

Marion Technical College
Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 11, 2025
Health Technologies Center Auditorium

Call to Order

Chair Fogle called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Chair Kit Fogle, Mr. Tim Anderson, Ms. Vidya Iyengar, and Ms. Roxane Somerlot.

Vice Chair Michael McCleese, Ms. Jude Foulk, and Mr. Don Plotts were absent.

Introduction of Guests

Guests present included MTC employees Dr. Ryan McCall, Dr. Bob Haas, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Mr. Mike Stuckey, and Ms. Laura Woughter.

Trustee Appointments

The Board reviewed resumes for Mr. Anderson and Vice Chair McCleese, both of which are up for reappointment. Ms. Iyengar motioned to recommend Mr. Anderson and Vice Chair McCleese to the Trustee Selection Committee for reappointment. Ms. Somerlot seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the recommendation was approved.

The Board reviewed the resume for Ms. Mary Fox to fill a local vacancy on the Board. Ms. Fox is an attorney out of Wyandot County, who also serves as an adjunct law instructor at Ohio Northern University. Ms. Somerlot motioned to recommend Ms. Fox to the Trustee Selection Committee for appointment. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the recommendation was approved.

Major Discussion Topic

Dr. McCall presented to the Board on the College's plan to move the majority of courses to 8-week format. Trustees were presented data from comparable peer community colleges and research from national organizations, with an emphasis on student success rates in both 16- and

8-week formats. The College's Business program has piloted 8-week classes and demonstrated that pass rates for 8-week courses are higher compared to 16-week courses, and drops, withdrawals, and fails were also lower.

Ms. Iyengar asked if the transition was similar to the state mandate for public institutions to move from quarters to semesters. Dr. McCall explained that the state change was based on efficiency amongst institutions, with limited consideration for student outcomes. The College's transition is internally driven, and will allow students to take fewer courses currently, without lowering their total number of courses in a full semester. Dr. McCall also noted that part-time students are taking up to 3.5 years to complete a 2-year program; time to completion continues to be a national topic across higher education institutions. Dr. McCall also noted the opportunity cost for students to complete and enter the workforce sooner, increasing their lifetime earning potential.

Data was also provided on College Credit Plus (CCP) students, with 92.1% of dually enrolled students successfully completing 8-week courses, compared to 89.6% successfully completing a 16-week course. Ms. Somerlot questioned if the close percentage was based on the students, and Dr. McCall acknowledged CCP students traditionally complete at a higher level across the board.

Dr. McCall highlighted a number of reasons driving the change, in addition to information already provided on student success:

- Funding – The College is funded on a performance-based funding model, and improved outcomes will directly impact the College's share of state subsidy.
- Political – Increased interest in reducing time to completion from state leaders and nationally.
- Employers – Meeting workforce needs and helping fill vacancies now.

Ms. Iyengar asked if other community colleges are making the same change, and Dr. McCall noted there are some doing so, but it is limited. The College will transition courses over two academic years, starting with fall 2025. Mr. Anderson asked if health courses will remain 16-weeks, and Dr. McCall noted there will be some courses that cannot be transitioned, including health courses. He has asked all programs to transition as many courses as practical based on the curriculum. Faculty may request exemption through a peer review panel, and Dr. McCall noted the health programs will receive exemptions to get them through their next accreditation cycles. Ms. Somerlot asked how faculty will have to adapt in relation to this change, and Dr. McCall shared the College is providing four professional development sessions for faculty related to classroom engagement, course mapping, and cognitive load. Ms. Somerlot asked how working students will be affected, and Dr. McCall noted the College's Guided Pathways Steering Council has a working group focused on student-driven scheduling and will have to understand those nuances.

Consent Agenda

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes

Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Ms. Somerlot seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the consent agenda was approved.

President's Report

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

- The College met two of three performance metrics for the Perkins grant. Ms. Woughter now serves as the College's Perkins grant administrator, and will begin preparing for submissions for FY26.
- The College is continuing in the National Center for Inquiry and Improvement (NCII) Rural Guided Pathways project. Four Ohio community colleges are now a part of the program.
- Dr. McCall has been engaging with school district superintendents related to their partnerships with the College and how the 8-week transition may impact dually enrolled students.
- Dr. McCall has been regularly meeting with state and federal elected officials, with recent trips to D.C. and to the Ohio Statehouse. Dr. McCall highlighted increased requirements and approvals for the Board through proposed Senate Bill 1 and House Bill 96 (state operating budget). Both bills are currently under review.

Monitoring Reports

EL 4.2 Strategic Plan

Dr. McCall provided a copy of the current strategic plan. He also highlighted the College recently completed a strategic visioning process to develop a new strategic plan to begin July 2025. The College's vision is "We create, elevate, and navigate with grace." Complimentary to the College's vision are themes:

- Trusted leaders;
- Data informed risk takers;
- "Your first choice";
- Dream big;
- Innovators; and,
- A caring campus.

