

**Blue Ridge Community College  
College Board Meeting  
November 9, 2022**

**Board Members Present:**

- Ms. Kelly Blosser
- Mr. John Butler
- Ms. Debra Callison
- Ms. Janet Ewing
- Ms. Vermell Grant
- Ms. Capitola "Cappie" Hull
- Ms. Mary Louise Leake
- Mr. John Matherly
- Ms. Cathy Welsh

**Board Members Absent:**

- Ms. Sandy Hernandez
- Mr. Dave Metz

**College Staff in Attendance**

- Dr. John Downey, President of the College and Secretary of the Board
- Dr. Bob Young, Vice President of Student instruction and Student Services
- Ms. Anastasia Triplett, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Ms. Amy Kiger, Executive Director of the BRCC Educational Foundation
- Ms. Sandi Belcher, Executive Assistant to the President
- Ms. Lynne Ryan, Associate Professor of Mathematics

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Mr. Matherly welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. Dr. Downey introduced Ms. Ryan, who was attending the meeting as an assignment for a leadership class.

**Moment in Mission**

Dr. Downey introduced the Moment in Mission by explaining the collaboration between the Waynesboro Players, a local theater community group, and Blue Ridge Community College. This is the first production performed by the Players in BRCC's Black Box Theatre. Next, everyone walked over to the theatre for a short 5-10 minutes scene from the play *Barefoot in the Park*.

**Approval of September 28, 2022 Minutes of Proceedings**

**\*Minutes were approved and unanimously passed.**

**Committee Reports**

- A. Mr. Butler asked Ms. Triplett to review the reports for the Board. She reviewed financial reports from July 2022 – September 2022. **\*The committee made the motion to accept the reports as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Ms. Triplett reported that the Master Plan was approved by the VCCS. There will be more to report on in subsequent meetings as summer projects are put into place.

In Mr. Metz's absence, Dr. Young covered the action items requiring approval from the Board.

**\*The committee moved to approve the adoption of 1 BIO and 5 EDU courses. The motion was**

**passed unanimously. \*The committee moved to adopt revisions to BIO 141 and 142, as well as SDV 101. The motion was passed unanimously.**

Dr. Young also reported on the progress of implementing a Chatbot on BRCC's website and explained how CRM will be implemented as a tool to track students as they go through the onboarding process, which is presently being done by hand. Dr. Young also mentioned that there are several grants in process and will report on those outcomes as they come to fruition.

**B. Secretary Downey asked Ms. Triplett to give the Personnel Report.**

Secretary Downey asked Dr. Young to give an enrollment update. Dr. Young reported that enrollment is up and looking good at 9% for fall. Spring is up as well and now puts the college at almost halfway to weaning off federal stimulus funds so we can sustain on our own. BRCC is currently leading the VCCS in enrollment.

Secretary Downey asked Ms. Kiger to give the Educational Foundation report on the Blue Ridge Fund and All Funds Comparison reports. Ms. Kiger also updated the board on upcoming Foundation sponsored events. Ms. Kiger announced that the gifts campaign was a great success with 100% participation by both the College and Foundation boards. This enabled the Foundation to receive an additional \$2,000 from a generous donor.

**Old Business**

There was no old business to discuss.

**New Business**

Dr. Downey asked the Board for suggestions for a graduation speaker for the 2022-2023 academic year.

In Dr. Downey's report, he talked about the Hunger Symposium, which was held on campus the week of Oct. 24-27. He explained that the purpose of it is not only to raise funds for the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank – which the college does each year – but also to raise awareness that hunger is not just a problem that occurs in other countries, or even far-off areas of the United States, but is very prevalent right here in our own community. Dr. Downey went on to mention again that Spring enrollment is up, which is very encouraging. He reported that he recently gave two presentations on the current labor market at the Higher Ed conference in Roanoke, Virginia and will give a similar presentation to the State Board in the near future. Dr. Downey also reported that Congressman Ben Cline recently visited the college. He took a tour of the Manufacturing and Bio Science buildings and then held a private conversation with several area college and university presidents. Afterwards, he held a press conference. Dr. Downey informed the Board that the Governor has been attending every Presidents Council meeting and has expressed concern about free speech in the classroom.

Dr. Downey asked the Board to be thinking about upcoming self-evaluations in the early part of next year and to consider whether the dates and times for the committee meetings should stay as they are, or if they should look at changing them.

**Public Input**

No members from the public were in attendance.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

*\*Items requiring action*

*Respectfully submitted by Ms. Sandi Belcher*