

Draft

**Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee  
Board of Trustees  
Massachusetts Bay Community College  
8:00 – 10:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, April 13, 2021  
WebEx Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Mikael Pyrtel (Chair), Sandra Lish, Thomas Peisch, Diane Schmalensee, Rodolpho Sanz, and Lilianna Silva

**Staff Members Present:** Elizabeth Blumberg, Vice President for Student Development and Dean of Students; Phara Boyer, Director of Corporate Partnerships & Workforce Development; Neil Buckley, Vice President for Finance & Administration; Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences; Jon Edwards, Director of Counseling; Howard Ferris, Interim Dean of Automotive Technology; Courtney Jackson, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness and Strategic Initiatives; Lynn Hunter, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost; Chitra Javdekar, Dean of STEM; Elizabeth Kinsman-El Khider, Executive Assistant to VP for Academic Affairs & Provost and recording secretary; Nina Keery, Interim Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences; Christopher La Barbera, Assistant Provost; Susan Maggioni, Dean of Business and Professional Studies; David Podell, President; Jeremy Solomon, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Marketing, and Communications; and Richard Williams, Associate Dean for Student Success

**CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

After establishing a quorum, Chair Pyrtel called the meeting to order at 8:07 am. The motion to approve the minutes was proposed by Trustee Silva and seconded by Trustee Peisch.

The motion to approve and accept the February 9, 2021, minutes was passed via the following roll call vote; Chair Pyrtel – YES; Trustee Peisch – YES; Trustee Sanz – ABSTAINED; Trustee Schmalensee – YES; and Trustee Silva – YES

**DISCUSSION CONCERNING COUNSELING SERVICES**

President Podell introduced the presentation and provided the background and context for the discussion on the increasing importance and prominence of counseling services for students. The current service model (which had worked effectively and efficiently for the College) consisted of 2.5 FTE counselors addressing the well-being needs of over 6,000 students.

Jon Edwards, Director of Counseling, introduced himself and highlighted the history, mission, and work of Counseling Services. Arising from his presentation, the following key aspects were considered:

- Counseling Services had successfully evolved over the past few years to work more closely with student graduate counsellors/field trainers and had accommodated more specialties as the profession and range of the service offering became more sophisticated.

- A new part-time Counselor post (funded by the SUCCESS program) had been created recently to provide multi-cultural specialist support to engage in more outreach activity and work closely with students to advance the equity agenda.
- The mission of the Department of Counseling Services is to be accessible and “to help students overcome emotional and psychological barriers to academic success.” Combatting exam anxiety and balancing family and social life were often the key challenges. These issues were being addressed through providing flexible, practical, and emotional support for students through a rich variety of sessions (from time management to meditation), as well as addressing emotional needs relating to students’ disabilities, such as autism.
- Over the last five years, the service had undertaken over 4,000 counseling appointments and delivered 280 educational workshop events for over 2,000 attendees. The service also involved referrals to external agencies, crisis interventions, and liaised closely with outside agencies such as the local trauma center.
- The COVID-19 pandemic had brought the service into sharper focus with a heavy reliance on organizing its work on-line and offering virtual counseling sessions. Current preparations were focusing on coping with a potential wave of grief in the wake of the pandemic.
- The Counseling Services Department was meeting the well-being needs of students in proportion to the social characteristics of the whole student body, and it was agreed that a detailed report on the range of services requested by students over the past years would be submitted to the Board for information. **Action:** Follow up by the Director of Counseling.
- The Director responded to a number of questions posed by Trustees relating to the Counseling Services Department in terms of: the Department’s experience of suicide (it was confirmed that no cases of suicide had ever been managed by the Department), the use of DSM5/presenting problems as a reference point for diagnoses, and the Department learning from, responding to, and understanding traumas to help students move forward.

The Trustees welcomed the progress being achieved and the work being undertaken by the Counseling Services Department.

*The meeting went into recess for a five-minute refreshment break.*

## **DISCUSSION CONCERNING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

President Podell introduced the presentation and provided the background and context to the discussion on workforce development which was the primary focus of activity for the College.

President Podell and Phara Boyer, Director of Corporate Partnerships & Workforce Development, introduced their PowerPoint presentation and the following four areas were considered in further detail relating to:

- The Greater Boston Workforce Planning Blueprint. The blueprint (updated in 2020) identified future workforce gaps in the region. The College seeks to motivate and encourage students to pursue and complete degrees and non-degree training in the fields of computer science, math, and healthcare. The College had been successful in receiving state scholarship and equipment grants to encourage students into specific fields. The College was devising new associate degree and non-degree awards to help exploit future employment opportunities, particularly in the Health Science and STEM fields.

- Enrollment at MassBay into credit-bearing programs aligned with Blueprint. The enrollment figures for computer science associate degree and certificate programs had been growing steadily for the last five years. More recently, larger cohorts were being enrolled for Health Sciences.
- The Nursing pathway was also highlighted by Lynne Davis, Dean of Health Sciences, as an illustration of how a non-credit program can be dovetailed into the strengthened and streamlined credit-based Medical Assistant/Associate Degree Nursing programs at MassBay and, ultimately, into the bachelor's program delivered by Framingham State University (FSU). Similar program developments were also outlined for the Medical Imaging pathway, which opened routes into radiography and sonography occupations.
- Enrollment in other credit-bearing programs at MassBay. The latest enrollment figures were provided for other vocational programs involving automotive technology, business, accounting, criminal justice, paralegal studies, early childhood, engineering, and science and math.
- Non-credit Workforce Development at MassBay. An array of programs (involving over 800 classes) were offered (from ESL to CNA) and involved close working with corporate and community partners to develop day and evening training programs and workshops (in time management, for example) for employees and students. Professional and career training was currently being promoted and marketed.
- The Director responded to a number of questions posed by Trustees relating to workforce development in terms of: supporting College bi-lingual staff to achieve English proficiency requirements; and how the state was generally progressing with the Blueprint agenda. It was reported that the state had not provided additional, or the necessary, funding in this area to achieve all the Blueprint's objectives and there were difficulties with building consortia to respond to the agenda, but there was an additional focus by the state on coordinating approaches and utilizing federal funds to meet regional priorities.

The Trustees thanked the presenters for the report.

## ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Peisch proposed the motion, seconded by Trustee Sanz, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 9:29 am after the following roll call vote: Chair Pyrtel – YES; Trustee Lish – YES; Trustee Peisch – YES; Trustee Schmalensee – YES; Trustee Silva – YES; Trustee Sanz – YES.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Mikael M. Pyrtel 10/20/2021  
Mikael Pyrtel Date  
Chair  
MassBay Community College

David Podell 10/20/2021  
David Podell Date  
President  
MassBay Community College