

COMMUNITY COLLEGE COUNCIL (CCC) MEETING NOTES

March 22, 2023 – 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Iowa Department of Education – Zoom

Those in attendance included:

- ❑ Cassandra Halls, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ John Robbins, CCC and State Board of Education Member (via conf. call)
- ❑ Rod Bradley, CCC Member and State Board of Education Member (In Person)
- ❑ Marge McGuire-Welch, CCC Member and Community College President, Southwestern Community College (via conf. call)
- ❑ Moudy Nabulsi, CCC Member and Trustee, Southeastern Community College (via conf. call)
- ❑ Emily Shields, Executive Director, Community Colleges for Iowa (via conf. call)
- ❑ Jeremy Varner, Division Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation (In Person)
- ❑ Amy Gieseke, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Community Colleges (In Person)
- ❑ Heather Meissen, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges (In Person)
- ❑ Dennis Harden, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Career and Technical Education (In Person)
- ❑ Kelly Friesleben, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges (In Person)
- ❑ Jennifer Rathje, Education Program Consultant, Bureau of Community Colleges (In Person)

I. Call to Order – Cassandra Halls

- The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m. Attendees provided introductions.

II. Approval of February, 2023 Meeting Notes

Motion: moved to approve Moudy Nabulsi; seconded by Rod Bradley.

Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

III. Updates – Community Colleges for Iowa

- Community Colleges for Iowa – Emily Shields
 - Emily Shields provided updates for Community Colleges for Iowa.
 - Focused on legislative session
 - Budget process really hasn't started
 - Waiting on the reorg bill to be signed
 - There were some technical issues
 - Laying the groundwork for budget talks
 - The house doesn't expect target for a few weeks.
 - Had multiple Phi Theta Kappa event
 - Day on the Hill was a success
 - Summer will have the Trustee conference
 - Fall will hold the first Convention and Trade Show.
 - **Questions:** None
- Iowa Department of Education – Jeremy Varner
 - Jeremy Varner provided updates for the Iowa Department of Education.
 - April is CC month.

- New director at the Department – Chad Aldis. He will be meeting with the various community college groups.
- Legislature – the reorganization bill has passed out of both chambers.
 - New division of higher education that will move the Board of Educational Examiners and Iowa College Student Aid moving into the Department.
 - Will work through alignment issues and provide updates in the future.
- Awarded new educator preparation grants.
 - 5 grants of \$29,000 to support paraeducator grants
- Events
 - Work-based learning conference: April 4th
 - Kristy Volesky helps to coordinate
 - Supported by the Division
 - Pathway Pillars in Practice webinar – Program Maps
 - April 5th
 - Highlights Kirkwood CC
- Implemented STICS database for program approval.
 - Houses common course numbering.
 - Maintains approved programs and courses.
 - Working to add enhancements to improve the experience for department staff and college users.
 - Also working on implementing a similar system for secondary CTE approvals – currently called STICS 2, but will have a different name eventually.
 - **Questions:** Moudy asked for future updates on the realignment changes and wants to know how the council can assist in the future. Jeremy shared about some of the work coming in and leaving.

IV. Western Iowa Tech Community College Interim Accreditation Report – Amy Gieseke

- Amy Gieseke provided an overview of the Western Iowa Tech CC accreditation visit including recommendations and findings.

- **Questions/Comments:** None

Motion: moved to send this to the State Board of Education by Moudy Nabulsi; seconded by Rod Bradley.

Vote: Motion carries unanimously.

V. Senior Year Plus/Concurrent Enrollment – Jennifer Rathje

- Jennifer gave the history of senior year plus in addition to providing information on the various kinds of programs that allow high school students to earn college credit.

- **Questions/Comments:**

- Moudy asked who helps students know and enroll in the course opportunities. Jen shared how this is a part of a student course planning

process, and Marge shared that parents tend to be well aware about the opportunities.

- Cassandra asked if charter school students have access to SYP programs. Jen – yes they are.
- John Robbins mentioned that homeschool assistance program parents were pushing for their 9th grade students to take more concurrent courses in his local school district. Other observations – the program comes at a cost, and the school districts may not get reimbursed for the full cost. The portion of concurrent enrollment at community colleges is significant – so where would they be without that? Marge and Jeremy responded with how Iowa has a strong interdependent system between secondary and post-secondary and has also helped to improve relationships between the colleges and school districts.
- A continued discussion on the benefits and positives of SYP was had.

VI. For the Good of the Order – Cassandra Halls

- Rod asked about the overall process and timeline of an accreditation visit. Jeremy and Amy responded that overall it takes about 8 months.
- John Robbins made a comment about making sure to visit both campuses on the IVCC visit.
 - Done and adjourned 5:00 p.m.
 - Next meeting: May 7, 2023, 3:30-5 p.m. – Grimes Building, 400 E. 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319