



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Excellence Empowered.

Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

Oakland Community College

Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 5:45 PM EDT

@ 2900 Featherstone Road, G-building, Room 240

A Public Hearing and the Regular Meeting for the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, 5:45 p.m., at the Auburn Hills Campus, Building G, Room 240, 2900 Featherstone Road, Auburn Hills, Michigan.

This meeting is preceded by a public hearing for the proposed budget and financial forecast for fiscal years 2025-2029. The Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will commence immediately following the public hearing. This meeting will include a request for a closed session under Michigan's Open Meetings Act, pursuant to MCL 15.268(c), to discuss a written legal opinion from the College's Acting General Counsel regarding the status of OCC's Highland Lakes property.

1. Call to Order

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

2. Attendance

Present: K. Bertolini, S. Bryant, E. Callaghan, S. Gibson, P. Jackson Absent: P. Davis, C. O'Sullivan

3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Jackson asked if there were any items to add or remove from the agenda. There being none, a motion was made.

Motion:

Move to approve agenda without any modifications.

Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. March 12, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

 [March 12, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Move to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 Special Meeting.

Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Kathleen Bertolini.
Motion passed unanimously.

4.2. May 1, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes

 [May 1, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

Motion:

Move to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024 Special Meeting.

Motion moved by Shirley Bryant and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan.
Motion passed unanimously.

4.3. May 1, 2024 Special Meeting Closed Session Minutes

Motion:

Move to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2024 Closed Session.

Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan.
Motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications

5.1. Community Comments

Numerous faculty members addressed the Board with their concerns including decisions being made, most notably the Counselor vs Advisor initiative. Those who spoke included: Dennis Quist, Kaitlyn Hussey, Tom Holliday, Doug Riddering, Alicia Paramo-Dionne, Tony Midea, Michelle Suminski, Kris Evans, Jennifer Craft, Jeff Parent, Jeffrey Lip, and Nahrein Atkinson.

Nancy Croitori - a community member who has been attending meetings for approximately a year, representing a group which represents four townships that are affected by the sale of Highland Lakes Campus. The group proposes southern and northern woodland portions be preserved, and asked for representatives from OCC and Waterford to attend her group's public meeting in the near future. Steve Cline of COWL (Conservation of Waterford Lands) - echoed Nancy's comments. He noted he was there to represent the community to preserve the public space, wishing for the entire property to be preserved.

5.2. Academic Report

5.2.1. Academic Senate Report

John Mitchell, Academic Senate Chairperson provided an update that included:

- The Senate continues to work on the ever-evolving issue of AI and after deliberating on the possibility of forming a separate committee, we have decided that the optimal way to continue is that the work will best be done by a range of already existing

Standing Senate Committees, including The Professional Learning, the Distance Learning, and especially the Technology Management Committees.

- The Campus Senates held their April Elections for the Senators for next year and I am happy to report that there will be strong continuity for the Highland Lakes campus despite its drastically reduced faculty contingent because their Campus Senate has elected a good complement of remaining faculty to serve as Senators and Senate Officers.
- The Ad Hoc College Completion Committee that was formed this year has completed their work this month by submitting an excellent and comprehensive Report, complete with supporting data, that makes a series of recommendations. The key recommendation is summarized in the report: “Both the data and student interviews suggest that compressed courses that fit into a half-semester format (ideally 7 weeks or shorter) show great promise for improving outcomes for some students. Promoting a wider, more coordinated offering of half-semester courses shows great potential as one tool in our menu to promote student success. While it is clear that not all students thrive in this format, nor are all courses well-suited to fit this structure (so semester-length courses should certainly not go away), both the data and individual student feedback show that offering more pairs of 7-week classes could help improve student success rates.” The Report will be presented on Thursday at the College Senate May meeting and then will no doubt be submitted to the College.
- Senate is one of the primary and important conduits for Shared Governance and Collaborative Decision-Making activities at the College – a principle instantiated in Board Policy. Therefore, it is incumbent on me as Chair of the Senate to make a statement here about the recent discussions at Senate regarding the unilateral decision by the College to eliminate Faculty/Staff parking. For several months it has been a topic of intense discussion at Campus and College Senates and at Senate Leadership and has resulted in a series of Motions that primarily focus on the method of the decision to do this, a method that was not collaborative in any form. The College Response to these Motions has two problems that I must object to: 1) It contains an apology for the way the

decision was implemented and yet it offers no remedy that is collaborative other than to say it will not be modified or retracted and therefore smacks of the adage that “it is always better to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission,” a policy not well aligned with Shared Governance in the first place! and 2) it implies that resistance to the new policy does not “put students first.” We find this implication to not be in the spirit of Shared Governance which for many years now has happily characterized the work that Senate and the College have collaborated on. I take no pleasure in this statement but hope that we can recall the correct spirit and methods of Shared Governance as we go forward.

