



Monroe Community College
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

MCC VALUES:

COMMUNITY.
INCLUSIVENESS.
INTEGRITY.
EXCELLENCE.
EMPOWERMENT.
STEWARDSHIP.

Monroe Community College Board of Trustees Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2025

MCC Brighton Campus, Monroe B

4:00 PM

Present: Allen K. Williams, Chair
Carla M. Palumbo, Esq., Vice Chair and Chair, Personnel and Programs Committee
Dr. Daniele Lyman-Torres, Secretary
John B. Baynes
Joseph Leichtner, Student Trustee
Gladys Pedraza-Burgos
Angelica Perez-Delgado
Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
Grace S. Tillinghast
Connie O. Walker, Esq.

Dr. DeAnna R. Burt-Nanna, President
Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant, Board of Trustees

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Mission: Monroe Community College transforms lives and communities, fostering the success of diverse students through affordable and innovative academic, career, technical, and workforce development programs. Our shared work inspires and champions excellence in higher education and builds global engagement and understanding.

Introduction and Opening Remarks

Allen K. Williams, Chair, Board of Trustees, called the meeting to order and quorum was established at 4:06 pm.

➤ Presentation - Annual Audit:

- Andrew Kelly, Principal, Bonadio and Co., LLP
- Randall (Randy) Shepard, Partner, Bonadio and Co., LLP

Consent Agenda

The following items were proposed to be adopted and approved by consent:

Board of Trustees

- Minutes of the December 9, 2024, Board Workshop and Board Meeting and December 19, 2024, Risk Management Committee Meeting.

Finance & Facilities

- Operating disbursements totaled \$7,611,220.88 for the month of November 2024, and \$10,119,383.31 for the month of December 2024, subject to final audit. (A detailed listing is available upon request.)
- Accept the Interim Financial Reports as of November 30, 2024, and December 31, 2024.
- Purchases of items over \$20,000 as listed for the months of November 2024, and December 2024.
- Accept the Annual Audit of Monroe Community College for the fiscal year ended August 31, 2024, as conducted by Bonadio & Co., LLP.

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Personnel & Programs

- Adopts the “Nondiscrimination Policy for Discrimination Complaints for Students and Employees”
- Adopts the “Responding to and Accommodating Pregnancy and Related Conditions Policy”
- Approves the Consent Calendar

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College adopt the consent agenda effective February 3, 2025. (T02-2025)

MOTION was made and seconded that the above resolution be adopted.
Motion was carried unanimously.

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Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2024, the State University of New York (“SUNY”) Board of Trustees adopted a resolution regarding “Strengthening the Community College Presidential Search Process and Ensuring Transparency and Accountability” (the “Resolution”) which amends the SUNY Guidelines for Presidential Searches for Community Colleges (the “SUNY Guidelines”); and

WHEREAS, the Chancellor of SUNY and other SUNY officials have taken action(s) in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution, including implementing new requirements regarding the employment contract of community college presidents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees Monroe Community College has been advised that the adoption and implementation of said Resolution exceeds the statutory authority granted to the SUNY Board, in contravention to statute and existing policy and/or guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College has further been advised that the SUNY Board failed to promulgate the new rules/requirements contained in the Resolution pursuant to the State Administrative Procedure Act’s statutorily required rulemaking procedure; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College has determined that it is in its best interest to institute legal action, and/or take any other appropriate legal action to protect its rights, authority and autonomy as it relates to the Community College Presidential Search Process.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College hereby appoints Ingerman Smith, LLP, as Special Counsel for the purpose of commencing legal action against the SUNY Board of Trustees, the Chancellor of SUNY, Dr. John King, and/or any other proper parties on a cooperative basis with other community colleges and/or parties in the State Supreme Court, County of Albany, and/or other appropriate administrative agency(ies), jurisdiction(s) and/or tribunal(s), challenging the legality of the action(s) taken by SUNY related to the Resolution, the legality of the Resolution and the action(s) that the Chancellor of SUNY and others have taken in furtherance of the aforesaid Resolution and/or take any other appropriate legal action to address issues relating to the Resolution and its impact on the interests, rights, autonomy and authority of the Monroe Community College; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Monroe Community College is herewith authorized to execute a retainer agreement with Ingerman Smith, LLP, and any other necessary documentation relative to this appointment, on behalf of the Board. (T03-2025)

MOTION was made and seconded that the above resolution be adopted.
Motion was carried unanimously.

