



**1000 College Drive
Clifton Forge, VA 24422**

Minutes Number 291

The Mountain Gateway Community College Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday, May 20, 2024, at Mountain Gateway Community College.

The following members participated:

Marylin Alexander	City of Lexington
Jason Coleman	Rockbridge County
Tony McFaddin, Jr.	Rockbridge County
Sue Hirsh	Bath County
Ingrid Barber	Alleghany County
Steve Vaughn	Botetourt County

The following members were absent:

Tammy Scruggs-Duncan	City of Covington
David Crosier	City of Covington
Cheryl Hickman	City of Buena Vista

Members of the College administration/staff in attendance:

Suzanne Ostling	Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
Dr. Benjamin Worth	Vice President of Academic Affairs
Amy Phillips	Executive Director of the MGCC Educational Foundation
Dr. John Rainone	President
Xavier Storey	Recording Clerk, Executive Assistant to the President

1. Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:07 pm. The board noted the departure of board chair Tammy Scruggs-Duncan. She was not able to be at the meeting, but it would have been her last due to the expiration of her second term. Vice Chair and Chair-Elect Marilyn Alexander led the meeting.

2. **Approval of March 11, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the 3/11/2024 meeting was approved.

Mr. Vaughn made the following motion:

TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Ms. Barber seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

3. **Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present.

4. **President's Report**

a. College Updates:

i. Student Services

Ms. Ostling provided an update on student services that was mostly focused on student activities. She presented the student activities budget for the upcoming fiscal year, noting that the numbers were essentially the same as the previous year except for Esports. She noted, regarding the open position of Director of Student Activities, that due to budgetary concerns and a lack of on-campus student engagement, the position would not be filled full-time and would either be done by a part-time person or by having the responsibilities integrated to a currently filled position. Dr. Rainone noted that legislation being debated regarding charging for dual enrollment credits could drastically reduce the college's student activities budget. Ms. Ostling also mentioned that she was thrilled with the number of graduating high-school students attending the college in the fall as well as the volume of students signing up for summer classes.

Ms. Ostling then asked for an approval for the student activities budget.

Mr. Coleman made the following motion:

TO APPROVE THE FY25 STUDENT ACTIVITIES BUDGET

Ms. Hirsh seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

ii. Academic Affairs

Dr. Worth announced that the college now has a governing board for the Lab School program, which includes members from industry, VMI, and Washington and Lee. Dr. Worth and Dr. Rainone then discussed how, due to recent legislation, the college would need to have a four-year institution be a fiscal agent for the lab school. At this time, Dr. Rainone and Dr. Worth are still working out how that process will happen with VMI. Dr. Worth also described that a search committee has been put together for the purpose of hiring a director for the lab school and that, once a director is hired, the program will begin in a year “zero” due to its newness and the potential difficulties of recruiting so late in the year. The program will still be able to access all four years of provided funding after the year “zero”, and Dr. Rainone noted that Camp Community College is doing something similar.

iii. Institutional Advancement/Foundation

Ms. Phillips gave an update on the Educational Foundation. She announced the hiring of Allison Graham as the college’s new marketing coordinator and all of the exciting initiatives that she would be undertaking. She also announced that she had, through a VCCS initiative, been able to have photographs and videos taken of graduation, various programs, and the campus itself for the purpose of marketing at little-to-no cost to the college. She then presented that the foundation has given out \$150,000 in scholarships to new and continuing students. Finally, she discussed the grant and private funding of the Roadrunner Café, which is a space next to the library where students have access to coffee and breakfast foods.

iv. Workforce Solutions

Dr. Rainone provided an update on behalf of Matt McGraw, who was out of the country. He announced that FastForward enrollment is up 47%, which is second in the VCCS and well above the VCCS average of 20%. He also noted that overall FastForward completion is 90+%, with 12-16 of the college’s programs reaching 100%. Headcount is also expected to increase with the opening of the larger building for the workforce center in Buena Vista.

