

**VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**LOCAL BOARD MEETING**  
 Minutes No. 228 May 17, 2007

The Virginia Western Community College Board met on Thursday, May 15, 2007 at 3:30 PM in the Commonwealth Conference Room in the Business Science Building on Virginia Western's campus.

<b>ROLL CALL</b>	
<b>Members Present</b>	Mr. Barry W. Baird (Roanoke City) Mr. William M. Hackworth (Roanoke City) Dr. Walter A. Hunt (City of Salem) Dr. Lorraine Lange (Roanoke County) Mr. Richard A. Shoemaker (Franklin County) Mr. Joseph C. Thomas, Sr. (Roanoke County) Mr. Joseph B. Wright (Roanoke City)
<b>Members Absent</b>	Mr. Dennis R. Cronk (Roanoke City) Mr. Gary Hancock (State Board Representative) Mr. David P. Mitchell, Jr. (Roanoke County) Mr. Randy Rakes (Botetourt County) Mr. Bill Wilcher (Craig County)
<b>Staff Present</b>	Mr. Dwight Blalock, VP of Financial & Administrative Services Dr. John Capps, VP of Academic and Student Affairs Ms. Marilyn Herbert-Ashton, Coordinator of Grants, Special Projects and Ms. Anne Kornegay, Dean Health Technology Dr. Gloria Lindsay, Student Activities Director Mr. Owen Loftus, President Faculty Senate Ms. Donna Mitchell, Educational Foundation President Ms. Tara Nepper, Administrative Assistant Dr. Robert H. Sandel, President Mr. Mike Shelton, Human Resources Manager

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Bill Hackworth, chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM.

Since some presenters needed to leave the meeting, some presentations were presented out of order from the agenda.

## **CAMPUS SECURITY UPDATE**

Mr. Mike Shelton gave an update on the Campus Security Plan. Due to the recent event at Virginia Tech, Virginia Western has taken the opportunity to form a committee to review the current Crisis Management Plan. The current plan in place is acceptable but will undergo some updates before the fall semester. The President called for open forums to be held the week of April 30 in order to give faculty, staff and students the opportunity to provide ideas, feedback and thoughts regarding security on campus. Attendees presented good feedback which will be used to update the current plan. A mock-disaster training will be developed with the City of Roanoke and local emergency services and hospitals in order to test current crisis management plans that overlap the various organizations in the community.

Dr. Sandel pointed out the need for training to ensure the college as well as the community has a well thought-out plan in place in the event a disaster occurs. 100% planning can never occur, but training will be the main point in order to best prepare for any future needs of campus-wide emergency service providers.

Dr. Lange noted two Roanoke County high schools have participated and more will participate this summer in mock events which will involve students.

Mr. Thomas asked if any plans were in place for shutting down in the event of a disaster. Mr. Shelton noted the layout of the campus as well as the type of services provided by Virginia Western make a complete shut-down difficult.

Early warning systems, text-messaging alerts, telephone messaging, windows and different locking devices for doors are all being reviewed and analyzed to see what, if any, additional measures the college should undertake.

Mr. Shelton will continue to update the board on the progress of the Crisis Management Plan.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Marilyn Herbert-Ashton gave an update of the Strategic Plan currently being developed. This process will observe how the college functions within the community and what direction the college should take in the future. Ms. Herbert-Ashton presented an organizational chart outlining the people and processes involved. Much data has been collected through focus groups and surveys, and that data is now being reviewed by both on-and off-campus individuals. Ms. Herbert-Ashton thanked the board members who are currently serving on focus groups and task forces.

The Communications Task Force was activated in March, and they are currently working on a webpage which will provide on-going and updated information to internal and external participants of the Strategic Planning process. The group will also use an e-newsletter in addition to the webpage. Ms. Susan Kelley, the consultant hired to lead this process, will be on campus during fall in-service, and she will present information collected to faculty and staff. This process will help the college work toward a five-year plan. This process is also needed for the SACS re-accreditation that will occur in the next few years. Developing a new strategic plan will provide real direction for the college.

Dr. Sandel applauded the faculty and staff on campus who have stepped forward and enthusiastically supported this process.

