled Command Spanish. This program is a new approach of how to communicate with the growing population of a Spanish speaking workforce. There is a partnership in place with Carilion in which 15 nurses have already been completed one module. Command Spanish has modules that come with manuals containing commands, not conversation, that is necessary to communicate with Spanish speaking individuals. This program can be offered in conjunction with conversational or transfer Spanish courses. The nurses that participated in the program in the fall at Carilion participated in 15 hours of training. A continuation of the first Carilion class will be a conversational Spanish class in which Channel 10 will videotape for use in a news segment. Response has been overwhelming from areas such as in the construction industry for workers and supervisors and general contractors. Dr. Terrell showed the board a sample workbook page showing English commands broken down in the Spanish version and phonetically. The training per module is 15 hours in order to learn about 50 commands in order to communicate basic directives to a workforce.

INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

Dr. David Hanson presented a profile of 2005 graduates.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Mr. Witter reported on current building projects. Duncan Hall is currently about 1 ½ week behind schedule, but still on track overall. Asbestos removal is on schedule to begin as soon as spring classes end. Webber Hall renovations are on schedule and the interior is gutted and progress is underway. The roofs of Duncan Hall, Craig Hall and Chapman Hall will be scheduled for the first part of April.

Another project recently completed was the emergency generator. A project recently put to bid with maintenance project money was the north campus domestic water supply replacement. The current water supply is 35 years old and that project was bid out in January and all bids were over due to date of original project bids dates.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Approaching the localities regarding an increase in funding will be a process that will be taken slowly in order to have all needs properly accessed and documented.

Since last meeting VWCC has been very involved with the legislature and with the VCCS. The house budget is very disappointing with funding for building and equipment on the campus being cut out. Nothing will happen with the building until the transportation issue can be straightened out.

Enrollment is down about 2-2.5%. Lack of full use of facilities had some part in that but also dramatic growth is not happening in the surrounding area. Some local high schools elected to emphasis advanced placement classes rather than support dual enrollment.

The property at Smith Mountain Lake is still in the hands of Franklin County. Once Franklin County makes a decision on how they want to proceed we will be able to move forward. Currently the property is under the auspicious of the state community college board. Even if the property were moved under our foundation board, the connivance of the will still takes precedence.

Graduation is May 12 ay 6:30pm at the Salem Civic Center. Mr. Jim Thweatt will be the commencement speaker. Mr. Baird encouraged everyone to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.

APPROVED:

5/12/06
Date

Robert H. Sandel
Robert H. Sandel