



Board of Regents Regular Meeting

August 18, 2023

9:00am – 12:00pm

LCOOU Boardroom

Minutes

1. Opening Prayer by Daryl Coons Jr.
2. Call to Order by Chairman Jason Bisonette at 9:17 am.
3. Roll Call
Present: Chairman Jason Bisonette, Daryl Coons Jr., Kyle Van Acker, Melissa Lewis, Marie Basty
Absent: Gary Gerber – notified, Monica Isham – notified
4. Reading of LCOOU Mission Statement by Chairman Jason Bisonette.
The Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University 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 to approve today's agenda.
Motion by Daryl Coons Jr., second by Melissa Lewis
Final Resolution: Motion carries
Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty
6. Approval of previous meeting minutes
Motion to approve previous meeting minutes.
Motion by Melissa Lewis, second by Kyle Van Acker
Final Resolution: Motion carries
Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty
7. Public Comment – None



8. Student Senate Report - None
9. Tribal Governing Board Liaison Report (awaiting TGB selection) -None
10. Financial Overview

WIPFLI auditor on campus August 7th – 10th. The process has been slower than last year due to needing data from two different software systems; and them having to switch their GL coding over to the new Colleague GL codes. The goal is to have the audit completed in September.

Financial aid is now live in Colleague and helping students prepare for the fall semester. Kim has been busy traveling to all the outreach sites for different events and attending the roadside assistance events with recruitment on July 27th, 28th and August 3rd, 4th. She also held financial aid and scholarship events on August 1st at Red Cliff, August 9th in LDF, and will be holding events on August 17th in Bad River, and August 23rd in Red Cliff again.

Officially live in Colleague for the student accounts receivable module. Things have been going pretty decently so far with minimal complications. We turned on the biller so now when students register, they are able to see their balance right away. Students are able to see their account balance detail and see any anticipated financial aid for the semester as well.

We've also gone live with TouchNet at the same time and students are able to make payments online, sign up for payment plans, and get a printed statement. We have 13 different payment plan options that students can choose from; we will pilot these this academic year and then review to see how students liked the different options and what was used most.

A training video was made for students and was sent out to them this past week, so they know how to access their student account and know how to work the payment center in TouchNet. We have received good feedback so far from the students who have set up payment plans or made payments.

Working on closing out a few of the grants that ended 6/30/23 such as Work Based Learning and Perkins. We were awarded for another year for both Worked Based Learning (\$297,000) and Perkins (\$36,058).

Recently awarded a grant through American Indian College Fund called Cultivating Native Student Success. This grant is to help build upon and enhance enrollment practices and strategies to increase retention and persistence rates that lead to completion and graduation of native students. Also, will help design and examine current enrollment management strategies while utilizing supports with grant funds to develop and implement practices



that demonstrate increased enrollment, persistence and retention that lead to completion. This award will be a 3-year grant for \$348,900 (\$116,300 annually).

We need to reschedule our meetings with Argos for our report writing. Hopefully, we will hear about when that will be rescheduled soon. In the meantime, I might try to use a template out of Jenzabar and recreate it with Colleague to see if it is possible. I will keep you updated with how that goes.

President Swagger presented for approval for the budget amendment to increase \$100,000 for Student Loan Assistance for full-time staff and faculty.

Motion to approve authorizing an amendment to the FY 2023-2024 budget adding \$100,000 for Student Loan Assistance.

Motion by Kyle Van Acker, second by Daryl Coons Jr.

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty

Motion to approve Financial Overview

Motion by Melissa Lewis, second by Marie Basty

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty

a. COVID Financial Report - Read into record – reviewed and accepted

Spent down Department of Education dollars in required timelines.

BIE remaining balances expended over current fiscal year.

Landscaping, vinyl floral designs, flooring, and painting are some projects still in the works. Bakade café upgrades are on hold right now.

b. BHA Monthly Report - Read into record – reviewed and accepted

Break 9:57 am – 10:10 am

11. President's Report

a. Academic Update

President Swagger is still in the position of the Chief Academic Officer.