### **NURSING PROGRAM UPDATE**

In regard to recent news releases regarding the Virginia Western nursing program, Dr. Sandel advised the board that the Virginia Western Nursing Program is and has always been an outstanding program for the college. The college consists of great students and great faculty in this area. Dr. Sandel advised the board that Virginia Western and the nursing program are both accredited by the required agencies. Being accredited by the NLNAC is strictly voluntary and is not a necessary credential for the success of graduates or their future employment or continued education. The fault of not being accredited by the NLNAC lies fully with the college and the fact that the paperwork was not completed with the quality needed.

In retrospect, early notification should have been undertaken with students. Dr. Sandel has been working with the VCCS and the Attorney General's office on issues that have arisen. A response will be submitted to the newspaper to respond to the publicity.

Mr. Baird inquired why the Local Board was not informed prior to public notification of events that had taken place. Mr. Wright suggested an email to the board would have been appropriate before the information was to go to the public. Dr. Sandel responded that prior notification should have taken place but that certain events happened that the college had no prior knowledge were to take place. He ensured the board that in the future, steps will be taken to keep the board informed of any college issues that impact them if he had prior knowledge. Dr. Sandel has not publicly commented to date because he did not see the need to make it more of an issue than what it was.

Ms. Anne Kornegay responded that she understands the concern of the board. Ms. Kornegay felt there was not sufficient time to notify the board in regards to the legal claim against the college since the college found out about the lawsuit on the Friday before the Saturday article in the newspaper. Ms. Kornegay relayed that Virginia statutory law states that programs leading to the registered nursing credentials must be approved by

the Virginia State Board of Nursing and offered at an institution accredited by a regional accreditation agency such as the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. NLNAC accreditation of a nursing program is required by the state for graduates to take the NCLEX examination for licensure. This is true in Virginia and across the United States. A state board approves programs, which are reviewed every eight years. The nursing program at Virginia Western was initiated in 1972 and approved in 1974. In 1979 NLNAC accreditation was sought and had been in place until August 2006 when notification was received that Virginia Western failed to satisfy two of 23 criteria. Since that time Virginia Western has paid additional fees in order to enter into the candidacy process to receive this accreditation. The added-value of being associated with NLNAC is currently being reviewed. According to NLNAC requirements, 100% of full- and part-time faculty are supposed to have a master's degree in nursing. A nation-wide shortage of nurses and nursing instructors with a graduate degree in nursing makes this requirement difficult to obtain. The state of Virginia approves bachelor degree part-time faculty. The college is working with current faculty not at the master's level to obtain their degrees. According to NLNAC criteria, the necessary master's degree must be in nursing. A master's degree in any other field, whether health-related or not, cannot be substituted.

The second criterion Virginia Western failed to properly document was to show educational outcomes of the program. Neither of the areas rejected was related to resources, clinical areas, admissions or retention. The students involved in the recently submitted complaint allege that the college has placed a road-block to license, employment and to transfer to a BSN program. That information is incorrect. In the state of Virginia, the only requirement to sit for licensure is to graduate from a state-approved program. Virginia participates in a compact with multiple states that allow students who pass the NCLEX the opportunity to pay a fee and become licensed in other states. With the issue of transfer, many other VCCS schools do not have this voluntary accreditation and find that they have no problem transferring as long as students meet the entrance requirements. As of 2006, at least one-third of nursing programs in the United States do not have NLNAC accreditation nationwide. Currently, a national debate is taking place as to the value of retaining NLNAC accreditation.

Mr. Baird inquired if there is an advantage to the student for a program to have this accreditation. Ms. Korngeay cannot currently find any advantages to students. She has researched various applications and has not found where NLNAC accreditation is mentioned. Mr. Baird observed that if the accreditation was not a major concern, then students should have been notified right away. The NLNAC accreditation was not published in the 2007-2008 college catalog.

Ms. Mitchell asked if the Virginia Western pass rates have been shared with the newspaper. She also questioned that if the issue of master's level faculty has not changed why the college sought to apply for candidacy. Ms. Korngeay informed the board that she

was notified that master's-level faculty can supervise the bachelor's-level faculty, but that option had not been offered in the past. Nursing educator's salaries have been given a raise, but that move does not lead to immediate availability of master's-level educators in the nursing field.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR**

Mr. Hackworth announced that he and all board members have had a chance to review Dr. Sandel's evaluation letter that will be presented to the Chancellor. On a motion by Mr. Baird, seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, the evaluation letter to the Chancellor was approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Lange reported that commencement went well and she was honored to be the guest speaker. Dr. Sandel praised Dr. Lange for her presentation as the commencement speaker. Dr. Lange was a wonderful speaker, and the event went well for everyone.

