

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

**March 20, 2024 – 9:00 – 10:30 AM**

**Iowa Department of Education – Zoom**

**Council members in attendance included:**

- ❑ Cassandra Halls, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via zoom)
- ❑ Cindy Dietz, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ John Robbins, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via zoom)
- ❑ Dr. Matt Thompson, CCC Member and Community College President, Indian Hills Community College (via zoom)
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, CCC Member and Trustee, Southeastern Community College (via zoom)
- ❑ Mary Meisterling, CCC Member and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)

**Iowa Department of Education staff and others in attendance included:**

- ❑ Amy Gieseke, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via zoom)
- ❑ Dennis Harden, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via zoom)
- ❑ Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, Iowa Department of Education (via zoom)
- ❑ Lora Vargason Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via zoom)
- ❑ Heather Meissen, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via zoom)
- ❑ Kelly Friesleben, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness (via zoom)
- ❑ Emily Shields, Community Colleges for Iowa (via zoom)

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

- The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM. Halls had everyone introduce themselves since the meeting is conducted via zoom with some members calling in.

**II. Approval of January 10, 2024 Meeting Notes (Action Required – Attachment 1)**

**Motion:** Thompson moved to approve, seconded by Nabulsi.

**Vote:** Motion carried unanimously.

**III. Rules: Chapters 21/24, 46 (Approval)– Thomas Mayes, General Counsel, Laura Vargason, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness**

- Chapter 22 – Mayes gave an update that this rule will be presented at the May meeting given its relation to another chapter that received over 800 public comments.
- Chapter 21/24 – Mayes presented information that no public comment was received, however Department staff added some clarification to faculty qualifications.

▪ **Questions/Comments**

- Nabulsi asked a question to clarify understanding on whether the accrediting body would need to approve – which they would not.

▪ **Motion:** Robbins moved to approve the changes, Nabulsi seconded.

▪ **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

- Chapter 46, CTE Rules— Mayes presented the changes proposed by Department staff that would add flexibility to CAIF grants in order to fund grant proposals for smaller dollar amounts.

- **Questions/Comments**

- Robbins asked if the reference to \$1 million should also be changed, and Department staff explained that the language refers back to code language. Vargason will look into the code language for reference. Mayes concurred that there is statutory language that limits the ability to make other dollar amount changes. Thompson added that being able to go above \$1 million for new career academies would be beneficial in the future.
- **Motion:** Nabulsi moved to approve the changes, Robbins seconded.
- **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Western Iowa Tech Community College Accreditation Follow Up** Heather Meissen, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness

- Meissen presented the areas where the colleges received findings and the follow up that occurred with the department.
- **Questions/Comments:**
  - Nabulsi inquired about if and how colleges are informed about requirements about faculty qualifications. A discussion between Department staff and the council members regarding the communication and information followed.
  - Nabulsi asked about the frequency of this being a finding on reports, and the Department shared information on efforts to communicate and work with colleges on this issue.

**V. Iowa Valley Community College District Accreditation Report,** Amy Gieseke, Bureau of Community Colleges and Postsecondary Readiness

- Gieseke presented the overview of the accreditation including any findings the college received.
- **Questions/Comments:**
  - Discussions among the Department staff and council members occurred relating to the relationship between Ellsworth and Marshalltown as the Iowa Valley Community College District, as well as information regarding the follow up on findings and recommendations.
  - **Motion:** Robbins moved to approve to send the report to the State Board of Education, Thompson seconded.
  - **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

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

- Halls asked if there is an update regarding the status of the Community College Council. Vargason provided an update regarding legislation that impacts the council.
- Done and adjourned: 10: 21 AM
- Next meeting: Wednesday, May 8, 2024 – Grimes Building, 400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Des Moines, IA 50319