We are organizing and beginning preparation to write our assurance argument for the November 3-4, 2024 accreditation visit. We will review



our previous assurance argument as the basis for discussing the progress and challenges we've had since the last comprehensive visit. This visit is our halfway point for the next comprehensive visit in 2031-2032.

We are also getting prepared for an outreach site visit tentatively planned for Spring 2024. There will be one reviewer coming. They will travel to Bad River and Red Cliff to see for themselves that we have a legitimate outreach site in those locations. They also need to form an understanding of how the sites work, their success, and challenges. My prediction is we will have issues on communication between main campus and the sites and challenges around turnover in employees. We also need to improve our frontline services and recruiting. The successes are around stable enrollment, the sites creating access and opportunities for working professionals and others in the community and increasing networks and support from tribal leaders and community members.

University in-service days will be August 21st and August 22nd for adjuncts, faculty and student support together for a day and a half.

Faculty contracts revisions to include 8 hours a day and 40 hours a week to be available for students.

EMS program Development - FYI for the Board. We will be seeking HLC approval to offer an EMS training program.

President Swagger and Board of Regents had discussion for feasibility study for EMS.

- b. HLC accreditation midpoint visit update (assessment, reorganization to schools, cohesion of programs and leadership)

Faculty working on reorganizing school of fields.

- c. Ojibwe Tribal College Association (update)

Six out of ten presidents were present on Zoom to review our articles of incorporation. We did not establish quorum, but all presidents agreed unanimously to incorporate in Wisconsin under the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. Our attorney was on the call too. He sent a brief of his analysis and options to the presidents prior to the meeting to give them time to discuss with their lawyers and team members. They were prepared well in advance of the meeting if they were seeking clarification or wanted more information. Next step since we did not have a quorum will be to send out a poll survey to the presidents to have them vote electronically. Once this is done, our attorney will begin work on the by-laws and legally establishing the association as a 501 (c) 3. The presidents are extremely excited about the potential of this new relationship.



- d. Board of Regents/Administration Retreat proposed agenda and (Board of Regents performance review and Presidents performance review surveys)

The Board of Regents retreat is scheduled for October 13-14. Travel day will be October 12th and the afternoon of October 14th. The host hotel is the Red Cliff Casino. President Swagger will forward a board survey instrument from our consultant focused on board and presidential performance. President Swagger will also send a draft agenda for your review and consideration.

New market tax credits - We are working with Impact 7 leadership to prepare a low-income tax credit application. They will come to the University to learn more about our facilities priorities. We will prepare an application based on the priorities we identify and what will successfully score the project. The credits will help us to build new facilities identified in our master facility plan.

Low-Income tax credits - We are also working with Impact 7 to prepare a LIHTC application for multi-family on-campus housing.

Residence Hall - We are nearing the final stages of the plans for the residence hall. One challenge to overcome before the residence hall can be built is to determine how our sewer system will be built. Our options are independent just for our campus or cost-share expenses with the LCO Tribe or its entities to build a lift station that would serve the University and the Tribe. This obviously means more money and time. We plan to begin construction next Spring, 2024.

Career and Technical Education - We've offered the Founding Dean of Career and Technical Education to a candidate. We fully expect the candidate to accept the offer. Work will begin immediately after we receive confirmation. We will send a photo and bio as soon as we know the start date.

Student Freedom Initiative – LCOOU is the 1st Tribal University to be involved. President Swagger wanted to thank Marie Basty for being present while the Student Freedom Initiative Team was on campus.

Drug policy discussion - Preparedness for legalization of medical and recreational marijuana in Wisconsin

12. Other - None

Motion to convene into Executive Session at 11:05 am.



Motion by Marie Basty, second by Melissa Lewis

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty

13. Executive Session

- a. Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College (update)
- b. Enrollment update and concerns
- c. Academic update
- d. Student complaint (FYI)
- e. 2022-2023 Audit update
- f. Grants review (FYI)

Motion to reconvene into Open Session at 11:54 am.

Motion by Daryl Coons Jr., second by Melissa Lewis

Final Resolution: Motion carries

Yea: Daryl Coons Jr., Melissa Lewis, Kyle Van Acker, Marie Basty

14. Next Meeting – September 15, 2023

15. Adjournment

Adjourn at 11:54 am.