

COLUMBUS STATE

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MINUTES **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Delaware Campus, 5100 Cornerstone Drive
Moeller Hall Rooms 111-112
Thursday, March 28, 2024 | 6:00 PM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS

James Fowler, Chair
John Ammendola, Vice Chair
Corrine Burger, Immediate Past Chair
Sandy Doyle-Ahern, Trustee
Traci L. Martinez, Esq., Trustee
Terri Meldrum, Esq., Trustee
Jerome Revish, Trustee
Rick Ritzler, Trustee
Lorina W. Wise, Esq., Trustee

CALL TO ORDER

The Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Ammendola at 6:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- John Ammendola (Virtual)
- Corrine Burger
- Sandy Doyle-Ahern
- Traci L. Martinez, Esq.
- Terri Meldrum, Esq.

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE

President Harrison advised that the record should show that notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with provisions of §121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.

OPENING REMARKS FROM VICE CHAIR AMMENDOLA

Vice Chair Ammendola, who led the meeting because Chair Fowler was unable to attend, expressed his appreciation to the Delaware Campus for hosting the Board meeting. Vice Chair Ammendola also thanked the Columbus State staff for their impact on students, the community, and the future workforce.

OPENING REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT HARRISON

President Harrison also shared his appreciation to the Delaware Campus and the college’s technical staff for their support of Board meetings. He invited the student ex-officio, D’Tron Driessen, to introduce the student speaker, Melissa Palmer.

Ms. Palmer explained that she was not planning to attend college until she learned about the Columbus Promise program when she was a student at South High School in the Columbus City Schools district. Ms. Palmer said the program has changed her life. Now, as a second-year Columbus State student, she is studying Computer Science and taking part in an earn-and-learn opportunity with Nationwide’s technology department. She anticipates graduating in Spring 2025.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Martinez moved, Member Doyle-Ahern seconded, that the January 25, 2024 minutes be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ammendola, Burger, Doyle-Ahern, Martinez, and Meldrum

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Ammendola shared the consent agenda, which was discussed at the March 22, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting:

- Amended Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies (CY2024)
- Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies (CY2025)

Member Meldrum moved, Member Martinez seconded that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A vote was taken, which resulted in:

AYES: Ammendola, Burger, Doyle-Ahern, Martinez, and Meldrum

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

INFORMATIONAL-ONLY ITEMS

The following items were presented to the Board for information only:

- Construction Contract: External Speaker Project (approved Feb. 14, 2024 through the board’s delegated authority process)
- Financial Statements as of and for the Seven Months Ended January 31, 2024
- Personnel Information Items

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Harrison shared recent highlights with the help of members of the Columbus State leadership team:

- **Almar Walter honored:** *Columbus Business First* honored Almar Walter, Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, as an Outstanding Diversity Champion.
- **Advanced manufacturing updates:** President Harrison shared news reports about several employer partners that are part of the expansion of advanced manufacturing in the Columbus Region. The college is a key workforce partner to these industries. Among the updates:
 - Intel had been awarded \$8.5 billion from the federal CHIPS and Science Act, supporting its semiconductor manufacturing work in Ohio and across the country.
 - Amgen has opened its biopharmaceutical processing and packaging plant in New Albany. Many of the employees have been trained through Columbus State bootcamps and other programs.
 - The Ohio House of Representatives has approved \$10 million in capital funding for the College’s Ohio Center for Advanced Technologies project. Evaluation of potential funding from the state’s Strategic Community Investment Fund now moves to the Ohio Senate.
 - Columbus State was highlighted as a national example of workforce development in a commentary in Fortune magazine. Maria Flynn, president and CEO of Jobs for the Future (JFF), said in the commentary that the College is forging partnerships to

build a pipeline for thousands of skilled workers.

- **Affordable housing:** Columbus State Community Partners has announced the Opportunity Pointe project, a proposed affordable workforce housing complex next to the school’s downtown campus. CSCP is working with the developer Woda Cooper Companies on the 160-unit project.
- **Higher education trends:** President Harrison talked about challenging financial trends facing higher education institutions across the nation and state. He said the College is not immune to trends that include demographic changes and the effects of the COVID pandemic, but Columbus State has opportunities many other institutions do not. President Harrison said the College continues to allocate resources to our highest priorities – student success and the region’s workforce needs.
- **Moody’s update:** Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Aletha Shipley shared that Moody’s has revised the College’s outlook from “stable” to “negative” while affirming Columbus State’s ratings (Aa1 for general obligation debt and Aa3 for general receipts debt). Ms. Shipley noted that the Moody’s model did not recognize that Columbus State’s general obligation debt is backed by a voter-approved bond issue when evaluating our debt service coverage. She said the college was very happy that Moody’s maintained the College’s ratings.

Allen Kraus, Vice President of Enrollment Services and Marketing & Communications, provided a financial aid update amid the federal government’s rollout of an updated Federal Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process. The FAFSA Simplification Act is designed to simplify the FAFSA, expand Pell Grant eligibility, and remove outdated restrictions to make federal aid more accessible. There have been several delays and challenges nationally with the updated FAFSA that have particularly affected four-year universities. Mr. Kraus shared that Columbus State is less affected by these complications because we do not have enrollment deadlines and about 50% of our students typically enroll within a month of the start of the autumn semester.

Dr. Rebecca Butler, Executive Vice President, shared the College’s student success plan, which is focused on accelerating course success and credential attainment across all student demographics. Equity, scale, sustainability, and assessment are guiding principles of the student success plan, which is also aligned with the state’s performance-based funding model. Columbus State is employing a collegewide, focused and interdisciplinary approach to enhance student success in areas such as scaling career pathways; optimizing course schedules and modalities; further scaling English and Mathematics co-requisite courses; re-designing practices such as orientation, first-year experience courses, and tutoring; and investing in teaching and learning practices that advance gateway course completion. The College is measuring progress against key metrics of student success.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

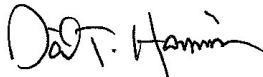
No public participation.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.



David T. Harrison, Ph.D. Secretary, Board of Trustees

Office of the President/bcj 03.28.24