

**VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**Local Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Meeting No. 300, March 19, 2026**  
**STEM Building, ST112, 11:30am**

**Members Present:** Valerie Brown, Roanoke City  
Leslie Carter, Franklin County  
Penny Hodge, Roanoke County  
Michael Maxey, Salem City  
Dr. Ken Nicely, Roanoke County  
Todd Putney, Roanoke City – Chair  
Dr. Beth Quinn, Roanoke City – Vice Chair  
Tim Rowe, Roanoke County  
Chad Scott, Roanoke City  
Dr. Jason Wheeler, Craig County

**Members Absent:** Kate Lawrence, Botetourt County

**Faculty/Staff Present:** Dr. Laura Treanor, College President/Board Secretary  
Amy Balzer, Assistant to the College President  
Bernadette Battle, Vice President of Student Affairs  
Carrie Duckwall, Assistant to the College President  
Dr. Jolene Hamm, Assoc. Vice President of Institutional Effectiveness  
Marilyn Herbert-Ashton, Vice President of Institutional Advancement  
Jennifer Pittman, Assoc. Vice President of Human Resources  
Lisa Ridpath, Vice President of Financial and Administrative Services  
Jamie Snead, Dir Marketing/Strategic Communications  
George Studtmann, Faculty Senate Chair  
Bryan Walke, Staff Senate Chair  
Dr. Elizabeth Wilmer, Vice President of Academic and WF Solutions  
Kevin Witter, Director of Facilities Planning & Development

**I. WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Putney called the meeting to order at 11:35a.m. He welcomed guests, board members, and college employees. Mr. Putney welcomed new board member, Mike Maxey, representing Salem City. He also noted that quorum was present with full board attendance. Mr. Putney shared excitement for the new year and new semester and noted the new meeting format will hopefully streamline the meeting to allow discussion time to dig deeper into desired topics.

Ms. Brown added that Dr. Treanor will be presenting at the Greater Williamson Road Aea Business Association Meeting on Tuesday (1/20/26) and invited all to attend.

***Ms. Brown made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2025 meeting of the Local Advisory Board. Mr. Scott seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

## **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments.

## **III. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dr. Treanor thanked everyone for attending and introduced Michael Maxey, the newly appointed board member representing Salem City.

Dr. Treanor then reported on the following:

- Enrollment headcount is above this time last year. Final numbers will be available in a few weeks.
- The VCCS Student Legislative Visit is scheduled for January 27th. Six students and three college leaders will be attending. Great opportunity for students to engage with our local legislators.
- Spring semester in-service was filled with enthusiasm. An inspiring speaker was selected from EAB, addressing the new landscape of higher education, and the college offered a variety of professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
- Leadership is looking forward to upcoming campus professional development opportunities with Academic Impressions. A pilot group of 35 internal leaders will take part in intensive professional development and training on innovation.
- The VIBE (Visionary Innovation and Bold Engagement) framework was revisited with focus on how the college was investing in professional development that would assist in further developing the knowledge and skill of our faculty and staff in key areas of innovation.
- Efforts are underway by the Chancellor for One VCCS by leveraging and aligning all 23 colleges, while allowing individual operations. This will take time and will have growing pains.
- New federal requirements on digital accessibility have been established, and the college is working hard to ensure compliance by April 2026. There have been several professional development sessions and activities designed to support our faculty and staff in this endeavor.
- President Treanor is increasing her involvement in the community and has joined several community leadership boards and committees.
- As laid out in President Treanor's framework of Listen, Link and Lead, planning is underway for a several stakeholder group listening sessions that will help inform the colleges next strategic plan. Additionally, a college-wide Town Hall is planned.
- President Treanor expressed excitement about the launch of the new Discussion portion of the LAB quarterly meetings and shared that she looked forward to sharing the data from the Translating Opportunity Institutional Assessment survey.

## **IV. COLLEGE REPORTS AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **Academic and Workforce Solutions**

Dr. Wilmer then noted the 2026 Curriculum Advisory Committee memberships as provided in the meeting packet. These are freshened every year to assist with keeping curriculum relevant.

***Ms. Brown presented the motion to approve the 2026 Curriculum Advisory Committees as provided. Mr. Scott seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

Dr. Wilmer then presented the following programming action items:

Program Additions

Advanced EMT CSC (VCCS 102 Form)

Program Discontinuances

IST: Web Programming CSC

Nurse Aide CSC

Program Name Changes (new names)

IST: Data Analytics and Programming Solutions CSC

IST: Data Analytics and Programming Solutions Specialization AAS

***Ms. Hodge presented the motion to approve academic programming additions, discontinuances, and changes as noted above. Ms. Carter seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

Dr. Wilmer added that the AWS division report is provided in the meeting packet.

### **Financial and Administrative Services**

Ms. Hodge shared the FY 2026 Financial Reports update noting funding sources are all on track or better. Maintenance Fund increase request for the completion of the campus-wide lighting improvements was discussed.

