

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES**

**September 13, 2023 – 9:00 – 10:30 am**

**Iowa Department of Education – Zoom**

**Those in attendance included:**

- ❑ Cassandra Halls, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ Cindy Dietz, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ John Robbins, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ Dr. Matt Thompson, CCC Member and Community College President, Indian Hills Community College (via conf. call)
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, CCC Member and Trustee, Southeastern Community College (via conf. call)
- ❑ Jeremy Varner, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Amy Gieseke, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Dennis Harden, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Jeff Fletcher, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via conf. call)
- ❑ Paula Nissen, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Vlad Bassis, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via conf. call)
- ❑ Lora Vargason Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, Iowa Department of Education (In Person)
- ❑ Kelly Friesleben, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (In Person)
- ❑ Emily Shields, Community Colleges for Iowa (via conf. call)
- ❑ Jacob Ludwig, Legislative Services Agency (via conf. call)
- ❑ Michael Peters, Legislative Services Agency (via conf. call)
- ❑ Kat Callahan, Community Colleges for Iowa (In Person)
- ❑ Erin Volk, Director of Institutional Research and Resource Development, Western Iowa Tech Community College (via conf. call)

**I. Call to Order – Cassandra Halls**

- The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Attendees provided introductions.
- Halls facilitated a round of introductions to welcome Dr. Matt Thompson to the Community College Council (CCC).

**II. Approval of May 3, 2023 Meeting Notes (Action Required – Attachment 1)**

**Motion:** Nabulsi moved to approve; seconded by Dietz.

**Vote:** Motion carries unanimously.

**III. Updates – Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness, Community Colleges for Iowa**

- Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness – Jeremy Varner
  - Recommendations made by a subcommittee of the Governor’s Boards and Commissions Review Committee are in a public comment period.
    - The final report will be submitted to Governor and legislature by September 30, 2023.
  - The fall application cycle is open for the Career Academy Incentive Fund.
    - The state will award \$5 million this fall/spring cycle for new centers, and potentially to update existing centers.

- Governor attending the ribbon cutting for the DMACC Templeton center.
- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is proposing changes to instructor certification requirements.
  - Chief academic officers and deans will discuss implications Friday.
  - Student eligibility for Title IV assistance requires regional Community College (CC) accreditation.
  - In 2018 the Iowa Department of Education (Department) was involved with increasing instructor requirements in administrative rules to a master's degree and 18 graduate credit hours for arts and sciences instructors. Iowa Code only requires a master's degree and 12 graduate credit hours. Now there is a push for greater flexibility.
  - HLC will likely act on this issue in November.
  - **Questions/Comments:**
    - Robbins asked if there was further information on the Boards and Commissions report. Varner said there was not.
    - Nabulsi asked if instructor qualification changes would have implications for accreditation. Varner said it may provide greater flexibility, implications to be determined.
    - Nabulsi asked if CCs would updated when the changes go into effect. Varner confirmed, and said possibly no changes.
- Community Colleges for Iowa – Kat Callahan
  - Personnel changes: Callahan is full-time, Annette Staples is secretary and there is a new Director of Strategic Initiatives.
  - The first CCs for Iowa Convention and Tradeshow is November 28-30.
  - Shields gave comments at the Boards and Commissions public hearing.
  - The main legislative priority for next year is restructuring CC funding to free up \$10 million for institutions with inadequate past funding.
  - Also focusing on expanding access to CC career and transition counselors and supporting the Governor's recommendation for Last Dollar Scholarships.
    - **Questions/Comments:**
      - None.

**IV. Rules: Chapter 95 – Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action in Educational Agencies (Notice) with Red Tape Review Overview and consideration of Special Rules Review Session in December (Action Required – Attachment 2)**

- General Counsel – Thomas Mayes
  - Mayes provided an overview of Governor Reynolds' Executive Order 10.
    - All agencies must identify Iowa code chapters and administrative rules to repeal or repeal and readopt (after a comprehensive review).
    - Goal to eliminate obsolete language and programs, reduce unnecessary regulation and remove restrictive terms.
    - The Department completed its preliminary review of all rule chapters, and tentatively identified 200 rules, 88,000 words and 5,400 terms to repeal.

