GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
September 16, 2021 8:00 a.m.  
ZOOM

Present: Chair Robert Cohn, Cady Coleman, Chris Donelan, Claire Higgins, Evan LeBeau, Joanne Marqusee, Isaac Mass, Robyn Provost and Hector Toledo  
Absent: Cady Coleman  
Others Present: Interim President Richard Hopper, Anna Berry and Shannon Larange

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

President’s Report  
Interim President Hopper shared he has spent his first five weeks getting to know the organizational culture. He reported he has met with the local leaders of the MCCC union including the faculty, professional staff and adjunct units and is scheduled to meet with the AFSCME union stewards. President Hopper stressed the importance of forging collaborative and open relationships with the unions on campus.

President Hopper informed the Board he is scheduled to go before the NECHE Commission on to address noted areas of concern and hear the outcome of the College’s recent NECHE Accreditation visit. He noted considerable progress has been made towards the six areas of concerns.

The College is currently looking at making changes to its current internal shared governance model to ensure timely decision-making and effective lines of communication. Communication is a major priority for President Hopper.

President Hopper shared the President’s Staff team recently engaged in a two day retreat centered ways to move the needle on issues around diversity, equity and inclusion.

President Hopper shared the College recently won a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities via the American Rescue Plan in the amount of $194,212 over a 12-month grant period. Through this grant, GCC will develop the humanities portion of the GCC General Education requirement; highlight soft skills taught in the humanities that are valued by regional employers; improve upon existing courses and create new courses in medical humanities, including Spanish for health science, science writing, and medical ethics; and upgrade existing old-fashioned humanities classrooms to active learning classrooms (ALCs). All four components of the ARP project would help retain jobs lost during COVID and would bolster student enrollment by helping to define how the humanities can help GCC students achieve their goals of graduation, transfer, and/or entering the workforce.

The College continues to make progress on the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The plan’s key goals are to ensure equity in access and success as a student-ready college; advance innovation and excellence in teaching, learning, and stewardship of the college; contribute to regional resilience by engaging with the community and employers as we prepare students for GCC Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes, September 16, 2021
the Future of Work and for citizenship; and ensure long-term sustainability through financial resilience and investment in our human capital, community assets and rural identity.

President Hopper hopes to increase Workforce partnerships with area technical schools and businesses. He will work closely with the Director of Workforce Training Programs to grow the number of workforce offerings.

SUCCESS Funds – Supporting Retention
Interim President Hopper introduced Anna Berry, Chief Student Affairs Officer and Dean of students to provide an overview of the student success and support initiatives being funded as part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts SUCCESS (Supporting Urgent Community College Equity through Student Services) Funds. These funds support the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education’s Equity agenda and focus on minoritized populations and those underrepresented in the college environment.

Adjournment
Chair Cohn adjourned the meeting at 9:37am.

Respectfully submitted by,
Shannon Larange