

Howard Community College and Prince George's Community College Board of Trustees Joint Work Session

Meeting Notes

March 15, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.

Laurel College Center (LCC) – 1st Floor Conference Room

Howard Community College (HCC)

Board Members: T. James Truby, chair; Katherine K. Rensin, vice chair; trustees Roberta E. Dillow, Mary S. Esmond, and Patrick L. Huddie; and Kathleen Hetherington, president. Trustees Kevin J. Doyle and Louis G. Hutt, Jr. were absent.

Staff: Lynn Coleman, vice president of administration and finance; Nancy Gainer, executive director of public relations and marketing; Tom Glaser, vice president of information technology; Farida Guzdar, executive assistant to the president; Zoe Irvin, executive director of planning, research, and organizational development; Cindy Peterka, vice president of student services; and Erin Yun, director of board relations/special projects

Prince George's Community College (PGCC)

Board Members: William Dean Frazier, chair; trustees Jerry Mathis, John Steinecke, Richard Thomas, and student member, Ja'Lisa Dixon; and Charlene M. Dukes, president.

Staff: Sandra Dunnington, vice president for academic affairs; Tom Knapp, vice president for administrative services; Tyjaun Lee, vice president for student services; Daniel Mosser, vice president for workforce development and continuing education; Joseph Rossmeier, vice president for technology services; Alonia C. Sharps, executive assistant to the president; Louis Renaud, interim dean of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and Nancy Grinberg, program supervisor for Laurel College Center.

Students (with home college and majors): Tano Eroraha (HCC)-Nursing; Bernard Hunt (PGCC)- non-degree credit classes; Chelin Mun (HCC)- Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN); Najwah Newman (PGCC)- General Studies; Oluwatoyin Obasooto (PGCC)-CNA; Alia Smalls (HCC)-Nursing; and Tiara Watkins (PGCC)- General Studies

Topic	Outcome
Dr. Dukes asked everyone to introduce themselves. Board members and staff mentioned their names and titles and students mentioned their names and majors. Dr. Hetherington gave a brief review of how LCC started in 2001, an unprecedented partnership between two community colleges. She was pleased to report that LCC is finally operating in the black.	
A. Update on Laurel College Center	Nancy Grinberg, program director, LCC, welcomed everyone. She reported on the new microbiology lab (funded by a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) grant), two new four-year partners, and rebranding with a new visual identity on the LCC website at www.laurelcollegecenter.org in response to a telephone survey that revealed that 85 percent of area residents use the internet to search for educational offerings. She was proud to report a 49 percent increase in headcount and the highest enrollment ever. LCC now occupies four floors, including 29 classrooms and labs, a tutoring center, and a one-stop shop for admissions, registration, and advising center. She mentioned that 40 percent of the students are from the Laurel area. The LCC has significantly expanded educational opportunities for the Laurel region and the HCC-PGCC partnership provides pathways for citizens with a variety of different needs. LCC's goals include increasing outreach to the local community, providing more comprehensive student services, more tutoring and advising, and meeting the needs of the BRAC constituencies. LCC is marketing itself as "A Community of Colleges and Universities" and with the slogan "Get Ahead in Life". She said the 2+2 program allows students to stay at LCC through their undergraduate program by doing their first two years with HCC or PGCC and transferring to one of the 4-year partners: College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Towson University, University of Maryland University College, Morgan State University, and the newest partner, University of

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	<p>Maryland at College Park. LCC now offers 14 degrees from seven institutions from associate's degrees to doctoral degrees. In 2004, the Maryland Higher Education Commission designated LCC a Regional Higher Education Center.</p> <p>LCC students gave brief comments on their experiences at LCC. Most indicated the following reasons for choosing the LCC: proximity to home and work of the Laurel location, the caring and supportive staff, and evening classes for working adults and mothers with young children. Students suggested providing some recreational activities for younger students, longer lab hours, and security in the parking lot at night. It was suggested to work with the City of Laurel police department to have a police car drive by at night. Ms. Grinberg mentioned that students are asked to park in the lot across from the building at night and an off-duty member from the sheriff's office monitors the parking lot.</p>
<p>B. Advocacy</p>	<p>Mr. Truby started the discussion by mentioning the value of community colleges and the impact they have on their communities through open access, affordability, and location. Community colleges have tightened their belts to the point that full-time/part-time ratio is 39:61 at HCC and staff are feeling the stress of growing enrollments. He said it appears that the recession is not ending any time soon and something needs to be done now to educate elected officials on the role that community colleges play in economic development. Mr. Truby mentioned that Jim Hermes, senior legislative associate from the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), facilitated a discussion on advocacy at the HCC board retreat in February. He suggested involving members of the business community, alumni, students, and parents in advocating on behalf of the college by contacting their legislators and speaking at budget hearings.</p> <p>Mr. Frazier said that while talking to legislators he realized that additional education needs to occur on community colleges and their importance to constituents. He suggested getting elected officials on campuses during the off-season after the legislative session has ended. They need to know about our great students.</p> <p>Ms. Dillow mentioned that legislators say they know the community college story but we need to educate them by organizing more students and parents to talk to the legislators on behalf of community colleges. Legislators need to hear from people who are benefiting from community colleges. This goal can be accomplished electronically by posting testimony on legislative websites. This is an election year and legislators will be listening to the voting public.</p> <p>Ms. Rensin stated that statewide there are thousands of community college students that can be mobilized to advocate. In addition, there are alumni, workforce development clients, and businesses that benefit from hiring community college graduates. The trustees discussed the need for community colleges to impress on legislators that our students need their support now more than ever before.</p> <p>Several community college presidents sit on the Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) and it appears that upcoming initiatives will heavily involve community colleges. Ms. Dillow said that we should educate GWIB on the training community colleges do in workforce shortage areas, such as nursing. Dr. Hetherington said that all the presidents meet with their legislators regularly.</p> <p>Dr. Huddie summarized the discussion by saying that for now the board and administration should work on contacting key legislators and later share ideas on long-term strategies.</p> <p>The trustees discussed the possibility of having key legislators participate in an</p>

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	<p>educational opportunity about community colleges. The best timing for this to maximize participation was discussed. The administration of the colleges will consider the evening's discussion and develop some ideas as appropriate. The role of MACC was also emphasized in this effort.</p> <p>Ms. Rensin said we should engage faculty, the deliverers of education.</p> <p>Mr. Mathis emphasized the need to energize voters and garner support for community colleges, and possibly organize a candidates' forum. Dr. Huddie suggested using former trustees as advocates.</p> <p>Mr. Truby summed up the discussions by emphasizing the role of board members to act in the best interest of the colleges including advocating for them at the state and local levels.</p>
<p>The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.</p>	

Father Hetherington