



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

February 18th, 2022

LCOOC Boardroom

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to order - 9:15am
3. Roll Call – Monica Chase, Gary Gerber, Kyle Van Acker, Melissa Lewis, Marie Basty, Daryl Coons Jr. Kyle Van Acker (left meeting 10:26 am, returned 12:07pm) Jason Bisonette (arrived 9:52am)
4. Reading of LCOOC Mission Statement – Melissa Lewis
The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College mission is to provide Anishinaabe communities with post-secondary and continuing education while advancing the language, culture, and history of the Ojibwe.
5. Approval of today's agenda
Motion – Daryl Coons Jr. motioned to approve agenda. Melissa Lewis seconded motion. Motion carried.
6. Approval of previous meeting minutes
Motion –Gary Gerber motioned to approve previous meeting minutes. Kyle Van Acker seconded motion. Motion carried.
7. Public Comment - none
8. Student Senate Report -Tim Barber
Economic Mobility Grant – participating on panel to further develop curriculum and cultural camp for the summer. May create a subcommittee to work on this. Senate is requesting support from TGB to attend NAFOA Conference on Tribal Leadership in Seattle. Will ask to get on their agenda to make the request. Kickapalooza planning has started. Event will be held at the ball field, will have backup plan for inclement weather. There is a need for professional development in Robert's Rules of Order. Trying Robert Schuck might be someone who can provide this training. A subcommittee is still working on the bylaws. Discussion regarding students at outreach locations and the potential impact the campus expansion might have on them.
9. Tribal Governing Board Liaison Report -Lorraine Gouge
Traveled to Madison with Mr. Schlender. Dr. Swagger's response to the article regarding the College as an authorizer of charter schools represented the LCO Tribe and the College in a good way. It showed unity between TGB and LCOOC.



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Lots of exciting things happening here at the College and within the community. Negativity is always there but there are lots of positive things happening such as the grant received to expand the LCO Elder's Center.

Break 9:57am – 10:04am

10. Financial Overview

Still working on finishing up the audit, working on multiple requests they sent to start testing HEERF funding. Ms. Lydia and Mr. Montano worked on completing requests related to this. Auditors are reviewing financial aid office again. Ms. DeNasha received draft of the audited financial statements. Compared the audited financial statements with the statements provided in June and was able to tie out with their draft financials. No exact date when the audit will be completed. Potential finding again for enrollment reporting. This is a repeat finding. When you get to the third year it looks like the institution isn't fixing the issue so this may be cause for concern. We are in 2nd year of a 3-year contract.. Dr. Swagger will send letter informing them we need a completed audit, and we are moving forward with an RFP for a new auditor. 30-day notice required.

The business office is running charges for spring semester. A total of \$245,146.33 collected through loss of revenue with COVID funding. Potential tuition increase was presented to Student Senate. They were supportive of increase as long as there are no hidden charges (tech fee, online fee).

Reviewed a pre-draft budget. Originally started with a \$2.1M deficit with everything that was initially requested for next year. We are currently at \$13,459 under budget with recent adjustments. Two attached budgets, one with proposed tuition increase, and the other pre-draft budget if we keep our tuition rate at \$190 per credit. Moved things over from COVID funding to budget. Removed funding line from budget. Tech Endowment hasn't drawn down. Based on principal and how much we've drawn in the past. We haven't due to COVID. Still have a line of credit we haven't touched yet.

The business office meeting with Ellucian, working on account structure prepared. Learning how other institutions do this versus how we do to improve our tracking of funding. Getting input from other departments to make sure this is how we want to set things up.

Financial aid is getting ready to start disbursements for the spring semester. They have officially finished disbursing aid for the fall semester. They have been reaching out to students that still need to provide missing documentation so they can be ready to disburse for the spring semester, but most students are ready to be disbursed.



