

State Board of Community Colleges
Strategic Planning Committee
NC Community College System
Raleigh, NC
November 17, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.

Call to Order

Dr. Darrell Saunders called the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee to order at 1:29 pm in the AW Conference Room and welcomed everyone.

Board Members Participating:

Dr. Darrell Saunders
Mr. Bobby Irwin
Representative Jimmie Ford
Mr. Ernest Pearson
Mr. Jerry Vaughn

Also Attending:

Anne Bacon
Maureen Little
Matt Meyer
Bill Schneider
Lyn Austin
Linda Suggs
Susan Barbitta
Dr. Dale McInnis (Richmond CC)
Sheri Dunn-Ramsay (Richmond CC)
Brent Barbee (Richmond CC)
Dr. John Dempsey (Sandhills CC)
Brenda Jackson (Sandhills CC)
Heather Lyons (Sandhills CC)

Ethics Awareness and Conflicts of Interest

Dr. Saunders asked that Mr. Bobby Irwin read the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest Reminder. He asked the Committee if there were any conflicts or potential conflicts of interest that needed to be identified. Having so requested and hearing none, Mr. Irwin asked that the record reflect that no conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest were reported.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Saunders asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda and a motion was made by Mr. Irwin and seconded by Representative Jimmie Ford. The motion was adopted.

Approval of Minutes

Dr. Saunders asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20th meeting and a motion was made by Representative Ford and seconded by Mr. Irwin to approve the minutes. The motion was adopted.

For Information

Richmond and Sandhills Community Colleges' College Guarantee Programs – Ms. Anne Bacon stated that we would be hearing from two of our community college presidents regarding the College Guarantee Program; Dr. Dale McInnis from Richmond Community College and Dr. John Dempsey from Sandhills Community College. Dr. McInnis began and provided a PowerPoint presentation and handout. He noted that his college has two service areas, Richmond and Scotland Counties, which have been dealing with chronic poverty and unemployment since the 1990s, but are starting to see a turnaround. He stated that 75%-80% of their students are eligible for Pell Grant funding. Each of their counties has one public high school, and some students attend private schools. He added that their enrollment has grown 23% since 2010. They ranked 42nd in enrollment that year, but now rank 29th of the 58 community colleges. He stated that they have focused on improved advising and retention. He discussed the origin, goal and intent of the College Guarantee Program (which requires completion of at least two dual-enrollment courses and graduation from high school with an unweighted GPA of 3.0 or higher), as well as how the program relies on combining support from Pell grants and merit scholarships with funds from the college's bookstore. He added that they had a Guarantee Celebration and Open House in April of 2016. The results to date with an investment of \$33,315 in costs to the college: 182 students who have met the criteria, 74 students enrolled, Fall enrollment increase of 4% and FTE increase of 2%, and an increase in dual enrollment in both counties. He stated that they are tracking all of the students involved and expect the number of Guarantee students to be 140 in 2017-18 and possibly 200 in 2018-19.

Dr. John Dempsey provided a handout and discussed his college's program as well. He said that their Foundation put together a group called the Guarantors to stand behind the program. This has grown to about 175 people who annually contribute to plug holes in the financial aid system for those who don't qualify for federal financial aid. A year ago they created the Sandhills Promise, which is modeled after Richmond Community College's. Their promise states that any graduate of Moore or Hoke County, which are their two service areas, can be guaranteed free tuition if they successfully complete four dual-enrollment courses with a GPA of 2.0 or higher and apply for federal financial aid and Sandhills Community College scholarships each year. This also includes those that are homeschooled as long as they meet the State requirements. He pointed out that Sandhills Community College requires four dual-enrollment courses rather than two, as Richmond Community College does, and the student must maintain a C average at Sandhills. Last year they had 300 students that attended from four high schools in their service areas. He added that 60%-70% are eligible for Pell Grants. He said that over the next 18 months they will be working to sustain this program on an ongoing basis.

Committee members discussed the program with the presidents. Other colleges such as Southeastern, Edgecombe and Vance-Granville Community Colleges have started or are exploring college tuition guarantee programs. Mr. Pearson expressed an interest in knowing which other colleges are offering these kinds of programs, and Ms. Bacon responded that staff would assess and bring that information back to the committee.

Dr. Dempsey pointed out that a college guarantee program is not as expensive as it seems, and it is an economic development asset for a community. Dr. McInnis talked about the value of creating an expectation among students that they can afford to go to college. Funding that makes Career and College Promise free to high school students was cited as a key factor in making this kind of program possible.

Credentials of Value (Attachment PLAN 1) – Ms. Bacon asked Dr. Matt Meyer to speak on this topic. Dr. Meyer stated that he and Ms. Bacon recently attended the National Skills Coalition Workforce Data Quality Campaign meeting in Nashville, TN. He noted that one area they were working on was the reauthorization on higher education. Within this, there was discussion about students who were taking non-degree courses being eligible for Pell Grants. Dr. Meyer referenced the value of third-party credentials and the value they have to students. He noted that this is exciting for those in continuing education, as well as workforce development. He stated that he had also attended a meeting in Baltimore and found that the State of Illinois had been doing a Workforce Pipeline Data Research project, which looked at specific credentials related to their local community colleges. The research showed that students who have a third party certification, either an IT certification or manufacturing skills standard credential, made as much money as those students who obtained an Associate Degree. The earnings levels were almost identical. This shows the value of those certifications. He stated that he would like to see North Carolina do something similar, and discussions with the Department of Commerce have been made in regards to this. Dr. Meyer provided a detailed handout on this topic.

NC Apprenticeship Expansion Project (Attachment PLAN 2) – Dr. Meyer stated that the NC Community College System (NCCCS) was part of the NC Apprenticeship Expansion Grant that the Department of Commerce was awarded in December 2016. The amount awarded was \$1,050,000 to create apprenticeship opportunities in some non-traditional areas (such as Healthcare and Information Technology), while expanding traditional apprenticeships in Manufacturing and Logistics/Transportation. Through this grant, \$97,000 will be sub-granted to the NCCCS for a coordinator of Registered Apprenticeship College Consortium (RACC). This person will work on creating a handbook for colleges interested in joining the national RACC and engaging industry about apprenticeship. Dr. Meyer provided a handout on this information.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was adopted and the meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ms. Jerrie Farmer
Recording Secretary

DRAFT