The College has identified bold steps to implement the vision, including:

- Enhance and revitalize facilities and technology in a fiscally responsible and accessible manner.
- Targeted expansion of our presence.

- Earn our place on the Aspen 150 list.
- Achieve HLC accreditation reaffirmation without monitoring.
- Incorporate a caring campus culture.
- Distinguish ourselves among educational providers.

Working groups have been created to finalize game plans to meet the bold steps identified. The Board had a further discussion of the metrics to be selected for the Aspen 150.

EL 4.5 Financial Condition and FY25 Revised Budget

Ms. Ward highlighted the following from her written report:

- Revenue continues to be strong due to increased enrollment. Credit hour enrollment year over year is ahead for CCP (13.7%) and general students (8.5%). Prison student credit hours are down 7.1% year over year; this is largely due to challenges in FAFSA filings nationally that continue to impact prison students and the College's Second Chance Pell project.
- Expenses are ahead compared to 2024, with salary and benefits contributing to the change year over year. This is largely due to enrollment growth requiring additional positions be added. Certain departments that are ahead of their expenses are related to expenses paid early in the fiscal year, such as software licenses and subscriptions.
- The College's cash position is inflated due to the holding of funds for purchase of Marion Tech Downtown, which will be funded by congressionally directed spending through the Small Business Administration.
- The College's investment account through Star OHIO is currently paying 4.5%.
- The College's capital reserve at the end of the period is \$365,150, including the addition of \$102,959 approved at the November 2024 meeting and \$106,173 at the January 2025 meeting. Those additions will allow for purchase of Chromebooks for the prison facilities and offset costs of the ERP implementation, respectively.

Ends 1.2 Student Success

Dr. McCall highlighted the following information from his written report as evidence of meeting the expectations of the policy:

- Graduate wage data compiled by program was made available.
- 10 BSN students are expected to graduate this academic year.
- Aspire provides ESOL classes in the community.

Dr. McCall provided the Board with an analysis from the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) that compares the College to the community college sector based on the performance-based funding model metrics. The Board discussed the individual metrics in greater detail.

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

Policy Review/Governance Issues

EL 4.4 Services

Chair Fogle reviewed the policy with the Board and noted evidence provided in the most recent report. No changes were requested.

EL 4.12 Conflict of Interest

Ms. Foulk was absent; the policy review will be moved to the May meeting.

Informational Items

Dr. McCall asked if the Board was interested in adopting a remote meeting policy, as is allowable under Ohio Revised Code section 3345.82. The Board was interested in adopting a policy; a draft policy will be brought to the Board for review at the May meeting.

Dr. McCall reminded the Board of the fourth annual Foundation golf outing on May 22nd. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

Ms. Woughter updated the Board that due to a lack of availability, the College will no longer hold a Board retreat in April. In place of planned legislative advocacy during the retreat, Ms. Woughter invited trustees to participate in the OACC Legislative Day on April 8th, and also indicated the possibility of additional legislative meetings in May for the Board to participate in. The College is closely following the progress of Senate Bill 1 (reintroduction of Senate Bill 83 from the 135th General Assembly). The sponsor has indicated a desire for the legislation to pass the House by the end of March. The state operating budget is undergoing hearings in the House, with the first round of amendments due March 14th. The as-introduced bill holds state share of instruction (SSI) flat; Ms. Woughter did not anticipate either chamber to support an increase in SSI. More substantive policy changes are anticipated by the chambers based on a continued emphasis on higher education.

The College is awaiting notice from the Controlling Board on whether the request to purchase the downtown building will be heard on the March 24th or April 7th meeting. Ms. Somerlot asked if Controlling Board was the last hurdle for the purchase, and Ms. Woughter noted it is the last big step, but there will still be some other tasks to complete to finalize the purchase.

Dr. McCall shared with the Board the continued conversations with the Morrow County Development Office and county commissioners. There continues to be a strong desire for Marion Tech to establish a physical presence in the county. Dr. McCall has repeatedly shared with the interested parties that Marion Tech cannot pay to establish a facility in Morrow County; any

expansion would require funds from the county or grants to support the need. Dr. McCall noted the executive leadership team toured one space in the county that would need renovation, and indicated there may be potential for the building to be donated to the College through the Foundation. Any expansion to Morrow County would allow the College to create new, non-duplicative programming. No immediate decisions have been made, however Dr. McCall wanted to keep the Board apprised of the continuing conversations.

Executive Session

No executive session was held.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The Board adjourned at 7:01 p.m.