

**Blue Ridge Community College  
College Board Meeting  
January 10, 2024**

**Board Members Present**

- Ms. Kelly Blosser
- Ms. Debra Callison, Chair
- Mr. Robin Crowder
- Mr. Tony Davenport
- Ms. Vermell Grant
- Ms. Janet Ewing
- Ms. Sandra Hernandez
- Ms. Capitola "Cappie" Hull
- Ms. Cathy Welsh, Vice-Chair

**Board Members Absent:**

- Mr. John Butler
- Mr. John Matherly

**College Staff in Attendance:**

- Dr. John Downey, President of the College and Secretary of the Board
- Ms. Anastasia Triplett, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Dr. Dave Urso, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Ms. Amy Kiger, Executive Director of the BRCC Educational Foundation
- Ms. Sandi Belcher, Executive Assistant to the President
- Mr. Eric Fitzgerald, Agriculture Admissions Advisor

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Ms. Callison welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:57 pm.

**Moment in Mission**

Dr. Downey introduced Mr. Eric Fitzgerald, BRCC Agriculture Admissions Advisor, and asked him to speak on the Agriculture Program at the College. Mr. Fitzgerald showed a PowerPoint presentation and spoke about his goals and the direction he sees the program going.

**Approval of November 8, 2023 Minutes of Proceedings**

**\*The motion was made by Ms. Welsh, seconded by Ms. Blosser, and was passed unanimously.**

**Finance and Facilities Report**

Ms. Triplett presented the local funds financial results for fiscal period July 1-December 31, 2023. **\*A motion for approval and the report be filed for audit was made by Mr. Crowder, seconded by Ms. Grant and approved unanimously.** Ms. Triplett gave updates on the following current projects: CDL Project: the truck driving range, which is on schedule to be completed within the General Assembly

deadlines for spending the funds allocated. Project: the tennis courts. The plan is to wait until the school year is over and then do a complete renovation, which may include adding a pickle ball court. Project: Bookstore contract renewal. A decision will be made by the end of the fiscal year whether to renew the Follett contract, or make a new contract with Barnes and Noble.

### **Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Urso covered four information topics: 1-EMS mobile unit; 2-MLT program is put on hold for now; 3- Status of Lab School project with a JMU partnership; and 4-New rules and expectations for bringing faculty and staff back to campus post Covid. Dr. Urso also led two discussion items: 1-Advisory committees on campus are going to lean more towards BRCC faculty and staff doing more listening and the community membership doing more talking; 2-other ways to earn credit beyond the classroom: on-the-job training, portfolio, and exams.

### **Personnel Report**

Ms. Triplett reviewed the Personnel Report

### **Enrollment Update**

Dr. Urso distributed and reviewed the enrollment reports for both FTEs and Fast Forward, as well as a document that explains in more detail about Fast Forward.

### **Educational Foundation**

Ms. Kiger reviewed the Foundation reports, which include the Blue Ridge and All funds Comparison reports. She then announced a couple of upcoming events: the Scholarship Luncheon, which the Chancellor will be attending; and, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Casino Royale fundraiser.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

Dr. Downey presented a proposal for a Resolution, showing appreciation to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors, Administration, and Staff for 32 years of the generous arrangement that allowed the BRCC truck driving program to use a portion of the parking lot for a truck driving range. **\*The motion was made by Mr. Crowder, seconded by Ms. Ewing and was passed unanimously.** After a typo correction and obtaining the Board Chair and President's signatures, Ms. Belcher will work with the Graphics Department to get the Resolution printed and framed in time for Dr. Downey to make a presentation at the Annual Update visit to the Augusta County Board of Supervisors meeting in February. Dr. Downey reminded the Board that the Conflict of Interest filing is due by the deadline of Feb. 1 and includes a training this year. Next, Dr. Downey gave an update on the state of the State Budget, as well as a report on where HEERF funding stands. Dr. Downey then shared a statistical report that shows the economic value of BRCC and discussed the various partnerships Blue Ridge is currently involved in with JMU: Merck grant; Transfer initiative, with improvement through the Aspen Institute; and the Lab School. Dr. Downey also reported on a successful two-week in-service for faculty and staff and closed with the annual report for the 2022-2023 academic year.

### **Public Input**

No members from the public were in attendance.

### **Calendar Items**

The Chair reviewed the upcoming events listed at the bottom of the agenda.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Ms. Sandi Belcher*