GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Board of Trustees Mini Retreat
November 17, 2020 8:00 a.m.
ZOOM

Present: Chair Robert Cohn, Cady Coleman, Claire Higgins, Isaac Mass, Joanne Marqusee, Judith Roberts, Robyn Provost, Julia Stahnke and Hector Toledo
Absent: Chris Donelan
Others Present: President Yves Salomon-Fernandez, Laura Garcia, Matt Noyes, Marie Breheny, Rosemarie Freeland, and Shannon Larange

Call to Order
Chair Cohn called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Accessing Trustee Institutional Email Accounts
President Salomon-Fernandez introduced Chief Information Officer to provide a brief update on IT updates and review accessing GCC email accounts. Laura reported the department has worked diligently to acquire and set-up hardware and software to assist staff, faculty and students to continue their work and studies remotely. IT is currently working on infrastructure and server upgrades to support the network and platforms in place we need to keep moving ahead. They are also continuing to move many paper processes that still exist to online systems. Laura then reviewed the process of accessing GCC email with the Trustees.

DHE Trustee Training
Chair Cohn shared with Trustees the training he has participated in so far have been very informative. He then introduced Matt Noyes, Trustee Liaison for the Department of Higher Education, to provide an overview of the required Trustee training. Last fall, Governor Baker signed into law a bill https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2019/Chapter113) that, among other things, established mandatory, minimum professional development requirements for all trustees of public higher education institutions. To that end, the law requires that the Department of Higher Education (DHE) develop and offer the curriculum for this instruction and training program which must include (but is limited to):

- Fraud Prevention
- Open Meeting Law
- State Finance
- Conflict of Interest
- Public Records Law
- Procurement
- Fiduciary Responsibility

The DHE has included one additional module in the training curriculum beyond what is mandated under statute: Board Governance. A trustee’s completion of the DHE’s instruction and training program is mandatory, and DHE is responsible for tracking trustee compliance.
Matt acknowledged the difficulty for many trustees in the system with the time the trainings are being offered. He reported the DHE plans on offering three sessions of each live training between now and May 2021 with a goal of being able to offer them “on demand” so trustees may access the trainings at a time of their convenience. Current trustees have until November 2021 to complete the trainings. Any newly appointed trustees will have six months to complete. He encouraged Trustees to complete a survey that will be sent in the near future to provide feedback on the trainings.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Discussion**

Trustees discussed the Boards interest, expectations, vision and ideas for diversity, equity and inclusion efforts on campus. President Salomon-Fernandez reviewed several current initiatives and work on campus and shared the College is looking at diversity through a very wide lens along with identifying several non-traditional indicators of marginalization that can often be overlooked. She also reported that while the College is doing well in respect to the demographics of the region and other institutions, and she is very proud of what the College has done and is currently doing, there is still much work to be done. The President reported the College is working on identifying specific and quantifiable goals. She also shared data shows that students who work for their institutions show higher success rates than those who do not. Through the generosity of donors an internship fund has been established and the College has been working diligently to provide internship opportunities for all students. Students living in rural areas have limited opportunities, part of the College’s mission is to create and foster opportunities for students to develop professional networks in the fields they are studying, by engaging in paid internships. Trustees discussed and identified opportunities for inclusion and diversity initiatives including continuing to diversify faculty and staff, provide support not only for marginalized students but also faculty and staff of marginalized groups, and inviting more speakers of color or marginalized groups to campus.

**Adjournment**

On a motion from Trustee Higgins and seconded by Trustee Provost the Board of Trustees unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:13 am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shannon Larange