- Finally, I would like you to join me in congratulating Bob Andersen (Humanities at Auburn Hills) on his election to College Senate Chair for 2024-2025. It has been my absolute pleasure to serve the College in this capacity for the past six years.

5.2.2. Provost Update

Dr. Berne recognized what a pleasure it has been working with John and all he has done on behalf of the Academic Senate.

Dr. Berne introduced Dr. Tanya McFadden, Executive Director of Health Professions and Dean of Nursing. Dr. McFadden introduced Nursing student Tasmin Bulyan, who is moving to Texas tomorrow and stayed behind to speak to the Board this evening. Tasmin thanked the Provost, Dr. McFadden and Nina Barkell. She noted she is a first generation college student, raising twins, and attending school without the presence of her spouse locally. Tasmin stated she started working at Beaumont, where she frequently heard the praises of OCC Nursing graduates, which peaked her interest about OCC, and eventually she applied for the Nursing program. She believes the education she received at OCC, has provided her the skills to be a successful nurse, earning the same amount of those with bachelor degrees, all without accruing debt.

Next, Dr. McFadden introduced Nursing student Carolyn Pulet. Carolyn feels it has been an honor to have studied and graduated from OCC's Nursing program. She attests this to the knowledgeable staff and faculty, who are a key piece of the success of the program. She stressed that OCC removes barriers from the community for students to graduate in an affordable way and then make a great career. Because of OCC she has so many options going forward.

Trustee Callaghan asked Dr. Berne for an update on the Gateway project. Dr. Berne provided the most recent happenings within that project, as it continues as a robust program.

5.3. Chancellor's Comments

The Chancellor's comments included the following:

- Announcing three new employees Baron Brown, Andrew Raudszuz and Emily Stieber.
- Two retirements - Gail Adams and Bee Chen.
- Congratulations to Alicia Paramo-Dionne who has been honored as OCC's 2024 Diversity Excellence Award recipient. The award honors advocates who speak out against insensitivity and prejudice or continually envision new ways of inclusion for all. Alicia's colleagues see her as someone who helps create a safe and welcoming space for students. With each interaction, she encourages them to be themselves; express their own ideas and concerns; and, of course, succeed. Our congratulations to Alicia.
- Marc Thomas, Dean of Teaching and Learning Excellence, is a new board member on the [Oakland Literacy Council](#). He will be chairing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. Thomas is looking forward to supporting the Oakland Literacy Council and OCC shared mission to increase literacy and college degree completion in Oakland County. Thank you, Marc.
- Oakland Community College welcomes two new coaches to its [Athletic Department](#) for the 2024-25 season: Gjon Djokaj (John Joekai) of Farmington Hills for [Men's Basketball](#) and Robert Belf, Jr. of Bloomfield Hills for [Women's Basketball](#). Athletic Director Jamie Corona tells me that Gjon and Bob both bring extensive and successful coaching experience. They both are proudly invested in our community. We are looking forward to having them lead our OCC basketball teams through a successful season.
- Congratulations goes out to Stacey Crews, Dean of Student Engagement, who presented "A Centralized Approach to Student Engagement at a Multi-Campus Community College Program" at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators conference in Seattle. The presentation explored the benefits of adopting a centralized approach, including increased clarity for students and colleagues and more student-centered services. Thank you, Stacey, for leading the way!

- Shawn Dry was named distinguished faculty of the year by the Alliance for Excellence in Online Education. The Alliance challenges post-secondary education institutions to work together to establish standards of excellence and to discover creative and practical methods to improve and enhance the quality and experience of online learning for both the student and the faculty. Here Shawn is pictured receiving his award from Dr. Patrick Callaghan, the Alliance President and also the brother of Trustee Ed Callaghan. Congratulations Shawn.
- Seven OCC instructors whose teaching demonstrates an unsurpassed level of excellence and a commitment to student success were recently recognized during the Outstanding Student and Faculty Recognition Ceremony, sponsored by the Meemic Foundation. Honorees were selected from more than 100 nominations in the categories of teaching excellence: subject matter expertise; use of effective and innovative teaching techniques; student success empowerment; and advancement of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice. Our appreciation goes to the TLC faculty facilitators and deans, in collaboration with the [Office of DEIJ](#), for selecting winners from among the many nominees. Congratulations to: James Aretakis, Biology; Yvette Banks, Interior Design; Belle Kimmel, Mathematics; Carol Laverne, Nursing; Robert Long, Paralegal Studies; Aydeh Selameh, Mathematics; Kathy Tiell, Psychology
- OCC's Nursing Student Association has been named a [Stellar School](#) recipient by the National Student Nurses' Association. The award recognizes NSNA school chapters for their ongoing involvement and their commitment to shared governance and professional development. OCC has received Stellar School status each year since 2013. OCC's chapter is involved in arranging speakers, community projects, volunteering, fundraising and organizing the Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing job fair. Our congratulations to the students and faculty advisor, Wendy Lavin.
- OCC student Ben Filler recently presented his short documentary film, "The Illustrious Clyde Cup," at the Rivera Cinema, as part of the [Greater Farmington Film Festival](#). The film is a dynamic and experimental short sports documentary that thrusts audiences into the heart of a "high-stakes" mini golf tournament unfurling against the urban backdrop of Detroit. Our congratulations to Ben!
- April was a busy month of celebrating our students. 24 students were recognized for their outstanding achievements by OCC faculty, counselors