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Student Success

- Student Testimonial by Alyssa Almekinder
- Student Government Association Update
- Student Trustee Update
- Student Success Dashboard with Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Measurements
 - William Dixon, Director, Research

College Updates

- Monroe Community College Foundation Report
- Shared Governance Updates
 - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the shared governance groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
 - Faculty Senate – Becky Babcock
 - Support Staff Planning Council – written report
- Selected Executive Leadership Team Updates
 - Dr. Robin Cole Jr., Economic & Workforce Development & Career Technical Education
 - Dr. Calvin Gantt, Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Belonging and Executive Director, Downtown Campus
 - Greg Hinton, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
 - Dr. Michael Jacobs, Provost & Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs
 - Gretchen Wood, Vice President, Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, MCC Foundation
- Joint Finance and Operations Report
 - Dale R. Rehkopf II, Chair, Finance and Facilities Committee
 - Greg Hinton, CFO/Vice President, Administrative Services
- President's Update
 - Administrative Shared Governance Update
- Union Updates
 - Linda M. Hall, Executive Assistant to the Board of Trustees, called on the union groups for their updates. The following groups shared an update:
 - Faculty Association – Bethany Gizzi
 - CSEA – written report

Board Updates

- Board Action Plan
- Academic Freedom and Student Success Policies

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Information Items

Finance and Facilities

- CIP Status Report as of January 13, 2025
- Grants Report from November 8, 2024 to January 9, 2025

Personnel and Programs

- Copyright and Faculty Ownership of Intellectual Property Policy

Board of Trustees

- Biographies
- Staff Recognition

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Summary

- Chair Williams gavelled in the meeting at 4:06 pm. Chair Williams noted that in the spirit of continuous improvement, presentations have been reordered as a result of trustee feedback and in respect for shared governance.
- Andrew Kelly and Randall Shepard from Bonadio and Co., LLP, presented the annual audit.
- Student Alyssa Almekinder provided her testimonial. The Board of Trustees and President Burt-Nanna thanked Alyssa for sharing her story.
- Student Government Association President Angelo Romero presented on behalf of the Student Government Association (SGA). The Student Government Association will be participating in Advocacy Day on February 12th in Albany where they will advocate for more funding for SUNY schools, and most importantly, community colleges. They will also have a table at the Student Life Fair where they will inform students about their organization and encourage students to participate in being a student leader or a member of the clubs & organizations. The Student Government organization is working on a project regarding college orientation & success classes (COS). This is a good opportunity to reach out to the student body. The Student Government Association will also be promoting their elections throughout the semester to recruit leaders for the next academic year.
- Student Trustee Joseph Leichtner gave his report. Trustee Leichtner successfully completed the AI Agility 30-day challenge program offered by Humanskills.ai in collaboration with the New York Community College Trustees (NYCCT). This deepened his understanding of artificial intelligence and its applications equipping him with valuable skills to support student success at MCC.
- William Dixon, Director of Research, provided an update on the Student Success Dashboard and Key Performance Indicator Measurements. Highlighted at this meeting was Student Outcomes: 3 Year Graduation Rate.
- Gretchen Wood, VP Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the MCC Foundation, gave the MCC Foundation report. Alumni Robin and Tim Wentworth established the Wentworth Family Scholarship several years ago. For the first time in 2024 and now to continue to perpetuity, the Wentworth Family Scholarship awarded 100 MCC students with scholarships up to \$3,000 each. The Gold Star Gala will take place on April 26 at the Country Club of Rochester. The Scholarship Open is scheduled for June 23 at the Country Club of Rochester. The event seeks to raise \$130,000 (net) in support of MCC students.
- Faculty Senate President Becky Babcock reported on the activities of the Faculty Senate (FS). President Babcock noted she appreciated Chair Williams taking the time to connect with the MCC shared governance leaders to collaborate to ensure the Board has the most pertinent information. President Babcock gave background on herself and the structure of the Faculty Senate which is a shared governance body and represents the teaching faculty and professional staff. The Faculty Senate has representatives on many workgroups and committees on campus and is a recommending body. President Babcock is also a member of the Faculty Council of Community Colleges (FCCC). This is a shared governance body of the community colleges across SUNY. MCC has a delegate and alternate delegate for this organization. The Faculty Council of Community Colleges President will be visiting MCC on March 5th.
- Support Staff Planning Council provided a written report.
- Divisional highlights were shared with the Board and delivered by selected members of the President's Executive Leadership Team.

