



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

July 17th, 2020

LCOOC Main Campus in Auditorium

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer with Daryl Coons Jr.
2. Call to order at 9:15 am
3. Roll Call - Jason Bisonette, Gary Gerber, Daryl Coons Jr., Monica Chase, Marie Basty, Melissa Lewis. Absent – Kyle Van Acker
4. Approval of today's agenda

Motion – Daryl Coons Jr. motioned to approve today's agenda with addition of letter C under item 10 opening plan for fall and letter D for commencement plan. Marie Basty Seconded motion. Motion carried.

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes

Motion – Gary Gerber motioned to approve previous meeting minutes. Melissa Lewis seconded motion. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment - NA
7. Student Senate Report - NA
8. Tribal Governing Board Liaison Report - NA
9. Financial Overview

We will have a consultant and principal from CLA calling at 10:30 via zoom to talk about interim CFO.

a) **Bad Debt Expense**

Did try to get a hold of John Gritz to have a conversation with him about this. This has been an ongoing issue with the college. We have had fluctuation about the bad debt, specifically talking about students who have a balance. We have students who are no longer here but owe us and then have students who are still attending but have a balance. We do have Karen and Jim working on a list of those students who owe the college and then listing them based on tribal affiliation. We are then contacting the higher education departments and working with them to contact students about filling out applications with them



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

to assist with the student's balances. We haven't received any push back so far from the tribal education departments, but they hope they have the funds to help students. Want to make sure that we keep a positive strong relationship with each tribe when going through this process. The tribal higher education departments have a pool of money specifically for assisting students with their education. If this plan doesn't seem to get a response, then we will go with plan B which would be asking the higher education directors at each tribe to pay for these students that owe the college. Would like to try to help get the word out to our students about the tribal higher education departments because a lot of students don't seem to know they have that resource.

When a student starts at the college we try to have preventive actions when it comes to bad debt. We want financial aid, scholarship people, higher education directors, and work based learning all at a table right in the beginning so that students are taking care of it at the start. We have started that last semester and we are already seeing the results by our bad debt being reduced. Many students don't understand financial aid so we need to help them understand the process and help guide them. We have been incorporating some of these financial literacy topics in the Intro to Higher Education course. Right now we are having students sign up for payment plans if they have a balance. Suggest possibly having incentives to students who check in with financial aid or the bursar's office. Also having financial aid and bursar to stop in the classrooms and just introduce themselves and explain what they can help with. Making sure we use all platforms to really market what the college is doing and what we can offer.

b) Covid Budget

Waiting for guidance from the governor on the funding which they were going to get back to us by the end of the week. Will request approval for the \$1.5million from the state of Wisconsin next meeting. We moved \$450,000 from the BIE to our general fund. To pay for the previous fall and spring tuition. We will be doing HVAC changes with COVID funding.

Break 10:19 – 10:35

c) Interim Leadership Transition Plan – 10:30 am

Chad Lassen and Megan Pye from CLA

Talked with Megan and Chad earlier this week about the interim position here at the college. The main thing that we propose that we will do will ensure the roles and responsibility and make sure they don't go outside the bounds of the audit. They have about 350



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

consultants who range from 15-35 years of experience. They will match someone who has experience directly with what the college needs. Would like to do a financial department assessment, taking look at the processes. Looking at the financials and also talking with the board about what they might want to know. Looking to see if we can streamline the processes and the key performance metrics right now but looking to see what the college needs. Helping the college to determine what the job description looks like and leverage for the other team members. The interim CFO with CLA would do some higher-level work to help with the college and provide training and assistance to the current staff. Bringing on investors and fundraising and we will need to be able to grow into that and someone with that expertise. Creating a training plan/road map for current employees. They should have a scope/contract from CLA for a proposal.

We seem to be ahead for the audit as of right now. There may be a delay in the finish if the audit depending on the interim CFO change. Getting everything switched over this past week with Lydia for our federal agencies. Will send proposal to the board and then to motion to authorize the president to work on a contract to complete an assessment of the financial office and to engage for an interim employee per advice from audit consultant. Would like to select someone from the board to be in the interview process when we do start getting applications for this position as an advisory role.

Motion – Marie Basty motioned to create a subcommittee nominating Gary Gerber to be apart in the hiring committee for the new CFO position. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried. Gary abstains.