and librarians at the Smith Theatre. Outstanding Student honorees were nominated for their academic excellence, leadership, teamwork, determination or compassion beyond expectations. As you know, many students have overcome significant challenges to reach their goals: things like balancing their studies as single parents, working full-time or multiple jobs while taking classes, and changing career paths. It's truly inspirational and one of my favorite events. No surprise we saw laughs, hugs and tears on stage. In addition, three students were recognized for their outstanding research papers by OCC librarians. It was a wonderful event. Our thanks to the many individuals who organized the evening, with a special shout out to Deanna Mitchell for her tireless attention to detail.

- An exceptional group of 120 area high school seniors agreed to commit to Career and Technical Education studies at OCC as part of the College's second annual National Signing Day. That number grew almost 10X from last year! The event mirrors the NCAA's National Signing Day for students who commit to play sports in college. Students from this year's class committed to a variety of OCC Career and Technical Education (CTE) program areas, including Automobile Servicing; Collision Automotive Repair; Culinary Arts; Cybersecurity; Engineering; Graphic Design; Health Sciences; Industrial Technology; Interior Design; and Manufacturing. Congratulations to Joe Petrosky, Beau Everette and Lina Gerchak for leading the way. Even though the thunderstorms put a damper on attendance, the event was a huge success.
- We did it again. OCC won 1st place in "Best Adult Education" in [The Oakland Press 2024 Best of the Best Readers Choice Awards](#). Thanks to everyone who voted for OCC.
- Our third annual DEIJ Empowerment Summit featured keynote speaker [Leah C. Georges](#), an associate professor at [Creighton University](#). Her research and consulting centers around the myth of generational war in the workplace. Her research has been cited in Forbes magazine, and her [Ted Talk](#) about 'how generational stereotypes hold us back at work' has been translated into 18 languages. Many thanks to hosts DEIJ Director Kristina Marshall and Vice Chancellor for Human Resources and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Andre' Poplar for an enlightening event.
- OCC keeps showing up well in the media. We are proud to continue to tell our story on many platforms.

- The Chancellor introduced Chair Jackson, who presented a hand etched mirror of the Doris Mosher Foundation House. She provided an overview of Doris Mosher and her contributions to the College.

5.4. Student Engagement Report

 [PRESENTATION Office of Student Engagement BOT .pdf](#)

Dean Stacey Crews addressed the Board providing a brief activities update including the Y2K dance, reading a statement from former Student Government President Tiger Hutchins, the Solar Eclipse Watch Party, recent elections of the new Student Government officers, and the PTK Catalyst Convention. Johnna Balk, librarian at Auburn Hills and PTK Advisor offered additional details about PTK activities. Ms. Balk introduced PTK students Blandira Gibson and Joshua Wellington, each giving a brief overview of their experience at the convention. Lastly, the newly elected PTK officers were noted: Emily Fry, President; Ayisha Sabahat, Vice President; Renata Perez-Rosmillo, Secretary; Jackson Belanger, Treasurer; Daniel Akintunde, Public Relations Coordinators; Dominic Darbyshire, Liaison; Caroline Eagan, Outreach/Community Service Coordinator. The recent May 1 induction, was the first in-person induction in the past three years, due to COVID.

6. Action Items

6.1. 2025-2029 Proposed Budget and Financial Forecast

 [6.1 Budget and Financial Forecast 25-29.docx](#)

 [6.1 2024-25 Budget Resolution.docx](#)

 [PRESENTATION 2025-29 Budget & Financial Forecast Presentation \(Final\).pdf](#)

Vice Chancellor Tina Kostiuk, along with Renee Oszust and Bob Kelly provided a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the Operating Budget, Capital Planning - five year plan, Culinary Studies Institute, CREST, Orchard Ridge Health Professions building, and the Auburn Hills Campus signage and other updates. Trustee Callaghan asked when the CREST project will be completed, B. Kelly noted a groundbreaking will take place in May.

