

COLLEGE OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2022

MINUTES

The Board of Trustees met on January 17, 2022 at 4 p.m. via Zoom and in-person on the La Plata Campus, BI Building, Room 201 and then moved to Room 211 due to technical difficulties. Signage was posted on the doors of both rooms indicating the room change. The meeting announcement and agenda were placed on the college's website on Friday, January 14, 2022 in the location that all meetings and agendas are posted for the public.

Board Chair Jay Webster called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following trustees were present: Shawn Coates, Dr. Roache, Cordelia Postell, Sonja Cox, Christy Lombardi, Jose Gonzalez, Kenneth Abell. Trustee Jones was absent.

Visitors included Steve Proctor and Trey Proctor of GS Proctors and Associates.

Motion to Approve the Agenda of January 17, 2022

Dr. Roache made a motion to approve the Agenda of January 17, 2022. Trustee Abell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Discussion

The discussion topic centered on recent political activity, specifically Senate Bill 136 and Senate Bill 254. The following are the discussion points:

Senator Ellis' remarks during a public town hall and political fund raiser, the misinformation and misperceptions made for public consumption in these settings.

The nature of the bills and the fiduciary responsibilities of the board of trustees.

The determination that the trustees and the College of Southern Maryland will not support the dismantling of the institution. The negative impact on the trustees physical assets, along with the fiscal, accreditation, program, employee implications of the bill.

The understanding that the board of trustees has the ultimate authority for ensuring the college fulfills its mission. Middle States Commission on Higher Education in their standards for accreditation and requirements for affiliations states that there must be, "sufficient independence and expertise to ensure the integrity of the institution. Members must have primary responsibility to the accredited institution and not allow political, financial, or other influences to interfere with their governing responsibilities"

The fiscal impact of both bills combined is estimated at nearly \$5.5 million dollars, fiscal notes are required and the institution is working on providing the counties with those numbers.

The trustees revisited their decisions on closing the pool that is part of a building that was built in 1974 and needs a \$5.6 M 3-Phase renovation plan combined with the significant decline in use due to the General Education Section 13B.06.01.03 – General Education Requirements for Public Institutions that prohibits physical education in core curriculum and the expansion of aquatic facilities in Charles County since 1974.

The trustees revisited their decision to suspend operations of the Children’s Learning Center. The college raised private funds for this facility it has never received county or state support. This auxiliary enterprise operated at a fiscal loss for many years. At the time of closure only 5 students were using the facility. Had the CLC been serving students on a much larger scale, the trustees likely would have made a different decision.

Other topics discussed included the criticism of Senator Ellis over the 7-week courses, STEM programming. The college has not relocated any academic programs from Charles County to any other location, and STEM programs are in high demand and expanding. The 7-week courses were introduced to ensure equity in educational opportunities for all students. Over 65% of CSM students attend part-time, over 80% work significant hours, sometimes multiple jobs, and nearly half report they are primary caregivers for other family members. The college determined that the traditional academic calendar has become a structural inequity for most community college students. Many high performing universities and colleges are using this model.

Action

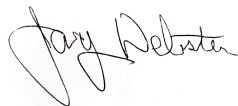
The Board of Trustees would like to write a letter to the Southern Maryland Delegation to address concerns with Senate Bill 136 and Senate Bill 254 and to correct some misperceptions regarding the College of Southern Maryland.

Dr. Roache made a motion to approve the letter to the Southern Maryland Delegation as presented. Trustee Cox seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Dr. Roache made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Postell seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jay Webster, Chair



Maureen Murphy, President