- Proposed changes will go to Iowa State Board of Education (State Board).
  - State Board will consider about 20 chapters each at September, November and December meetings.
  - December will be dedicated to special rules.
- Iowa Code chapter 95 requires the Department to establish rules for all education agencies under its jurisdiction (red tape review).
  - The Department completed its review on May 30, prior to the deadline.
  - One rule was identified for repeal – IAC 95.1. It is aspirational language.
  - One rule was identified as problematic – 95.9.H states race or national origin may be considered for admission, hiring or promotion. This rule is unconstitutional.
- CCC meetings will include discussing rules and consolidating IAC chapters 21, 24.
  - **Questions/Comments:**
    - Nabulsi asked if the Governor’s office was concerned by the word “shall.” Mayes said they had compared Iowa’s use of “shall” to neighboring states.
    - Nabulsi asked for a more detailed explanation of information contained in documents. Mayes provided details.
    - Friesleben asked if CCC needed special meetings to discuss rules changes. Mayes said the State Board would decide that.
    - Robbins asked if affirmative action plans will still be required. Mayes said schools, area education agencies and CCs will need to adjust their policies.
    - Robbins asked how Iowa’s affirmative action policy is related to the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling prohibiting consideration of race in postsecondary enrollment. Mayes said the court’s decision is in line with its previous rulings on employment.
    - Halls asked if rules for community colleges would change after each of the State Board’s upcoming meetings (November and December). Mayes confirmed.
    - Nabulsi asked who makes the final decision on the rules. Mayes said it would be the State Board.
    - Halls asked if it would be possible to set up a tentative virtual CCC meeting in December. Other CCC members agreed.

**Motion:** Robbins moved to send recommendations to the State Board; Matt Thompson seconded.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

#### **V. Voluntary Framework of Accountability (VFA Update) (After rules convo)**

- Jeff Fletcher, Vlad Bassis, and Erin Volk (Western Iowa Tech CC)
  - VFA is a series of measures designed to capture the mission of CCs and diverse experiences and interactions.

- Volk gave an overview of how and why VFA was established by the American Association of Community Colleges, and how the Department became a partner.
- VFA provides an opportunity for CCs to benchmark against national peers.
- All Iowa CCs now participate.
- Fletcher shared the most recent statewide results.
  - Iowa CCs are outperforming national peers in the two-year and six-year cohorts by 10 percent for students leaving with an associate degree.
  - Across benchmarks, Iowa CCs are on par with their national peers.
  - Iowa CCs' career and technical education (CTE) career placement is not as high as national peers.
- Volk discussed how WITCC uses VFA data.
- Fletcher discussed future VFA plans, including a possible new webpage.
- **Questions/Comments:**
  - Nabulsi asked how the information was gathered. Basis said it was largely from the CC Management Information System (MIS).
  - Dietz asked who Iowa CCs were benchmarking against. Basis said this data compilation included all participating national colleges.

#### **VI. Iowa Community College Tuition & Fees Report**

- Lora Vargason presented an overview of the Indian Hills CC accreditation visit and report for fiscal year 2023.
  - Average Iowa CC tuition increased by 3.6 percent, mandatory fees by 1.6 percent and the cost of one enrollment credit increased by 3.5 percent.
  - Average out-of-state tuition and fees increased by 3.1 percent.
  - Iowa CCs are more expensive than 87 percent of CCs nationally.
  - Regionally, Iowa CCs had higher tuition increases, but lower year-over-year.
  - **Questions/Comments:**
    - Robbins asked if higher tuition reflects a lack of state funding. Vargason said state appropriations have gone down as a percentage of tuition.
    - Nabulsi expressed concerns about rising tuition and lower appropriations. He asked if this information was available to legislators. Vargason said it was available online, but the Department could provide it to the Appropriations subcommittee next legislative session.

#### **VII. Student Outcomes Report**

- Paula Nissen and Vlad Bassis
  - Nissen gave a brief history of why the Department produces these reports.
  - Iowa is known across the country for its detailed credit and noncredit reports.
  - Most credit students (81.9 percent) who go into the workforce stay in Iowa.
  - Nissen and Bassis are mentoring teams in other states on noncredit student data collection/analysis.
  - About two-thirds (64.4 percent) of noncredit CTE students are over 25 years old.
  - There are more males than females in noncredit programs.
  - Noncredit programs are more racially diverse than credit programs.

- Nissen demonstrated dashboards on the Iowa Student Outcomes website.
- **Questions/Comments:**
  - Nabulsi asked how the Department got the personal information that makes data collection possible. Nissen provided details.
  - Nabulsi asked why some CCs have so many more noncredit students than credit students. Varner said different communities have different needs, and CCs are being responsive to that.
  - Nabulsi asked what about Iowa is different from other states. Nissen said Iowa isn't comparable to other states, because Iowa's data collection is so robust.
  - Nabulsi asked about specific classes of commercial driver's licenses, and Nissen said the information was differentiated on the online dashboard.
  - Halls asked how to showcase the Department's work in this area beyond CCC and the State Board, particularly to the Governor and the Iowa legislature.

**VIII. For the Good of the Order – Cassandra Halls**

- Halls confirmed CCC members would receive notice of a special December meeting, if required.
- Done and adjourned 10:29 a.m.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 3:30-5 p.m. – Grimes Building, 400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50319