Motion:

Move to have the Board of Trustees to approve the General Appropriations Act for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Motion moved by Kathleen Bertolini and motion seconded by Shirley Bryant. Roll call vote: K. Bertolini AYE, S. Bryant AYE, E. Callaghan AYE, S. Gibson AYE, P. Jackson AYE

6.2. 2024 Tax Levy of Operating Millage

 [6.2 2024 Tax Rate.docx](#)

 [6.2 Resolution for Operating Millage 2024 Tax Levy.docx](#)

Motion:

Move to have the Board of Trustees adopt the resolution to levy the maximum annual tax rate and authorize the Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services to notify the proper assessing office of each municipality to effectuate compliance with this resolution.

Motion moved by Kathleen Bertolini and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan. Roll call vote: K. Bertolini AYE, S. Bryant AYE, E. Callaghan AYE, S. Gibson AYE, P. Jackson AYE

6.3. Board Policies and Procedures - Trustee Vacancy Procedures (first reading)

 [1.18 Trustee Vacancy Procedure 01-11-2022 - Current Version.pdf](#)

 [1.18 Trustee Vacancy Procedure NEW - Updated Version.pdf](#)

 [1.18 Trustee Vacancy Policy.pdf](#)

Motion:

Move for the Board to approve the first reading of the amended Board Policy procedure, "Trustee Vacancy Policy Procedure."

Motion moved by Edward Callaghan and motion seconded by Susan Gibson.
Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Jackson asked for any edits to be provided directly to Elizabeth Rae.

7. Information Items

CONSENT CALENDAR - INFORMATION ITEMS

Items [7.1 to 7.5](#) listed below on the Consent Calendar – Information Items are considered to be routine by the Board and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Board member or the Chancellor so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general

order of business and discussed separately. Trustee Callaghan asked clarification questions on items 7.2 and 7.3.

7.1. Finance Quarterly Report

 [7.1 Finance Quarterly Report 3.31.24.pdf](#)

7.2. College Facilities Quarterly Report

 [7.2 - College Facilities Quarterly Report 3.31.24.pdf](#)

7.3. Information Technology Quarterly Report

 [7.3 IT Quarterly Report 3-31-24.pdf](#)

7.4. OCC Foundation Quarterly Report

 [7.4 OCCF Quarterly Report Q3 FY 24 \(003\).docx](#)

7.5. Strategic Plan Update

END OF CONSENT INFORMATION ITEMS

 [7.5 Strategic Planning Update 5.21.24.docx](#)

Motion:

Move to receive and file Information Items 7.1 through 7.5 listed on the Consent Calendar.

Motion moved by Kathleen Bertolini and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. CONSIDER MOVING INTO CLOSED SESSION

PURSUANT TO MCL 15.268(H)/MCL 15.243(1)(G), TO DISCUSS A WRITTEN LEGAL OPINION FROM THE COLLEGE'S ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL REGARDING THE STATUS OF OCC'S HIGHLAND LAKES PROPERTY.

Motion:

Move to go into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(h)/MCL 15.243(1)g), to discuss a written legal opinion from the College's Acting General Counsel regarding the status of OCC's Highland Lakes property.

Motion moved by Kathleen Bertolini and motion seconded by Edward Callaghan. Roll call vote: K. Bertolini AYE, S. Bryant AYE, E. Callaghan AYE, S. Gibson AYE, P. Jackson AYE

Moved into closed session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion:

Move to return to open session.

Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Kathleen Bertolini. Roll call vote: K. Bertolini AYE, S. Bryant AYE, E. Callaghan AYE, S. Gibson AYE, P. Jackson AYE

Returned to open session at 9:30 p.m.

Motion:

Move to authorize the Chancellor, on behalf of OCC, to take any actions that he deems necessary or appropriate in connection with the sale of the Highland Lakes Property, including but not limited to executing and delivering any necessary documents such as closing statements, affidavits, deeds, and any other documents or instruments necessary or appropriate to consummate the sale of the Property.

Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Kathleen Bertolini. Trustee Callaghan opposed. Motion passed by majority.

9. Board Comments

Trustee Callaghan inquired about the Noell Levitz survey results and asked if the Board could be provided with the results.

Chair Jackson, thanked K. Kelly for OCC bracelets, and noted that Trustee Gibson is entered in the Boston marathon. Chair Jackson also shared that she has enjoyed continuing to play with the OCC Symphonic Band. Chair Jackson announced that Trustee Callaghan won an award for the Audit & Compliance for serving 17 years on Henry Ford Health System's Board, providing a large amount of insight and direction for the organization.

10. Adjournment

Motion:

Move to adjourn meeting.


Motion moved by Susan Gibson and motion seconded by Kathleen Bertolini. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Mission: OCC is committed to empowering our students to succeed and advancing our community.



Minutes generated by [OnBoard](#).
Kathleen Kelly
2024-06-19 14:12 UTC



Pamela Jackson
2024-06-21 16:10 UTC



Susan Gibson
2024-06-19 15:13 UTC