

**Manatee Technical College  
Board of Governors  
Minutes for March 6, 2017**

**Present:** Jahna Allen, Tom Athens, Jay Bush, Mary Chilton, Richard Conard, Jeanette Eddy, Omar Edwards, Tim Fanning, Eddie Fontaine, Oliver Freeman, Maura Howl, Lisa King, Barbara Lasser, Joshua Matlock, Martha Meyers, Karen Stewart, Erin Sulbaron, Brion Sunseri, Michelle Todoroff, Jessica Vets, Valerie Viands, Loreen Vickers, Doug Wagner, John Ziemnicki

The meeting was called to order at 3:58 pm by John Ziemnicki.

Anthony Gagliano and Virginia Sirocky of the MTC Alumni Association presented the Volunteer of the Year award to John Ziemnicki. Mr. Ziemnicki is an architect and the owner of World Design. He has been involved with MTC for thirty years in numerous roles: serving on the advisory committee for the drafting program (30 years), serving on the Board of Governors for 13 years – 9 years as chair, MTC Foundation since its inception for 7 years. Congratulations!

Mr. Ziemnicki welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending. Introductions were made.

**Minutes of the January 26, 2017 Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2017, meeting. Motion passed.

**Set Meeting Dates & Times for the 2017-18 School Year:**

The dates and times suggested for the 2017-18 MTC Board of Governors meetings were presented by Valerie Viands. The October and April dates are the same days as the advisory committee breakfast and dinner.

Suggested Dates/Times:

- August 24, 2017, 4:00 p.m.
- October 13, 2017, 8:45 a.m.
- January 25, 2018, 4:00 p.m.
- April 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the suggested dates and times for the 2017-18 MTC Board of Governors meetings. The motion passed.

**Council on Occupational Education (COE):**

Dr. Viands announced that the ten-member COE visiting team began arriving yesterday. The team will be introduced at the Advisory Committee Dinner this evening. Starting tomorrow the team will begin reviewing all programs at the Main and East Campuses. They will be here through Thursday.

**Estimated Funding Levels:**

Doug Wagner reviewed a handout he provided showing tentative Workforce Development Funds allocations by county and draft MTC budgets for the 2017-18 school year. MTC has had an increase in students for the past three (3) years. The 2017-18 MTC budget of \$10,441,158, is based on the current

funding level and includes carry over and funds being paid back from the District. At this time, the numbers from Florida Department of Education are just in DRAFT form. We will not know what the allocation for MTC will be until after the legislative session is over.

### **Group Discussion on Collection of Student Placement Data:**

Mr. Wagner stated that MTC has a placement rate of over 90 percent. We are looking for ideas to better collect the placement data once the students have completed and gone to work. If we collect the data too soon after completion, some are not working. If we wait too long, the students can become difficult to contact.

Richard Conard asked for the percentage of students who start a program that finish the program. Mr. Wagner responded that that varies by program. Jeanette Eddy stated that we have an annual COE report that shows this data. Mr. Wagner said that he would bring the report to the next meeting.

Martha Meyers responded that the vetting process for most of the East Campus programs is more stringent. She added that there is a ten-day window for students to withdraw from a program if once they start it is not a good fit and that our counselors are good at helping them transfer to another program that might be more suitable for them.

Dr. Viands said that we currently send surveys to employers and have not been very successful in receiving responses. We are looking for ideas on how we can better collect this information that we are required to submit on our COE report.

Mary Chilton suggested providing our students with a school-related email address similar to what they do at University of Florida. This email address could even be assigned to students in elementary school and would be an address that they would always have.

Jay Bush said that the public safety and law enforcement communities are a close-knit group. They all stay in touch with each other and know where their students are working.

Mr. Ziemnicki said the same is true for drafting. There aren't that many places in the two-county area.

Ms. Meyers explained that a lot of employers don't want to share information about our students once they become employees.

Josh Matlock said that CareerSource uses state systems to see if someone is employed; such as Department of Economic Opportunity, WAGES, Suntax, etc.

Mr. Wagner asked if MTC could use these three systems and have CareerSource help us track last year's graduates.