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Recently awarded a grant through the University of Minnesota for SARE Food Sovereignty Sustainable Ag for \$8,742.93. Laura Merchant is the grant manager. We've been awarded a grant through the Department of Health and Human Services for Ojibwe Language for Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe College. This grant is called Promote the Survival and Continuing Vitality of Native American Languages and is going to be managed by Michael Sullivan.

Need to create a subcommittee to work on uncollectable receivables. Accounts receivable is all of it. Would like to write uncollectable debt off as we transition to new SIS system. Working with Brett Gerber to assist strategically, need to fulfill fiduciary responsibility by creating a subcommittee to look at these items.

Motion –Daryl Coons Jr. motioned to approve financial report. Gary Gerber seconded motion. Motion carried.

- a. COVID Financial Report
14.2 million of COVID funding spent or encumbered. 3 million left to spend, 82 percent of total allocation spent down. Siding and HVAC upgrades starting soon. Major renovations getting ready to start. A total of 99% of Dept. of Ed money spent down.

Motion –Gary Gerber motioned to approve COVID financial report. Melissa Lewis seconded motion. Motion carried.

11. President's Report

HLC requested dates for the site visit for masters' programs. Visit will likely happen in May. Feasibility study for St. Croix revised to include recommendation. Evidence showed it would make more sense to move closer to Balsam Lake, Cumberland, or Turtle Lake. Staying in the Siren area doesn't give us an area to recruit students from. Letter was sent to students.

Aspen Institute Data, prepared by College. Breaks down data. They focus on equity issues so including diverse backgrounds people who are low income and minority populations. President uses the data through the fellowship to influence policies and decision-making. A lot of room for improvement.

Continuing to work with Brett Gerber, a few more meetings coming up. Things are moving along well, still gathering information.

Mole Lake and Forest County will visit us in April for a day or so. We have a potential to work with them to offer courses delivered in person in Milwaukee. Have the option for American Indian Chamber of Commerce and other sites.

40th anniversary work continuing. Received an email regarding photo shoot for elders. Host a photo shoot of our elders since we archive things. Families can



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submit photos of their loved ones. Potential for community wide collaboration. Will follow up on this with Director of Advancement.

Won't see significant increases in enrollment. We've maxed out students we can draw from. EC is working on strategies for increasing funding and where it comes from. Without a tuition increase, we won't be able to sustain the level we are operating at right now.

EDU bachelors review currently in desk review. We should know within next few weeks. Advisory board for EDU program professionals in the fields.

COVID-19, EC is discussing any policies around that. May be some to change or revoke, will bring those here for consideration. We are to the point where we are ready to start opening entry ways, taking down screenings. Tribe is also looking at potential changes for COVID-19.

St. Croix Outreach Site Closure

Motion – Gary Gerber motioned to approve closure of St. Croix site upon lease end June 1st, 2022. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried.

Motion – Melissa Lewis motioned to approve President Report. Monica Chase seconded motion. Motion carried.

12. Other

- a. Terminate Temporary Covid Administrative Leave Policy
Staff will need to use leave if they need to be out of the office.

Motion –Gary Gerber motioned to terminate Temporary Covid Administrative Leave Policy. Monica Chase seconded motion. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding the need for education regarding the impact the pandemic has had on children. Create a State of the Child Summit to educate teachers. College willing to collaborate and host. The sense of urgency is there, coming to post pandemic and we are still having issues with grief. Wilder Foundation a possible partner, Kyle can make connect.

13. Executive Session 12:39pm – 1:40pm

Motion – Melissa motioned to enter into executive session at 12:39pm. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried.

- a. Foundation Scholarship
- b. Tuition Review



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Motion – Gary Gerber motioned to exit executive session at 1:40pm. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried.

Motion – Melissa Lewis motioned to increase tuition rate beginning Fall of 2022 to \$250 for undergraduate programing. Daryl Coons Jr. seconded motion. Motion carried.

14. Next Meeting – March 18, 2022

15. Adjournment – 1:42pm