

Marion Technical College  
**Board of Trustees**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, January 21, 2025  
Health Technologies Center Auditorium

**Call to Order**

Chair Fogle called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**Roll Call**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Chair Kit Fogle, Vice Chair Michael McCleese, Mr. Tim Anderson, and Ms. Jude Foulk.

Ms. Vidya Iyengar, Ms. Roxane Somerlot, and Mr. Don Plotts were absent.

**Introduction of Guests**

Guests present included MTC employees Dr. Ryan McCall, Dr. Bob Haas, Ms. Rhonda Ward, and Ms. Laura Woughter. Mr. Brad Billet, Clark Schaefer Hackett, was also present virtually.

**Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the consent agenda was approved.

**Major Discussion Topic**

Mr. Brad Billet, Clark Schaefer Hackett, presented to the Board on the fiscal year 2024 audit. For fiscal year 2024, the auditors looked at two major programs: student financial aid and the College's research and development cluster (Title III and NSF grants), which together total nearly 90% of the institution's federal spending. The College's fiscal year 2024 audit was unmodified, denoting no significant deficiencies, material weakness, or instances of noncompliance in tested areas. Ms. Ward noted the new student information system will impact the next audit, as will the pending purchase of the downtown location.

Mr. Billet noted a nearly \$900,000 increase in the College's cash position between 2023 and 2024. The College's outstanding liability to Ohio State Marion will be completed in the fiscal year 2025 audit. Tuition and fee revenue was driven by the \$5 per credit hour increase and the

College's enrollment growth. Mr. Billet noted the decrease in the College's federal grants was due to the end of HEERF stimulus funds because of the pandemic, and Ms. Ward noted the College's revised budget will show \$3.7 million in grant revenue due to new award notices. The College's Senate Bill 6 composite score, without pension and OPEB amounts, for fiscal year 2024 was 4.20; the score has remained unchanged over four years.

Dr. McCall provided a legislative update to the Board, with numerous changes at the start of the General Assembly in chamber leadership. House Speaker Matt Huffman met with the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) in the fall and indicated interest in shorter time to degrees and credentials. Senator Bill Reineke, who represents the College, will become President Pro Tempore. Dr. McCall, Dr. Adams, and Ms. Woughter will be in D.C. in February to meet with the College's congressional delegation, excepting the new senators.

## **President's Report**

Dr. McCall highlighted the following from the President's Report:

- The College is continuing in the NCII Rural Guided Pathways project as one of 32 rural schools implementing guided pathways principles.
- The College received a grant through ODHE's Campus Safety Grant totaling \$118,000. The funds will allow for the purchase of panic buttons for front facing offices, swipe card access on more doors, and additional monitoring systems.
- Dr. McCall hosted a high school partner meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>, talking to superintendents, principals, and guidance counselors about the College's switch to 8-week classes on campus and online. The group provided positive feedback, with two districts interested in transitioning to 8-week courses at their schools.
- Dr. McCall has been selected to serve on the OACC Strategic Planning Committee to assist in developing new goals for the organization over the next five years.
- The College found out very recently it was awarded an NSF S-STEM grant, totaling just under \$1 million; \$600,000 will support student scholarships for STEM programs.

## **Monitoring Reports**

### **EL 4.4 Services**

Dr. McCall highlighted the following items from his written report:

- Activities that are not core to the academic activities but still support the College's mission, including the K-12 Teacher bootcamp and Made in Marion Expo. The College is a member of a number of local organizations, including the Chamber, CANDO!, and MAWAC.

### **EL 4.12 Conflict of Interest**

Due to the changes in the Board meeting and monitoring report schedule, the report was last reviewed in August 2024; there were no changes to the report evidence due to the timing of the annual ethics filing and latest report.

