

**Manatee Technical College
Board of Governors
Minutes for January 23, 2020**

Present: Omar Edwards, Lisa King, Bill Lee, Joshua Matlock, Greg McGrew, Martha Meyers, Laura Roberts, Matt Schole, Karen Stewart, Erin Sulbaran, Brion Sunseri, Daisy Vulovich, Doug Wagner, John Ziemnicki

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Brion Sunseri. Introductions were made.

Minutes of the October 17, 2019 Meeting: *A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting. Motion passed.*

Council on Occupational Education (COE) Plans for Approval: The plans below were sent out with the agenda to allow members time to review prior to the meeting.

A motion was made to approve the following two plans:

- Standard 6 – Health and Safety Plan
- Standard 6 – Operations and Maintenance Plan

The motion was seconded and passed.

Director's Report:

Greg McGrew reported for Valerie Viands. Enrollment is way up; our classes are packed. We had a smooth start for our new semester that began yesterday. On-line registration is working well.

Some of the hottest programs:

- Welding – waiting list for August enrollment
- Electrical Instrumentation, one of our newer programs, had nine (9) new students start this semester.
- The new hospitality program enrolled five (5) new students this semester.
- The cosmetology evening program has over 40 students.
- The evening electricity program has 25-30 students enrolled.

Omar Edwards stated we are working on getting all applicants through the system.

Mr. Sunseri commented that plumbing could place 1000 students in the area. Unfortunately, we only have 3 students enrolled in the program at this time.

Martha Meyers said that enrolling is a two-step process. We need to follow up with all applicants that have not completed the enrollment process to see if they need help getting through the system to enroll.

We will begin our heavy recruiting in the Spring for enrollment for next school year.

Mr. Sunseri spoke about placement. With the resources available – Career Source, instructors, counselors – we can find jobs for those program completers who want to work.

Laura Roberts asked if we could open enrollment for high school seniors earlier. Right now, these graduating seniors can't apply to MTC until February 1. In the Fall of their senior year, students start

planning for what they are doing after graduation. FAFSA, state universities, private colleges all open enrollment in the Fall for enrollment for the following year. Mr. Edwards and Ms. Meyers said they will bring this to the Recruitment Committee to see what can be done to open enrollment earlier for this group.

Legislative Update: Doug Wagner reported.

- **House Bill 725**
 - Allows technical centers to offer RN credentials to graduates of the same School District of Manatee County's licensed practical nursing program.
 - Working its way through Senate and House committees for approval
 - Four MTC nursing instructors and school board member Dr. Hopes went to Tallahassee to support this bill.
 - Still a long way to go for complete approval. If approved by the committees, it will go to the House and Senate for a vote. At that time, we may need your support by way of a letter campaign.
 - This bill passing is important because of the shortage of RNs. At this time, Manatee Memorial Hospital has 50+ openings. There is not a hospital in the state that does not have openings for RNs.
- Technical College Funding – the legislature has not gotten to the details of funding and distribution yet. It is doubtful that they will add funds to this line item.

Discussion Topic:

Career Track Progress

- Mr. Edwards reported that this program is geared to students who are not on track to graduate. The program would help the student get their GED and a job and possibly continue their education in a career program. Employers are excited about this program; students need motivation to join.
- What is the students' reluctance to join the program? They are not currently feeling the squeeze; they are living at home, under employed, making enough money to survive, and are content where they are.
- Met with Manatee County Government's new recruiter. They want to make connection with high school graduates and those who may not be on track to graduate to build a pipeline with the high schools. They are looking at where in their organization they can use entry-level talent, and who can mentor these employees.
- The program has been slow to get off the ground but will have more merit once we have a few success stories.
- On the employers' side, they want to partner with schools, and many have no idea how to go about this.
- Goal is for a commitment from the employer for opportunities for advancement in career and salary and opportunity to further education.
- Daisy Vulovich was wondering if this could be presented at the advisory committee dinner on April 2. Mr. Sunseri said he would like to present this program at the dinner
- Erin Sulbaran asked if we had something showing the timelines for FAFSA, enrollment, program start dates, etc.

New Scholarship Opportunities Sponsored by Ad-VANCE Talent Solutions

- Ad-VANCE will be providing a \$5000 scholarship for students to attend MTC. Mr. Sunseri hopes this continues on an annual basis.
- We need to find a way to promote our school and attract students like colleges do at high school awards ceremonies.
- Working on pathways to keep the talent at home – high school to MTC to SCF to USF
- Promote awareness.

Other Business:

- John Ziemnicki asked Mr. Wagner about the status of the career academies at the high schools. Prior to the last few years, these academies have fallen to the wayside. With the referendum dollars, they are making a come-back. Manatee County leads the state with 22 nationally certified academies. When the rules changed for academies, there was a decline state-wide.
- Ms. Roberts reported that Southeast High School is starting a Freshman Exploration Academy next year with two teams of freshmen. There are several career paths in each of the four academies. The four academies are:
 - ABC – Agriculture, Business and Culture
 - Engineering and Communication
 - Visual and Performing Arts
 - Health and Global Leadership
- Mr. Edwards passed out the MTC Spring Guide and discussed upcoming recruitment efforts and information sessions.
- Mr. Sunseri announced that Daisy Voluvich has resigned her position at SCF and therefore her position on the MTC Board of Governors. She will be missed. Mr. Sunseri thanked her for her service. Ms. Voluvich spoke of how special and unique the relationship between MTC, SCF, USF, and Career Source is. It is great how they all work so well together.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05pm

Future Meetings

Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 5:00 pm prior to the Advisory Committee Dinner