Ms. Meyers said that all of our students are now signing a waiver when enrolling that allows us/CareerSource to access their employment records.

Brion Sunseri asked if a 95 percent placement rate instead of 90 percent would help the school. It would help more in the accreditation process than in our funding amount. If placement isn't high enough in a program, the program will not be accredited. Without accreditation the students enrolled in the program can't receive financial aid. The majority of MTC students receive some sort of financial aid. This would cause enrollment to be low and eventually the program would close due to lack of enrollment. Mr. Sunseri said it would be nice to know which programs have low placement so that the BOG can help.

Mr. Wagner said that he would bring a report to the next meeting to show the placement rates for each program.

Ms. Chilton stated that some students may not be as employable as others and that the five percent could be due to that. Also, some students take our programs to learn the skill for their personal use and have no intention of working in the area of study.

Mr. Ziemnicki expressed that he feels Doug Wagner and Valerie Viands are doing a fantastic job and he is proud to be affiliated with this institution.

Ms. Eddy shared some ideas from her time in Osceola County; they used Facebook, relationships with advisory committee members. She wishes they had a Josh there to help with collecting placement data.

Omar Edwards said that they are working to have our Adult Education and ESOL students matriculate into tech programs. They are also working with employers to get potential students jobs and to have the employer work around the school schedule.

Mr. Ziemnicki said that it may be hard to place students with a felony into a job. Felons are permitted to enroll into MTC classes. All of our potential students are screened through Raptor. Raptor identifies people who convicted sexual offenders. Convicted sexual offenders are not permitted to enroll at MTC as we have high school students on our campuses. Programs that do background checks as part of the application process, i.e., criminal justice, do not accept certain applicants based on results of the background check. We have been successful in placing convicted felons who complete our other programs.

Ms. Meyers added that four years ago it was almost impossible to place a felon in a job. With the unemployment rate so low now, many companies are readdressing their hiring policies and taking a look at the conviction and how long ago it occurred.

Barbara Lasser gave an example of a student with multiple felonies who was hired by one of the programs advisory committee members. The employer is very pleased with the student. So pleased, in fact, that they are funding the students continued education.

Ms. Meyers said that licensure is a big thing. Some licensures don't allow for that type of background.

### **Other Business:**

Dr. Conard asked if he could give a two-minute history of MTC. He stated that he is the oldest living volunteer at MTC and started in 1968. The medical community was approached to help set up ambulance training. This began MTC's great alliance with government and the community. In the mid to late 1980's, the district needed to clean up the school or find another purpose for the school. Government and business and industry gave input to help turn the school around. In 1996 it was determined that the school needed stronger leadership and hired Dr. Mary Cantrell. Doug Wagner came to the ACTE Department in 2001. The BOG keeps the school on its toes as to the needs of business and industry.

Mr. Wagner stated that the school opened in 1963 with five programs. MTC now offers more programs than any other Technical College in the state.

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

### **Future Meetings**

August 24, 2017, 4:00 p.m.  
October 13, 2017, 8:45 a.m.  
January 25, 2018, 4:00 p.m.  
April 5, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

### **Graduations and Other Important Dates:**

April 3, 6 p.m. – Practical Nursing, Cantrell Hall  
April 11, 6 p.m. – National Technical Honor Society Induction, Cantrell Hall  
April 27, 6 p.m. – National Adult Education Honor Society Induction, Cantrell Hall  
June 8, 6 p.m. – Optometric Assisting, Wagner Auditorium  
June 19, 6 p.m. – Patient Care Technician, Cantrell Hall  
June 20, 6 p.m. – Dental Assisting, East Campus Auditorium (tentative)  
June 21, 6 p.m. – Law Enforcement, Cantrell Hall  
June 22, 6 p.m. – Adult Education, Cantrell Hall  
June 26, 6 p.m. – Main Campus Graduation, Cantrell Hall  
June 29, 6 p.m. – Practical Nursing, Cantrell Hall  
August 12, 6 p.m. – Practical Nursing Executive, Cantrell Hall