Chair Fogle requested a motion to accept the monitoring reports. Ms. Foulk made a motion to approve, and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

#### EL 4.5 Financial Condition and FY25 Revised Budget

Ms. Ward highlighted the following from her written report:

- Spring revenue is ahead of budget and last year at the same point in time, except for the prison student population. Ms. Ward anticipated an additional revised budget in March to account for changes in instructional costs.
- The College has set a goal of 50% of incarcerated students accessing Pell funds through Second Chance Pell. Currently, 37% of students are on Pell funds. Ms. Ward attributed the lower percentage to nationwide issues with the FAFSA. Dr. McCall also noted all prison FAFSAs are done manually and on paper; there are significant challenges to the manual processing and mailing to the Department of Education. DOE has offered a late dispersal to retroactively qualify fall students, and the College is working with ODRC on billing changes.
- Expenses are up slightly due to several factors but are consistent for budget timing, including institutional performance pay and increases in instructional costs to meet enrollment growth.
- Cash is up year over year, attributed to the timing of drawing down Title IV funds (a month earlier) and the funding held for the purchase of MTC Downtown. The College's investment is paying 4.7% currently. The remaining capital reserve is almost \$282,000, which includes the addition of funds for Chromebooks for the prison approved at the November 2024 meeting.

Ms. Ward presented a revised budget to the Board with a change in net income of \$222,238; the revision includes the following items:

- Flat revenue from the last revision in November.
- A pot of funding to distribute to faculty for converting 16-week courses to the 8-week format, based on a set calculation. The College will be moving all classes (with some exemptions) to 8-weeks over the next two academic years.
- Funding to support the mid-year start-up costs for the new Early Childhood Education program, including salary and benefits, course development, marketing, and materials. Ms. Foulk asked what the outcome of the program is, and Dr. Haas noted graduates will be qualified to work in a childcare facility and as a pathway to transfer to an education degree. Dr. Haas provided some additional details on the work within the community to fill job positions in early childhood facilities.
- Additional funds to support phase one of the College's planned restructuring, which Ms. Ward noted she continues to estimate the costs associated with the changes. Dr. McCall shared the plan to hire a dedicated institutional researcher in the first phase of the restructure; the College has had preliminary conversations with Terra State Community College to cost share the position. Dr. McCall indicated more decisions will be finalized after the College's FY26 subsidy estimate is known.

- The College's student information system, PowerCampus, will be sunset. A core team of employees have vetted a replacement and selected Ellucian Simplify. The change in systems and moving financial aid into one system have expedited the timeline for implementation. The go live date will be July 2026. Over four years, the implementation and purchase of Simplify is estimated to be \$1.4 million. Ms. Ward noted the software subscription cannot be capitalized, but the implementation cost could be capitalized and will ask the Board to use reserves for that cost, allowing more flexibility for the operating budget. Dr. McCall noted the College is already exploring grant opportunities to help cover the cost in the future, with Title III as an option once the College has completed its current grant and waiting period. Dr. McCleese asked if the costs were predictable, or if the contract could be increased sporadically. Ms. Ward noted the contract is set over the next five years, with a 4% increase annually; most of the College's software packages increase about 7% annually. Ms. Ward requested to move \$106,173 from general reserves into capital reserves to cover year one implementation costs for the new SIS.
- Additional expenses include legal expenses and increased marketing initiatives for the College.
- Ms. Ward highlighted the additional grant awards for the Reinforcing Instructors for Semiconductor Education (RISE) and NSF S-STEM within the revised budget.

Chair Fogle requested a motion to accept the financial condition report. Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve, and Ms. Foulk seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Chair Fogle requested a motion to accept the FY25 revised budget, in its fourth revision. Ms. Foulk made a motion to approve, and Vice Chair McCleese seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

## **Policy Review/Governance Issues**

### **EL 4.7 Funding**

Vice Chair McCleese reviewed the policy with the Board and felt the policy and evidence were sufficient. No changes to the policy were requested.

### **EL 4.8 Asset Protection**

Mr. Anderson reviewed the policy with the Board and felt the policy and evidence were sufficient. No changes to the policy were requested.

## **Informational Items**

The AACC conference will be held in April in Nashville and the ACCT conference will be held in New Orleans in October. Trustees interested in attending should let Dr. McCall know.

The Board's retreat will be held in April at the Statehouse as a time to meet with legislators and advocate for the College.

### **Executive Session**

Ms. Foulk motioned to convene to executive session at 6:55 p.m. to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, compensation of a public employee or official, and for subjects of pending or imminent court action. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Chair Fogle – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Vice Chair McCleese – aye.

Vice Chair McCleese motioned to return to open session and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:20 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Fogle moved to adjourn the meeting. The Board adjourned at 7:21 p.m.