v. Finance & Administration

Dr. Rainone provided an update on behalf of Angela Graham. He explained that, due to incoming budgetary restrictions going into FY25 and FY26, the college would only be hiring full-time employees for essential positions. Much of the reason for this is because the VCCS received much less in the state budget allocation than was hoped. He also described how several programs are moving from the Rockbridge Regional Center into the Buena Vista Workforce Center and that, eventually, the college would be moving out of RRC.

vi. Human Resources

Dr. Rainone provided an update on behalf of April Tolley. He discussed the college's open and recently filled positions.

vii. Real Estate Foundation Update

Dr. Rainone described various ways in which he is striving to save money on the Buena Vista Workforce Center renovation without compromising quality, including making a minor change to the shape of the lights and having outside organizations provide us with materials and advocate on our behalf. He discussed the biggest donors to the project, including the Buena Vista city government, the governments of other localities, and the Ratcliffe Foundation, among others. He also announced that the college would be selling engraved bricks to use in the construction for donors who would like to buy them.

5. Presentation

Dr. Rainone gave a presentation based on a request from the VCCS Chancellor to give the local board an explanation on how some of the goals from the previous year's president's goals were met. First, Dr. Rainone described how, pending the official approval given in the June SACSCOC meeting, that the college has successfully completed its reaccreditation process with the decennial and the quality enhancement plan (QEP). There were only two minor findings which were easily remedied. Second, regarding the expansion of workforce in Rockbridge, the successful Phase One 1 opening of the Buena Vista Workforce Center and the incoming Phase 2 opening of the larger building will achieve that. Third, the opening of the Career Services Center and the hiring of its staff has been extremely successful with tangible results already. Fourth, the college has been working hard to implement more academic, FastForward, and community education programs. The Lab School falls under this classification, and Mr. McGraw has been reimplementing community education programs on a large scale. Finally, the college completed its five-year review of the athletics program and made the difficult decision to end the program, except for Esports, due to various structural issues.

6. President's Review (Closed Session)

Under the personnel exemption at §2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, Mr. Vaughn made the following motion:

THAT THE BOARD MOVE TO A CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS THE ANNUAL REVIEW OF DR. RAINONE.

Mr. Coleman seconded the motion.

All were in favor and the motion carried. At 4:18 the Local Board went into close session. At 4:42 the Board Members returned to an open session. A roll call was taken certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act were discussed, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Mrs. Alexander called roll.

Ms. Alexander	Yes
Mr. Coleman	Yes
Mr. McFaddin	Yes
Ms. Hirsh	Yes
Ms. Barber	Yes
Mr. Vaughn	Yes

7. Local Funds/President's Budget

Dr. Rainone presented the local funds/president's budget. This budget is for items that cannot be paid for by the state, including food, excess hotel expenses, contributions to organizational campaigns, some professional development day and faculty-related expenses, scholarship contributions in the case of a retiring president, etc. He solicited a motion for approval.

Mr. Vaughn made the following motion:

TO APPROVE THE FY25 LOCAL FUNDS/PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. Coleman seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

8. Chair's Report

The new slate of officers was confirmed: Marilyn Alexander as chair, Sue Hirsh as vice-chair, Steve Vaughn as most recent past chair, and Dr. Rainone as secretary.

Ms. Hirsh made the following motion:

TO APPROVE THE NEW SLATE OF BOARD OFFICERS

Ms. Barber seconded. All were in favor, and the motion passed.

9. Other Business

No additional business was conducted.

10. Informational Items

A copy of MGCC in the News was provided to the board members before the meeting.

11. Adjourn

There being no further business, Ms. Alexander declared the meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Ms. Marilyn Alexander
Board Chair

Dr. John J Rainone
Secretary to the Board

Attachments: Approved Minutes #290; March 11, 2024, Board Meeting Agenda; MGCC in the News; MGCC Personnel Report; FY25 Proposed Student Activities Budget; FY25 Local Board Slate; FY25 Proposed President's Budget