

Marion Technical College  
**Board of Trustees**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Tuesday, September 17, 2024  
Health Technologies Center Conference Room

**Call to Order**

Acting Chair Somerlot called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

**Roll Call**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Trustees present were Mr. Tim Anderson, Ms. Jude Foulk, Dr. Michael McCleese, Mr. Don Plotts, and Ms. Roxane Somerlot.

Chair Kit Fogle and Ms. Vidya Iyengar were absent.

In the absence of a Chair, immediate past Chair Somerlot served as Acting Chair for the purposes of this meeting.

**Introduction of Guests**

Guests present included MTC employees Dr. Amy Adams, Dr. Bob Haas, Ms. Rhonda Ward, Mr. Mike Stuckey, Ms. Joan Smalley, and Ms. Laura Woughter.

Dr. Ryan McCall was not present at the meeting as he was traveling for a conference.

**Major Discussion Topic**

Dr. Haas shared with the Board the College's current student information system, PowerCampus by Ellucian, is being sunset and current users will be required to move to another product or a new company. The College will need to have a plan in place by early 2025 to meet the integration expectation timeline of 18 to 24 months. Dr. Haas, Ms. Ward, and Ms. Joanna Duvall, Director of Information Systems, have begun meeting with companies to investigate alternatives that can incorporate student information, financial aid processing, accounting, and human resources and payroll. Dr. Haas did share the expectation that a new student information system is likely to cost over \$300,000 (not including implementation), whereas PowerCampus is around \$100,000 annually.

Dr. Haas also shared, separately, the College is investigating a new learning management system to replace Canvas, ultimately because Canvas will not service the correctional facilities. The College is in conversations with Brightspace, which has experience in correctional facilities. The cost of Brightspace annually is \$35,000 versus Canvas' annual cost of \$60,000; Dr. Haas expected some additional costs to accommodate instruction at the correctional facilities would bring the costs closer together.

Acting Chair Somerlot questioned why the Ohio Department of Higher Education couldn't help to negotiate a state-level contract for higher education institutions in Ohio, or have a common system for all. Dr. Haas noted some challenges, including the lack of a common course numbering system in the state.

Ms. Ward noted potential to leverage a Title III grant to cover some of the implementation costs of a new system, though the College will have to sit out for one year from the conclusion of the current Title III grant.

### **Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of preceding meeting minutes

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

### **President's Report**

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

- The local United Way chapter has awarded the College \$10,000 to support student emergency aid. Dr. Adams and Mr. Stuckey have purchased gas cards to help students in need, and have received positive feedback on the support.
- The College has submitted a TRIO grant for student support services, totaling \$1.36 million over five years, and expects to hear back soon.
- The Aspire program is offering ESOL classes at Downtown Marion and has seen an uptick in the number of students.
- A group of employees from across the College visited Patrick & Henry Community College in Martinsville, Virginia, to learn about their change from 16-week to 8-week courses.
- The College hosted a joint guidance counselor update with Ohio State Marion in September.

### **Monitoring Reports**

## EL 4.5 Financial Condition and FY25 Revised Budget

Ms. Ward highlighted the following from her written report and in relation to the proposed FY25 revised budget:

- The College budgeted flat to FY24 for all student populations and conversion of 50% incarcerated students to Second Chance Pell.
- All populations are exceeding their budget, resulting in strong revenue.
- The College has record breaking enrollment, over the prior record in Spring 2024.
- Expenses are tracking at a reasonable rate for the point in time, though some areas are tracking ahead based on timing of the expenditures, such as software licenses and tuition remission.
- Cash on hand is up over \$700,000 year to date, caused by increases in enrollment.
- The College will make its final payment to Ohio State Marion for outstanding cost-share fees in December 2024.
- The College's investment with Star Ohio continues to yield at 5.4%.

For the FY25 revised budget, Ms. Ward included an additional \$273,836 in expenditures to accommodate some changes that need to be incorporated, such as insurance, software increases, needed positions (e.g., one-year Business Faculty appointment), and some spending agreed to but not spent in time for FY24. Ms. Ward intends to bring a second revised budget to a future meeting to include expenditures reviewed and approved by Cabinet for requests by departments in excess of the flat FY25 budget that began July 1, 2024.

Ms. Ward noted the College is still working to close out FY24, and anticipates a surplus of \$383,269.

Acting Chair Somerlot requested a motion to accept the FY25 revised budget. Mr. Plotts made a motion to approve, and Ms. Foulk seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

Acting Chair Somerlot requested a motion to accept the financial condition report. Mr. Plotts made a motion to approve, and Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. By a unanimous vote, the motion was approved.

## **Policy Review/Governance Issues**

### EL 4.1 Communication and Counsel to the Board

Dr. McCleese reviewed the policy with the Board and felt the policy and evidence were sufficient. No changes were requested.

## EL 4.11 Presidential Vacancy

Mr. Plotts reviewed the policy with the Board and felt the policy and contingency plan were sufficient. No changes were requested.

### **Informational Items**

Mr. Plotts questioned if progress was being made on filling Board vacancies. Ms. Woughter noted the governor-appointed vacancy could be filled at any time; however, it is the responsibility of the Governor's office. The local vacancy is required to be filled by the Trustee Selection Committee, and the individual must live in the College's service district. Ms. Woughter noted there is no representation from Wyandot County, and Mr. Plotts asked if there were certain industries missing from the Board. The group discussed seeking a trustee with experience in technology, financial, or legal industries.

Mr. Plotts asked how much money was held by the Foundation, and Dr. Adams replied, between the Foundation's checking account and funds held by the Marion Community Foundation, the total is approximately \$1,850,000.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Plotts motioned to convene to executive session at 6:49 p.m. to consider the purchase of property for public purposes. Dr. McCleese seconded the motion. Acting Chair Somerlot – aye, Mr. Anderson – aye, Ms. Foulk – aye, Dr. McCleese – aye, Mr. Plotts – aye.

Mr. Plotts motioned to return to open session and Dr. McCleese seconded the motion. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:08 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Acting Chair Somerlot moved to adjourn the meeting. The Board adjourned at 7:09 p.m.