Mr. Hackworth noted that the July Board meeting will be cancelled unless an agenda item arises. The next meeting will be September 20, 2007, and it will be held in the President's Conference Room. A tour of the campus will be given during the next Board meeting.

Mr. Hackworth welcomed Mr. Owen Loftus, Faculty Senate President, to the meeting.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Mr. Shoemaker and seconded by Mr. Thomas, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 15, 2007 were approved.

#### **ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Capps provided a list of the 2007-2008 Academic Scholarship Recipients and noted that local political subdivisions provide funds for these scholarships. Dr. Capps noted that every effort is made to provide a scholarship to at least one student from each locality that submits a qualifying application. This year, no applications were received from Craig County. The distribution of scholarships is based on \$34,000 received from the various localities. This year \$36,500 was available for scholarships due to unspent funds from the James Thweatt Commonwealth Legacy Scholarship.

A total of 15 students will receive scholarships for 15 credit-hours each. The grade-point average of the recipients this year was 3.68 based on a 4.0 scale. Four students had a grade-point average that exceeded 4.0. The highest GPA was 4.14. Each student will receive a scholarship in the amount of \$2,452, which will cover tuition for 15 credits per semester. Students receiving scholarships in 2007 ranked in their class anywhere from 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 283 to 72<sup>nd</sup> out of 290 (with a GPA of 3.5).

## **FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

Mr. Blalock provided an overview on the college's local fund budgets. Mr. Blalock presented the proposed President's, College and Student Activities budgets. He noted that there is an increase of \$3,000 in the President's Activities budget. The college will have about \$26,000 from vending commissions this year. The President and College Activities budget come from vending and bookstore profits. The source for the Student Activities budget is an attachment to tuition.

Mr. Blalock stated that to-date 100% of the President's Activities and 74% of the Student Activities budgets have been spent. The college will spend most of the College Activities budget for this fiscal year.

On a motion by Mr. Wright, seconded by Mr. Baird, the board unanimously approved the President's Activities, the College Activities, and the Student Activities budgets as presented.

Mr. Blalock also noted that Mr. Hackworth, chairman, has reviewed and approved local budget spending.

## **EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**

Ms. Mitchell noted that a comprehensive analysis has been completed by the environmental scanning task force and is available for preview. Ms. Mitchell is excited about the strategic planning process. The college is actively looking the community for ways to impact programs, certificates, programs of study and other offerings of the college. The focus groups have been diverse and provided very good information. This process has also offered external customers the opportunity to see what the college offers and give valuable feed-back.

The foundation is preparing to launch the 2007-2008 Annual Fund. Letters are being prepared for distribution and the foundation is asking for 100% participation. During the 2006-2007 school year, the foundation was able to give \$100,000 in scholarships. All monies raised during the annual fund will go directly into grants and scholarships.

Mr. Hackworth applauded the presentation Ms. Kay Strickland and Dr. Sandel made to City Council. Many council members later commented to Mr. Hackworth that they are now better informed about the college due to the presentation. Dr. Hunt commended Ms. Strickland for the wonderful work she does on the part of the foundation.

Mr. Hackworth informed the Board that he will appoint an executive committee that will be charged to select a new board chairman and vice-chairman for the 2007-2008 year.

Mr. Hackworth also noted that Mr. Bob Slaughter, a major supporter of the Bedford D-Day Memorial, is a graduate of Virginia Western and has mentioned that his experience at Virginia Western changed his life. Mr. Hackworth feels that Mr. Slaughter should be contacted for his support of the college.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Sandel reviewed his 2006-2007 Goals and Objectives Assessment. He stated that the community college presidents develop their goals in line with the Chancellor's goals for the Virginia Community College System. He then reviewed his 2007-2008 proposed goals. On a motion by Mr. Baird, and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker, the board unanimously approved Dr. Sandel's 2006-2007 Goals and Objectives Assessment and his 2007-2008 goals.

Dr. Sandel advised the Board that the President's Office is currently undergoing removal of asbestos and a renovation. Dr. Sandel would like the Board's approval to use state funds to upgrade the facility and furnishings in the President's Office. The current office has not seen improvements in over 30 years and is in need of restructuring and improvements. Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve that Dr. Sandel move forward with renovations to the President's Office and Mr. Baird seconded. The board unanimously approved. Motion passed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:16 PM.

**APPROVED:**

1/30/08  
Date

Robert H. Sandel  
Robert H. Sandel