

Board Digest

George A. Bee Administration Center

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**Regular Meeting
October 20, 2003**

Highland Lakes student Casey Weedon, a liberal arts major who intends to transfer to UM-Flint for training as a teacher, described his experiences at OCC, as well as the positive impact of the college on his mother, a single parent of four who graduated from the OCC nursing program and went on to gain an MBA and a responsible position with Havenwick Hospital. Mr. Weedon praised the OCC faculty and the atmosphere of intellectual inquiry, as exemplified by the forums on Iraq held on campus last fall.

Chancellor's Comments

Chancellor Mary Spangler made the following observations and comments:

- The board of trustees will enter a brief closed session this evening to discuss real estate matters.
- As her eighth week at the college begins, Dr. Spangler has visited all five campuses to meet with faculty, staff and administrators; she intends to implement a monthly cycle of such visits.
- Dr. Spangler recently met with Walsh College representatives to sign an agreement for an online alliance.
- A group of 10 OCC representatives attended the September 27 Arab American & Chaldean 2003 Civic and Humanitarian Awards Banquet in Detroit. The chancellor was able to meet the organization's president, Dr. Haifa Fakhouri, Governor Jennifer Granholm, WSU President Irving Reid, and Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard.
- The chancellor's cabinet held its first meeting at Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall, where it also met with OU President Gary Russi to discuss partnerships.
- This morning the chancellor attended a diversity task force in Birmingham where she met Birmingham Eccentric Editor Greg Kowalski.
- The recently-concluded 2003 United Way campaign raised approximately \$45,600 and saw an almost 15% increase in employee participation. Thanks are due to Campaign Chair Cathy Rush and the site coordinators for their hard work.
- Chancellor Spangler informed the board that she will use the agenda section entitled "Staff Reports" to present various OCC programs and projects of benefit to students and the community.
- The board will vote on the four annual goals submitted by Chancellor Spangler.
- Vice Chancellor Brantley will report on the implications of state budget cuts for the coming year.
- At its special meeting last Monday, the board discussed consensus issues regarding the future of District Office; the next step will be issuance of a request for proposal for consultants to gather specific technical and comparative data.
- The strategic planning process is moving along well, with input coming from the entire college community - 200 recommendations have been received thus far. The faculty identified their support for key objectives at Discipline Day recently; the management team will meet in a special session at the end of the month, and staff at all sites will provide input for the same purpose. A report will be issued in January.

Vice Chancellor Brantley provided an update on the state community college budget. With the state facing a \$900 million shortfall, another reduction for community colleges of at least 3% percent is inevitable. No official word has yet been issued, but an announcement is expected by Thanksgiving. Mr. Brantley noted that an increase in the retirement rate is also possible.

President Martha Smydra introduced new employee Richard Zahodnik, director of clinical education/respiratory therapy.

College Resources

The retirement of nursing faculty member Jane Ditri (HL) was rescinded. The faculty appointment of Michael Sabol (firefighter technology – HL) was approved.

The non-exempt (temporary) management staff appointments of Sue Armstrong, child care coordinator (HL), and Dale Rohrbach, PASS coordinator (OR), were approved, as were the classified appointments of Lina Gerchak, bookstore assistant (RO/SF); Saul Grunfeld, science paraprofessional (SF); Joyce Reiterman, student services specialist (AH); and David McRoberts, library technician (RO). The part-time classified appointment of Susan Gee, learning resources technician (OR), was also approved.

The following construction projects were approved by the board via consent agenda procedure: roof replacement, Building J (OR); - \$114,000; asbestos abatement project, Building C (AH) - \$115,500; replacement of underground heating pipes, Levinson Hall/Physical Education Building (HL) - \$118,300; improvement of return and relief air flow ducting, Woodland Hall (HL) - \$9,400; cooling tower/chiller replacement (OR) - \$1,053,400; replacement of tennis court (OR) - \$33,582 (increase over previously approved proposal).

The monthly progress report on millage-funded construction projects was presented.

The following contracts, purchases and workforce agreements with third party providers were also approved via consent agenda procedure: purchase of bulk road salt from the low bidder, Morton Salt, for \$29,833.45; a one-year extension of the contract with Five Star Waste Services for \$51,253; an agreement with Fanuc robotics to provide training for GM Orion Assembly Plant employees at a cost of \$50,000; an agreement with Hyperformix to provide integrated performance training for EDS employees, at a cost of \$50,000; an agreement with Rockwell Automation to provide training equipment to be used for training GM Orion Assembly Plant employees, at a cost of \$65,000.

Academic and Student Affairs

College Academic Senate Chair Gerald Faye noted that the group had its first meeting of the new academic year on September 25. The senate has begun its discussion of the academic planning process. Representing the Royal Oak/Southfield Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Dawn Fullerton provided an overview of the group's activities. On October 25 PTK will cosponsor a Halloween Health Fair for Children with counterparts at Macomb Community College. This weekend the Royal Oak/Southfield and Orchard Ridge chapters, in concert with PTK representatives from several other community colleges, will participate in a cancer awareness event called the "Relay for Life." In December the Royal Oak/Southfield Chapter will hold induction ceremonies; Chancellor Spangler and President Smydra will participate.

Vice Chancellor George Keith discussed plans for the revitalization of a student life program at the college, including the activities undertaken by the Student Life Committee to achieve that objective.

Old Business

The chancellor distributed copies of her four annual goals to the trustees. The goals were approved by the board.

The board voted unanimously to cancel the amendment to the ground lease with Selective Alliance, LLC.

New Business

Trustee Abraham inquired as to the types of services to be provided by a consultant assisting in the future planning for District Office. Dr. Spangler noted that consultants would undertake tasks designed to

address the consensus points identified in the special planning session. Technical and comparative data on various property options, cost comparisons, square foot analyses, and Return on Investment were among the potential areas.

Reports

Board Secretary Anne Scott noted that she has distributed a report on the recent MCCA meeting, which she attended. Ms. Scott asked that the board send a letter to Governor Granholm expressing concern over the perilous status of Bay du Noc and Gogebic community colleges, and pointing out the lack of parity in state funding of Michigan's community colleges.

Ms. Scott also asked that the board send a congratulatory letter to longtime Bay du Noc trustee Dr. Marian Olsen who has been named "Outstanding Nurse Educator of the 20th Century." Dr. Olsen recently resigned her trustee post for health reasons.

Chairperson Janice Simmons noted that she has filed a report on the ACCT annual convention, and has been reelected to the Central Region Nominating Committee.

Trustee Judith Wisner extended compliments for an "extraordinary" dinner recently presented by the Culinary Institute at the Orchard Ridge Campus.

For further information on this session, contact College Communications (248) 341-2122.