

MASSASOIT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024
Louison Board Room, Brockton
6:00 p.m.

Approved May 15, 2024

Attendees: Bonnie Blackler, Eshita Chakrabarti, Tom Carroll, Jim Dunphy, Kacey Hilton-Gilleo, Laura Lawson, Steve Murphy Eval Silvera, Ann Sullivan, Kate Welch

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Sullivan – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy – yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Murphy - yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

Chairman's Report

Chair Carroll welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked his fellow trustees for making the Monday, April 8, 2024, special meeting a priority. He truly appreciates the vote to appoint William Mitchell as the Interim President as it is vital to maintain the continuity of leadership at the college. As we continue to mourn the loss of President DiPasquale, he also thanked Commissioner Ortega and Gina Yarbrough, General Counsel for their guidance throughout this process. Long time professor and baseball coach, Thomas Frizzell passed away this past week. He was a great mentor to many students and faculty on campus.

Presentation of Global Learning at Massasoit (Azores) by Professor Robin Peery, Humanities & Communication Arts, Associate Professor, Laurel Santini, Humanities & Communication Arts, Students Daleina Alves, Milan Bala, Haley Fedelia, Cathleen Forester, Yassica Maignan, Jalen Myers, Bella Ricci

Professor Robin Peery, Humanities & Communication Arts, Associate Professor Laurel Santini, Humanities & Communication Arts and twelve students from the Global Learning class, took a spring break trip to Azores. The reason they chose Azores, is that southeastern Massachusetts is also referred to as the Tenth Island, because there are so many from the Azores in Fall River, New Bedford, and Providence. This was an opportunity for our students to engage, research, understand patterns of migration and to work cohesively together. We also gave students a crash course in the Portuguese language. The students shared their highlights of the trip which included, traveling abroad as most of them have never left Massachusetts or the United States, learning a new culture, meeting new people, and trying new foods. They enjoyed visiting museums and churches. The students achieved confidence in themselves and a sense of independence.

President's Report

President Mitchell thanked the Board for their support over the past few weeks. He also thanked the college community for their outreach in support to which he is grateful for. We held an all-college meeting which was well attended, and we talked about President DiPasquale. Ray's passing has been difficult, but it has brought our community together. We, as a community, will move forward and continue to do the work that President DiPasquale started. We will have a Celebration of Life for Ray on Monday, May 20, 2024, under the Commencement tent. As Chair Carroll mentioned, we lost Tom Frizzell, one of our dearest faculty who taught here for forty years. He was the baseball coach and a lifelong friend of President Mitchell's. Tom Frizzell retained students in the classroom and on the baseball field and loved

Massasoit. President Mitchell attended the Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony which is a wonderful event. The House Ways & Means Budget included free community college for over 25. We continue to see a lot of traffic because of that. The Success Grant was funded at an amount that was \$4M short for the entire community college system. It was funded for \$14M and the system has asked for \$18M. The Education and Training fund was not in the budget. ETF is an incredible program which allows students who have no credentials to enroll in a program and in 6, 8, or 12 weeks they can gain employment. An amendment process has been started to fund this program. We are confident that this will be added to the budget. The Senate is very high on free community college, and it is anticipated that the Senate will add this to the budget. Our campus barbeque is scheduled for April 20, 2024, and it is a great opportunity for staff, faculty, and students to come together. We will hold the annual board meeting immediately prior to the May board meeting. Commencement will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024.

Alumni Report

The Alumni association is working on the dissolution of the current Alumni association.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustee Kacey Hilton-Gileo reported that the Student Senate emailed the Cabinet members expressing their condolences to loss of their colleague, President DiPasquale. On behalf of the Senate, Trustee Hilton-Gilleo extended that message to the Board of Trustees. Student trustee elections will open on Monday, April 22 and Tuesday, April 23. Student Senate Treasurer, Jateja Spriggs has been selected to serve on Governor Healey's Youth Advisory Council. The next and last staff meeting is on April 25. They will be holding an election for next year's Board of Higher Education student members, SAC chair and two student segmental advisors. On April 25, eight members of the Senate, along with professional staff, attended the CCSLA Conference at Mount Washington Community College. Student Life is hosting a student leadership banquet, and the Veterans club is having an event on the last day of classes. PTK sent two student advisors to Orlando for the PTK Catalyst Conference to present their research projects.

