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 April 17, 2013.

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

The following visitors were present: Marcia Addison, Lada Gibson-Shreve, Gloria Komer, Irene Motts, Cathy Torgler, Peter Trumpower and Bruce Wyder.

The following administrators were present: Para Jones, Tom Chiappini, Mike Droney, Cheri Rice and John Thornton.

ROLL CALL

The following Board members were present: Kari Groh, Jeffrey Halm, Stanley Jonas, Christopher Maurer, Michael Thomas and Bill Schweizer. Fonda Williams was unable to attend.

PUBLIC REQUESTS

There were no public requests.

AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chairman Halm moved to discuss the Consent Agenda. Trustee Halm provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

Chief Operating Officer and Treasurer Tom Chiappini addressed the financials. He indicated that the May meeting would include a presentation of a proposed FY 13-14 budget for Board approval.

There was a discussion about whether and how the College invests its reserve funds. Dr. Thomas asked Mr. Chiappini to look into an investment decision made recently by Jackson schools to see if it is something that would benefit the College.

Trustee Jonas moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Vice Chairman Halm provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.
Approved on the Consent Agenda were Minutes of the Board Meeting on 3/20/13, Financial Statements, and Personnel Actions.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business presented for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Elect Board Member to Serve as Ex-officio Member of Foundation Board – Chairman Thomas

Every April the Board elects a member to serve for one year as an ex-officio officer of the Stark State College Foundation Board of Directors. Vice Chairman Halm has been serving in this role for several years. He indicated that although he has enjoyed his time on the Foundation Board, the fact that he will be taking on added responsibility as chairman of the Board of Trustees beginning in August, he would rather have another trustee fill the ex-officio position.

Vice Chairman Halm moved that Chairman Thomas serve as the ex-officio representative to the Foundation Board for 2013-2014. Trustee Schweizer provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

Presentation on Performance Measures – Para Jones, Peter Trumpower

President Jones explained that the U.S. Department of Education tracks and reports on the success of first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen through IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System). Though that particular cohort represents a small number of the total student population at our College, the results can be extrapolated to the general student population. Two of the critical success measures are retention and graduation rates. Dr. Jones introduced Director of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment Peter Trumpower to present the latest IPEDS data on retention and graduation first-time, full-time, degree-seeking freshmen who entered Stark State in 2009.

Mr. Trumpower’s report is attached to these minutes. The following are major statistical points from his presentation:

- The size of the cohort doubled from 2008 to 2009 (recession driven).
- The current rolling three-year average for fall-to-fall retention is substantially lower than the preceding six time blocks (from a high of 64% for full-time and 55% for part-time to 47% and 45% respectively).
- The three-year graduation rate dropped 75% over from 2003 cohort to the 2009 cohort. Retention rates declined further for the 2010 and 2011 cohorts, foretelling additional decline in the graduation rates. The number of graduates from each cohort has declined seven years in a row.
- The number of graduates has increased at less than half the rate of growth of the College (83% vs. 174%) over the time period.
- The proportion of cohort graduates to all graduates each academic year has declined by 67% over the time period.
- The default rate is on an ever increasing amount of total aid awarded. Default rates will likely continue to increase over the next several years due to declining retention and graduation rates. This increases the College’s exposure to bad debt.
Mr. Trumpower noted that these statistics were not surprising because there were indicators that success was suffering due to the quality of students (evidenced by the increase in new students needing developmental coursework) admitted during the years of unprecedented enrollment growth. Dr. Jones noted that student success is one is a national issue as a result of colleges experiencing dramatic enrollment growth during the recession. Mr. Trumpower indicated that the current strategic plan and measures reflect that our College began seriously looking at student success in early 2012. As a result, many initiatives to improve success are already underway and showing good early results, and many others have already been planned – all put in place well in advance of the data just received from IPEDS. The initiatives include the following:

- Addressing the number of students in the pre-health category and get those students not likely to succeed in the health programs into pathways where they can be successful.
- Revising the selection process for the Nursing program (and other programs to follow).
- Developing new methods of delivering developmental coursework.
- Expanding outreach in dual enrollment and bringing quality dual enrollment students to Stark State following their high school graduation.
- Addressing the needs of students who require basic computer literacy skills to help them be successful down the line.
- Developing an enrollment management plan.
- Looking at how scholarships are distributed to entice students who are likely to be successful to enroll at the College.
- Revising the probation and dismissal policy to address those who are attending for the wrong reasons and have no sincere academic goals.
- Implementing a more thorough tool to evaluate and enhance student learning and faculty instruction.
- Bringing online a powerful advising software program called DegreeWorks.

The trustees asked for the following information as a result of Mr. Trumpower’s presentation:

- Graduation rates by program
- Amount of average financial aid loan over the last three years and comparisons with peer institutions in Ohio
- Graduation rates and default rates for other two-year colleges in Ohio (when those statistics are available)

Mr. Trumpower concluded by saying we have the data to show us where the success issues are and every issue will be addressed.

President Jones provided further data and information to show the many operational strategies underway or soon to be underway to improve student success. She expressed confidence that with good data, our college-wide strategic plan and operational priorities and the continued hard work of our dedicated faculty and staff, student success will be improved at Stark State.

Trustee Jonas said that although it is necessary to review all the data and key success measures, he would like to be sure the Board is also provided with the encouraging, positive information about the good things happening at the College.
PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Jones provided her monthly report (@StarkState) to the Trustees via e-mail on Tuesday, April 16. In addition to the information in that report, she noted that she and Akron Mayor Don Plusquellic would be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the College’s partnership with the City of Akron and Akron Public Schools to provide classes for residents of all ages through the Community Learning Centers (CLCs). She noted that this partnership and the growing number of dual-enrollment students at Akron Public and Summit County Schools reinforces the importance of Stark State College’s mission in providing education and workforce development to enhance the region’s economy.

Vice Chairman Halm thanked Dr. Jones and the staff for reporting student success data to trustees. He noted that although the realities present challenges, they also present opportunities.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m., Trustee Williams moved to go into Executive Session….

To consider the compensation of a public employee according to R.C. 121.22G(1); and

To consider the purchase of property for public purposes according to R.C. 121.22G(2); and

To discuss disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action according to R.C. 121.22G(3).

Vice Chairman Halm provided the second for the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted aye.

At 8:35 p.m., Mr. Halm indicated he would be recusing himself from the discussion and left the room. He did not return.

At 10:30 p.m., Trustee Schweizer moved to return to Open Session. Trustee Jonas provided the second for the motion. The motion carried.

Upon returning to Open Session, Trustee Schweizer moved to pursue legal action as a result of chiller replacement in Business and Entrepreneurial Center.

Trustee Jonas 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 10:35 p.m.

Michael Thomas, DDS
Chairman
May 15, 2013

Para M. Jones, Ph.D.
President
May 15, 2013