***Ms. Hodge presented the motion and second on behalf of the Finance Committee to recommend Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 Local Fund Financial Report for the period of July 1, 2025, through January 5, 2026, with noted adjustments. With no discussion or objection, the motion was unanimously approved.***

Ms. Ridpath requested all to review the capital projects update included in the meeting packets as prepared by Mr. Witter.

### **Human Resources**

Ms. Pittman presented the 2025-2026 Emeritus Honorees for Board approval. These nominations are selected by the appropriate senates.

- Lori Baker, Administrative and Professional Faculty Emeritus
- Brad Burkholder, Faculty Emeritus
- Robert Coleman, Classified Staff Emeritus

***Mr. Rowe made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 Emeritus Nominations as presented. Ms. Brown seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.***

### **Institutional Advancement**

Ms. Herbert-Ashton noted, in addition to the written update, the very exciting news that the Educational Foundation has confirmed a pledged gift, for the formal naming of the STEM facility, valued at \$6 million earmarked for the Virginia Western Forward Fund. The Foundation looks forward to sharing more details at the March meeting. She added that social media and Marketing are doing stellar work. Lastly, she commented on Dr. Treanor's activities both on and off campus, noting she's been busy getting acclimated to the college and community. Marketing has produced a webpage to follow Dr. Treanor's activities, Listen.Link.Lead.: <https://www.viriniawestern.edu/president/>

### **Institutional Effectiveness**

Dr. Hamm referenced the IE division report in the meeting packet and offered briefly that the College's Strategic Plan has been aligned with the VCCS strategic Plan, Accelerate Opportunity. The VWCC Strategic Plan is a living fluid document that is refreshed on a regular basis to remain relevant.

### **Student Affairs**

Ms. Battle shared that the Director of Student Support Services position has been filled. This was created in response to a dramatic increase in student support requests related to wellness, financial hardship, and academic persistence. This role reflects a shared institutional commitment to ensuring students experience coordinated care, timely support, and clear pathways to success. This will allow SA to leverage their resources to best serve the students. Woohoo Classes start on Tuesday!

## **V. DISCUSSION ITEM**

Dr. Treanor shared with the board that Dr. Hamm would be providing the results of the Translating Institutional Opportunity Assessment survey recently completed by Local Board members (8) and college leadership (6), noting the small sample size. Moving forward, the intention is to increase survey participation across campus. She noted that this survey was first shared at the Chancellor's Retreat in August 2025 and is intended to assist in understanding how effectively the institution transforms opportunity into tangible student experience by gathering perceptions on how well the college is doing and what areas that the college may need improvement.

Dr. Hamm provided an overview of the survey responses; noting Board and Leadership responses presented both parallel and opposing views. Some responses were naturally different due to the board being external customers and the leadership being college employees. Dr. Hamm noted that the report synthesizes both data sets to present a comprehensive view of institutional strengths, perception gaps, and opportunities for mission-driven improvement.

The assessment organizes this concept into four "dialects":

- Aspirational – Inspiring students to imagine future possibilities
- Personal – Supporting students as individuals with diverse needs
- Practical – Ensuring clear pathways to outcomes, skills, and careers
- Dignifying – Upholding the inherent worth of every student

Dr. Treanor posed the following questions for discussion:

- What are some possible explanations for the differences in perspectives we're seeing?
- What stands out as encouraging or affirming?
- Which divergences feel most consequential for our mission, students, or community partners and why?
- If we could address only one alignment issue together this year, which should it be, and how can we partner to make real progress?

The Board in general agreed that some of the 'unsure' responses might simply reflect a lack of knowledge/exposure on a daily basis and that perhaps increased engagement and communications beyond the set Board meetings would be helpful. Dr. Treanor noted that 'unsure' responses are opportunities and perhaps can be content for board meeting discussion topics. Dr. Wheeler noted the

importance of understanding how these surveyed areas tie into the college mission. The board members were encouraged to follow VWCC on social media platforms as they are fun and informative ways to stay abreast of the activities of the college and its people.

**REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Mr. Putney shared the 2026 meeting schedule and asked members to notify Amy Balzer with their intentions to participate in Commencement on May 15, 2026. Mr. Putney offered a quick reminder to submit the required Conflict of Interest forms by the end of the month and to contact Amy Balzer if you have any concerns. Lastly, the Board Bus Tour is in the works for late April, so watch for emails.

**REMINDERS:**

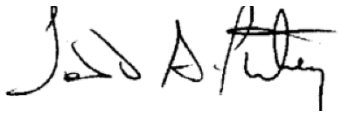
Next full board meeting: March 19, 2026, at 11:30am, STEM ST112

Next Finance Committee Meeting: March 19,2026, at 10:30am, STEM ST114

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Amy Balzer.

Approved:



March 19, 2026

Todd Putney, Local Board Chair

Date