Consent Agenda.

A motion was made by Vice Chairs Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Murphy to approve items 1, 2, 3 and 4 on the Consent Agenda.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Sullivan – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy – yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Murphy - yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recommendation that the Board of Trustees award a posthumous degree to Ray DiPasquale, President by Interim President William Mitchell (vote needed)

President Mitchell announced that the College would like to award a posthumous honorary degree, an associate degree in Humane Letters to Ray DiPasquale at Commencement. Ray's family will be present at Commencement and will accept this award on his behalf.

A motion was made by Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Blackler to approve a posthumous degree to Ray DiPasquale.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Sullivan – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy – yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Murphy - yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

Presentation and recommendation that the Board of Trustees approve tenure to Sarmad Al Aloussi, Professor, Pelin Kadercan, Associate Professor and Denise Logan, Assistant Professor by Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield (vote needed)

Dr. Gail Gibson Sheffield is excited to present tenure for the first time at Massasoit. Tenure promotes stability which benefits students through long term commitments, institutional memory, and pursuit of academic freedom. It is a way to celebrate and honor those faculty members who are committed to the college, the community, their scholarship, and the students. It is awarded to faculty members as a way of celebrating and honoring their work. The eligible faculty member must be at Massasoit for at least six years and three years within their current post. Dr. Sarmad Al Aloussi is a member of the Computer Science faculty and has made significant contributions to our Data Science program. He is an advocate for innovative, pedagogical practice and serves as an advisor to the Computer Science Club. He also continues his scholarship and has been a research contributor to several professional journal publications. Dr. Pelin Kadercan, is a member of the Public Service and Social Science faculty. Her collection of scholarships includes global history, women studies, immigration studies, and documentary film making. She is a research fellow at New York Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences, authored several books, articles and conference presentations and serves on Academic Senate, DEI committee and chaired MCC Film Society. Professor Denise Logan is in Respiratory Care, Clinical Coordinator and Respiratory Care Advisory Board. She was instrumental in developing new clinical sites and facilitating the donation of equipment to the Respiratory Care program. She serves on several College Committees, is a student tutor and advisor and is a mentor teacher for Brockton High School mentor program. With your approval, Dr. Gibson Sheffield presents the three candidates for tenure.

Professor, Dr. Pelin Kadercan pursued her PhD in History, and the focus was on the refugees who escaped Nazi, Germany to Turkey in the 1930's. She designed a course here titled Refugees, Immigrants and Displaced People.

Associate Professor, Denise Logan, started her journey in higher education as a Massasoit student in Respiratory Care. She became a high school biology teacher. An opportunity arose, at Massasoit, to teach and she accepted the role. She is grateful to have the opportunity to come back to Massasoit and pay it forward.

Professor Sarmad Al Aloussi left Iraq and Jordan in 2006 to pursue a life in America. His first job in the United States was an adjunct faculty member at Worcester State University. He created a new Data Science program and then a Cyber Security program.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Dunphy to approve tenure to Sarmad Al Aloussi, Professor, Pelin Kadercan, Associate Professor and Denise Logan, Assistant Professor

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Sullivan – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes

Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy – yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Murphy - yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Chair Carroll and seconded by Trustee Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call:

Chair Carroll – yes
Vice Chair Sullivan – yes
Trustee Blackler – yes
Trustee Chakrabarti – yes
Trustee Dunphy – yes
Trustee Hilton-Gilleo – yes
Trustee Lawson – yes
Trustee Murphy - yes
Trustee Silvera – yes
Trustee Welch - yes

The motion passed unanimously.

Recorded by:

**Cori Foy
Recording Secretary**

**Thomas E. Carroll
Chairman**