10. President's Report

a) Owners Representative

We approved a motion for Dr. Swagger to enter into an agreement with Mark Sweet to be the owner's representative. Woodstone came into play as another option. Met with Woodstone on Wednesday. Both Mark and Woodstone have strong resumes for being the owner's rep. Both leads are tribal members of White Earth. Mark Sweet focused on the financial resources, more than Woodstone but only met with Woodstone once so far. Woodstone seemed more corporate than Mark but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Considered seeing if both Mark Sweet and Woodstone would collaborate together in phase one of the project however there could be problem since it might be hard to determine who does what but would have to have that discuss with both Mark Sweet and Woodstone to see what that might look like. Mark Montano has multiple experience with Woodstone to major projects and worked with LCO Development since 2015 in doing



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

homes. Also worked with them in Red Cliff, they built the casino and clinic. One major difference with the two owners' reps is Mark Sweet from Woodstone understand that we don't want to finance a whole lot on this project and invest. With Woodstone it was mostly about having the college finance the project as opposed to helping raise the funds to complete the project.

b) Master Facility Plan

Going to submit a proposal for the intern working with Mike. The presentation presented today will be turned into a video and have it done in 6 weeks. With option 1 it will be at the north farm site by Froemel road for the new campus and decided to the west of the existing farm site and wanted to keep it for future opportunities. Create a gateway feel with a big sign and off ramp onto the road. Will have family housing area and there will be a childcare right in the center. There will be a food sovereignty education center as well. The roadway will loop around the campus which is one-way traffic. Parking will be outside of the loop to keep the interior of the circle for pedestrians. This can be a 10-year or 20-year plan. Will have a conference center, an outdoor educational building, powwow grounds with solar panels above the grounds in the center of the campus that can be a multipurpose space. Student housing, gym and field house, and outdoor sports area (track, football field, soccer, etc). Will have cultural nodes throughout the area. Also a wellness track leading from the current campus to the new campus. Would have a zip line along the wellness track as well. Have a hero training center for police, EMT, firefighter training at the current campus and also shooting range. Also other vocational classrooms. The plan is to go phase by phase and move the classrooms to the new campus. Also keeping the library at the current campus. Have the load deck off to the east side of the current farm area. There will be a pond that has walleye and wild rice beds so that it's a learning node as well.

Jim Schlender sent an e-mail to Nita about the change of where the new campus would be so she was aware. There is a plan for the hemp crop near the farm and that is why the new campus moved over to the west to make more room for the farm. Will want to present to the council on a commitment of the space the college is trying to obtain.

Option 2 would be on Trepania road on the opposite side of where the current campus is. It is a little closer to the current campus but very far from the farm. It is a lot more closed off compared to option 1. There may be some resistance from the tribal council and the family that owns it is in the process to make the land available to the tribe.

Motion – Daryl Coons Jr. motioned to authorize the president to go forward with option one from DSGW on the north site for new



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

campus. Gary Gerber seconded motion. Motion carried.

We will wait until the 3rd or 4th week in September to present option one to the TGB with the video presentation of the new campus.

Break 12:10 – 12:56

- c) Opening Plan for Fall
Executive council has been working on a plan subject to change 3 phase plan.

Motion – Marie Basty motioned with the recommendation to open fully with staff and faculty for the fall with option to do virtual for those students who request it. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried.

- d) Commencement Plan
August 1st at 10:00am the Sevenwinds casino and will be indoors. There will be a disclaimer and safety plan. There are 53 graduates and 52 designated personnel such as board of regents, Amvets, singers, elders and only those people can attend in the convention center. There will be signs and there are screening questions and you will receive a wristband once answering the questions. It is in the works with who is going to be required as staff to help with commencement. Still in the planning process for the pinning ceremony.

We have a new financial aid director, Kim Paulson who started this week. Nine of 10 Ojibwe tribal colleges accepted an invitation to discuss an Ojibwe Tribal College Association.

Capital campaign just started this week and testing the waters first major campaign as the college. The lead gift comes from the Eck Family Foundation who was introduced to us from someone from Marquette University. They have gifted us \$20,000 towards our college needs and the \$100,000 for scholarships. At this point we have secured 170,000 of that goal and the goal is to raise beyond \$250,000. Began in March and run until March of 2022 and publicly expecting to raise \$250,000. Encourage the board to make a multi-year commitment to the college.

Motion – Daryl Coons Jr. motioned to accept the presidents report. Gary Gerber seconded motion. Motion carried.

11. Other

12. Executive Session



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

**Motion – Melissa Lewis motioned to go into executive session at 1:32.
Monica Chase seconded motion. Motion carried.**

a) Personnel Updates

**Motion – Gary Gerber motioned to come out of executive session at 2:11.
Melissa Lewis seconded motion. Motion carried.**

Jason Bisonette and Gary Gerber’s terms are up in a few days and a letter will need to be drafted to the TGB about their terms.

13. Next Meeting – August 21st, 2020.

14. Adjournment

**Motion – Marie Basty makes motion to adjourn at 2:18. Gary Gerber
seconded motion. Motion carried.**