REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Trustees of the Stark State College District held its regular monthly meeting at Stark State College at 6200 Frank Avenue NW, North Canton, Ohio 44720 on Wednesday, October 24, 2012.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Michael Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

The following visitors were present: Student Dora Bucklew, Assistant Attorney General Mike McPhillips, Director of Communications Irene Motts, Student Andrew Vance and Assistant Attorney General Holly Welch.

Students Andrew Vance and Dora Bucklew were asked by President Jones to attend the meeting to explain an initiative undertaken by Phi Theta Kappa. Ms. Bucklew and Mr. Vance reported that Phi Theta Kappa chooses two major projects to complete each year—one internal and one external. This year’s internal project is “Commit to Complete.” In keeping with Stark State’s focus on completion, the group decided to ask students to sign banners pledging their intent to complete their educational goals. They began this initiative when classes began in August and have collected over 1,000 signatures to date.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Kari Groh, Jeffrey Halm, Stanley Jonas, Christopher Maurer, Michael Thomas, Fonda Williams and William Schweizer.

PUBLIC REQUESTS

There were no public requests.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Trustee Schweizer moved to discuss the Consent Agenda. Trustee Williams provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

Chairman Thomas asked Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer Chiappini if he was comfortable with the proposed resolution regarding establishing a fee (per course) to cover consumables in culinary courses. Mr. Chiappini responded that he was fine with it, but asked Provost Diab to provide some background. Dr. Diab explained that a study had been done of the costs for supplies used in each course, and a cost comparison was done with other two-year colleges in Ohio offering culinary programs before determining the fees listed in the resolution. He noted that this is the first semester the program has been offered and there are 23 students enrolled. Mr. Chiappini asked the Board members to note that the resolution also allows for flexibility to adjust for changing market prices.
Trustee Maurer asked Mr. Chiappini why the salary and benefit line item is currently lower than last fiscal year. Mr. Chiappini responded that there has been a conscious effort to restrain hiring. When an employee leaves, the Executive Council examines the position very carefully to determine if a rehire is necessary.

Trustee Schweizer noted that the number of hours being taught by full-time faculty is below the target. Dr. Diab explained that adjuncts are being used where possible, full-time instructors are being offered overload opportunities, the average class size has been raised slightly and there has been a strict minimum put in place to determine class cancellations based on low enrollment. Fall Semester began with 300 fewer sections being offered than the previous Spring Semester. Dr. Diab also noted that the goal is to have 55 percent of our courses being taught by full-time faculty, and the College is steadily moving in that direction (currently 46 percent). He added that another factor relates to what Mr. Chiappini explained earlier regarding not automatically hiring a replacement when a full-time faculty member leaves without a careful examination of the need to do so.

Trustee Groh referred to the dashboard. She asked why so many of the measures listed as “To Be Determined” with regard to goals had not been updated and asked how status—red, yellow, green—could be determined without a goal. Dr. Jones agreed that was something that needed to be addressed and indicated that a response would be provided at the November meeting.

Trustee Groh moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Trustee Schweizer provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

Approved on the Consent Agenda were minutes of the meeting held on September 19, 2012, financial statements, personnel actions and a resolution to establish a fee for the Culinary Arts Major.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

BOARD WORK SESSION

Board Ethics Training Provided by the Ohio Attorney General’s Office – Mike McPhillips and Holly Welch

The Board welcomed the representatives from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office and thanked them for agreeing to offer the ethics training to the Board as a group. The training satisfies the Governor’s Executive Order that such training be completed by elected and appointed government employees each year.

The training took place utilizing a video produced by the Ethics Commission and question-and-answer sessions between the Board members and the AG’s representatives.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President’s Report – Dr. Para Jones

President Jones referred the Board members to her @Stark State monthly report that was distributed earlier in the week.
EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:14 p.m., Vice Chairman Halm moved to go into Executive Session to discuss the purchase of property for public purposes according to R.C. 121.22G(2). Trustee Maurer provided the second for the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted aye.

From 8:14 p.m. to 8:39 p.m., Trustee Jonas recused himself from the conversation. From 8:39 p.m. to 9:53 p.m., Trustee Williams recused himself from the conversation.

At 9:53 p.m., Trustee Maurer moved to return to open session. Trustee Groh provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Items of communication were provided in the packet for this meeting.

BOARD ACTIVITY DATES

Board members were asked to review the activity chart and notify the President’s Office of events they plan to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Michael Thomas, Chairman
November 14, 2012

Para M. Jones, President
November 14, 2012