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- Trustee Dale Rehkopf and Associate Vice President Administrative Services Darrell Jachim-Moore gave the Joint Finance and Operations Report. Associate VP Jachim-Moore highlighted the current finances. Trustee Rehkopf asked how the current executive orders impacted finance and operations and Vice President Jacobs provided some insight along with others with expertise in areas of interest. A listing of mission-critical grants that the College inventoried as potentially at-risk had some of the executive orders not been rescinded was included in the Board folders.
- President Burt-Nanna thanked the Trustees who commit to their roles in shared governance and strengthen the College and also gave gratitude for the approximately 1,200 employees who's talent and passion to educate, train and support the approximately 24,000 students. President Burt-Nanna responded to the recent executive orders and the fluidity of the situation. The situation is being monitored closely and updates will be provided as available. MCC is agile, resilient, and innovative in implementing solutions to complex challenges and problem-solving. Appreciation was given to those who worked over the winter break for technology upgrades and all essential workers. Gretchen Wood, Vice President Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the MCC Foundation has been selected to receive the 2025 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) Commonfund College & University Foundation Award presented by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. This award recognizes individuals who have made valuable contributions through best practices, distinguished service, and/or volunteer leadership to the college, university, and community college foundation field. The President also recognized MCC Foundation Chair, Maureen Wolfe, the entire board of directors and Gretchen's colleagues at both the College and the Foundation for all they do for our students. Budget advocacy for fiscal year 2026 includes, in addition to the Governor's proposal for Free Tuition at our community colleges, the New York Community College Association of Presidents (NYCCAP) is advocating for the state elected officials to invest \$100 million in operating aid for SUNY's community colleges to: stabilize the faculty and staff, address student success services, reduce the financial impact of high-cost programs, invest in scaling high need programs aligned with the Governor's priorities. The construction of MCC's new Advanced Technology Center (ATC) is progressing towards the original Fall 2026 grand opening. All funding sources have been secured for a total project cost of \$69.6M. Renovated space for the new micro-credential optics labs is on target to open this Summer for Fall enrollment.

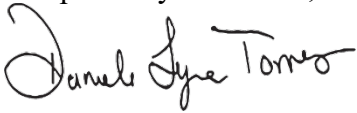
The President's remarks for Administration as relates to shared governance included a thank you to Chair Williams for hosting a meeting on the topic of shared governance with the President, Provost and shared governance leaders for Faculty Senate, Student Government Association and Support Staff Planning Council. The meeting focused on learning more about the importance of shared governance and how it differs from the work of the labor unions and how to leverage the board of trustees meetings to explain how the important contributions of each works synergistically with Administration to strengthen MCC's operations.

- Faculty Association President Bethany Gizzi noted that as a union leader her responsibility is to advocate for and protect the rights of union members and as a true unionist, she is committed to advancing economic and social justice. President Gizzi noted that the many executive orders and administrative actions have profound implications for the MCC community and that the anxiety and fear of these actions is being felt by MCC students and employees. President Gizzi noted that MCC's diversity and commitment to equity and inclusion is MCC's strength and feels it is imperative to remain committed to these values and that our institution remains a leader in advocating for our community. President Gizzi asked the Board to consider taking a public stance in support of marginalized groups and to ensure MCC remains a safe and welcoming space for everyone.

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- CSEA provided a written report.
- Chair Williams asked the Board to review the Board Action Plan in the board folders and provide any edits to him by February 28.
- Vice Chair and Chair of the Personnel and Programs Committee Carla Palumbo, reaffirmed the Board's commitment to their two policies: Academic Freedom and Student Success.
- Chair Williams expressed his gratitude in recognition of the work being done every day by MCC employees. Chair Williams announced there will be College Forums held on March 13 and May 14. The Board looks forward to these opportunities to hear from college employees.
- The board meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniele Lyman-Torres". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniele" and last name "Lyman-Torres" clearly distinguishable.

Daniele Lyman-Torres, Ed.D.
Secretary, Board of Trustees