

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
BRIDGEVALLEY COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE
MINUTES
AUGUST 6, 2021

A meeting of the BridgeValley Community and Technical College Board of Governors (BOG) was held on Friday, August 6, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the Upper Kanawha Valley Economic Development Corporation located at 326 Third Avenue, Montgomery, WV.

Board members present: Megan Bailey, Mark Blankenship, Barry Crist, Ashley Deem, Jeff Ginther, Alex Harris, Barry Holstein, Andrew Kennedy, Larry Pack, Jr., Andrea Petry, and Rhonda White. Also in attendance were President Casey Sacks; Special Guest Rich Donovan, Senior Director of Facilities, WVHEPC; and BridgeValley faculty and staff.

I. Call to Order

Chair Deem called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll was taken by Amy Moore noting that a quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Blankenship moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 30, 2021. Larry Pack, Jr., seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Blankenship moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 7, 2021. Larry Pack, Jr., seconded the motion. Motion carried.

IV. Administrative Items

a. Welcome New Members – Jeff Ginther, Alex Harris, and Rhonda White

Chair Deem welcomed new members Jeff Ginther, Alex Harris (student representative) and Rhonda White (faculty representative).

V. Reports

a. President's Report – Dr. Casey Sacks

i. Relationship Building

President Sacks has started reaching out to legislators and community leaders to build relationships for the college. She has met with the following: Senator Eric

Tarr; Delegate Josh Booth; Delegate Jim Barach; Senator Tom Takubo; Monica Cross with WVMA; Julie Norman with Region 3 Workforce Development; Matt Ballard with West Virginia Regional Technology Park; Greg Ingram, Mayor of Montgomery; and Delegate Joshua Higginbotham. Julie Norman has invited Dr. Sacks to serve on her board. Just this week, she met with the Mayor of South Charleston.

ii. Organizational structure changes

Workforce division has been consolidated. Dr. Laura McCullough will serve at the Vice President of workforce. It was unclear who oversaw certain areas, so it made sense to consolidate.

In the past the human resources director reported to the president because she was married to the Vice President of Operations and since she has left the college, the new human resources director will now report to the Vice President of Operations.

iii. Program changes

All entrepreneurship programs are now under workforce. The college is working on teaching out the culinary and hospitality entrepreneurship programs. There are four students enrolled in those programs.

iv. ABET certification status

The last time the Board met there was some conversation with Dean Norm Mortensen regarding ABET accreditation. The CET (Computer Engineering Technology) program had not actions required. The MET (Mechanical Engineering Technology) program had some paperwork revisions that have been submitted. The EET (Electrical Engineering Technology) program revised the paperwork and posted required positions. The Board approved positing a position for EET. The college will hear back in late August or early September on their reaffirmation decision.

The Dean anticipates we will get the six-year accreditation for CET and MET and the EET program may have an interim report to file.

v. Building strategies for the future

In the process of building strategies for the future. In beginning stages of saying what does student success look like, and we will keep having those conversations at the forefront.

Dr. Sacks goals for the next thirty days is to continue to build relationships with employees and community leaders.

Dr. Sacks stated that enrollment is down, and she is very concerned about it. Our enrollment team has been doing outreach events. We have leveraged our COVID relief funds to help re-enroll students who owe a balance to the college. The message is that we are open. If we have a resurgent of the virus, faculty members are capable of pivoting to online instruction.

Chair Deem asked if we have enough PPE. Jason Stark, Vice President of Operations stated that we have plenty of PPE on hand.

Secretary Holstein asked what level of flexibility we have regarding faculty salaries. Dr. Sacks stated that we do pay faculty with different degrees at different levels.

Andrew Kennedy mentioned the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is building their enrollment and we need to build a relationship with them. Kristi Ellenberg, Dean of General Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences, stated she has a class at the academy and has been trying to build a relationship. She is meeting with Debbie Gipson, Deputy Director, Mountaineer Challenge Academy, for a discussion.

VI. Possible Executive Session Pursuant to W.Va. Code § 6-9A-1 to Discuss Personnel Issues and the Purchase, Sale, or Lease of Property

Vice Chair Blankenship moved to enter Executive Session Pursuant to W.Va. Code § 6-9A-4 to discuss Personnel Issues and the Purchase, Sale, or Lease of Property. Larry Pack, Jr, seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Holstein moved to call the meeting to order following Executive Session. Vice Chair Blankenship seconded. Motion carried.

VII. Additional Board Action and Comments

Chair Deem stated that the Board had a very productive executive session. Items discussed were the presidential search and college facilities. The Board wants to reassure everyone that they are very committed to the City of Montgomery. The city has been very good to BridgeValley, and BridgeValley hopes to do the same in return.

Secretary Holstein made a motion to direct administration to consider the most efficient use of our space in Montgomery and South Charleston and bring some options back to the Board at its next regular meeting. Vice Chair Blankenship seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Holstein made a motion to authorize Dr. Sacks to get cost estimates to repair the stairway in Davis Hall that does not meet code and to provide additional information for financial requirements for repairs at the next regular Board meeting. Vice Chair Blankenship seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Holstein made a motion to end all current Facility Use Agreements for the GRID and to move the Brewing program into Davis Hall before the start of the Fall 2021 semester. Vice Chair Blankenship seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary Holstein made a motion directing Dr. Sacks to explore options for Ratliff Hall and bring those options before the Board at the next regular Board meeting. Vice Chair Blankenship seconded. Motion carried. It was noted that BridgeValley is the only community and technical college in the state owning a dormitory. Also, let it be noted that the building is currently vacant.

A virtual meeting will be held on August 20, 2021, at 1:00 pm to discuss personnel issues and any other matters that may arise.

VIII. Announcements/Upcoming Events

- a. August 30 – First Day of Fall 2021 Classes
- b. September 22 – BridgeValley Night at Power Park

IX. Next Meeting

Friday, August 20, 2021
1 pm
Location: Virtual

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ashley N. Deem

_____, Ashley N. Deem, Chair

Barry Holstein

_____, Barry Holstein, Secretary