



Northern Virginia Community College

Northern Virginia Community College Board
Virtual Meeting November 9, 4:00PM
Minutes

This meeting was held remotely and electronically as access to the regular, campus-based meeting location was restricted due to COVID-19 precautions and access controls. It was conducted in accordance with Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia and Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly to conduct regular business. Finally, the meeting was held using Zoom Meeting technology and in a webinar format with public access provided.

1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair of the Board

Chair O’Neil called the meeting to order at 4:01pm and made the following comments for the record.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS for the opening of this meeting.

Per guidance of VCCS Systems Counsel:

- **This meeting will be an electronic meeting, held in accordance with Section 2.2-3708.2 of Code of Virginia and Chapter 1283 of the 2020 Acts of Assembly to conduct regular business;**
- **This is an open, public meeting and has been made available for live viewing by the public through a posted Zoom link;**
- **Should our broadcast be interrupted, we will be notified, and we will have to pause the meeting;**
- **All votes will be made by roll call; and**
- **This meeting is being recorded and will be posted for subsequent viewing on the NOVA website.**

Chair O’Neil began the meeting by thanking all the committee chairs and members for successfully pulling off the first round of remote College Board committee meetings. She expressed that they were very productive and thanked staff.

1.1 ROLL CALL – Mariella Abanto

Present from the College Board: Chair Rosie O’Neil, Vice Chair Zuzana Steen, Dr. Kerstin Carlson Le Floch, Mr. Rick Pearson, Ms. Julie Felgar, Mr. Todd Rowley, Ms. Jennifer McGarey, Mr. Alvie Johnson, Mr. Ron Gill, Mr. John Porter, and Student Liaison Mr. Daniel Christman

Arriving late: Mr. Christopher Wade

Present from the College: Ms. Mariella Abanto, Ms. Charlotte Calobrisi, Ms. Ina Dimkova, Ms. Ellen Dyke, Dr. George Gabriel, Mr. John Guszak, Dr. Annette Haggray, Dr. Pamela Hilbert, Dr. Sam Hill, Ms. Corinne Hurst, Mr. Dana Kauffman, Dr. Chad Knights, Professor Kwabena Konadu, Dr. Anne Kress, Dr. Julie Leidig, Dr. Molly Lynch, Mr. Steve Partridge, Mr. Steve Patterson, Ms. Kelly Persons, Dr. Nicole Reaves, Ms. Makeda Lulseged Retta, Dr. Sheri Robertson, Mr. Allen Sinner, Ms. Hannah Stoneburner, Mr. Cory Thompson, Dr. Frances Villagran-Glover.

1.2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Agenda to be moved and seconded unless there is a motion to amend the agenda as submitted. A motion to amend the agenda, if second, can be considered.

MOTION, SECOND AND ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. John Porter moved the adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Vice Chair Zuzana Steen. Ms. Mariella Abanto initiated a roll call vote. Without objection, the motion carried.

1.3 BOLDLY NOVA PRIDE POINTS

Chair O'Neil introduced this segment as a new item on the agenda that will appear regularly going forward.

- Student guest – Makeda Lulseged Retta
Dr. Villagran-Glover: Introduced NOVA student Makeda Lulseged Retta as a shining star and leader at the College.

Makeda Lulseged Retta: Thanked Dr. Villagran-Glover, Dr. Kress and distinguished staff. Makeda shared that she is an international student from Ethiopia, who was accepted at a four-year school in Pennsylvania but, as tuition was too expensive, decided to come to NOVA. She became a PTK member and was able to reconnect with old friends. She got involved in the Francophone Culture Club and became a student ambassador. Thanks to NOVA, Makeda had the opportunity to attend national, out-of-state conferences. Makeda's "Rise Up" talk was about conquering the fear of change. Makeda plans to return to her home country and open a nonprofit accounting firm. Her goal is to empower youth by creating new jobs and connecting them to the world.

Chair O'Neil: Thanked Makeda for a beautiful presentation.

Makeda Lulseged Retta: Thanked God, family and friends, Dr. Kress, Dr. Villagran-Glover and her team, Provost Hilbert, and all her professors, faculty and staff for the job they do during unprecedented times.

- Faculty guest – Professor Kwabena Konadu
CISSP, CASP, CEH, CEI, MCSA, MCP, WPCNE, Sec+, Net+, A+ Professor Konadu is currently working for SE Solutions as a consultant for the Department of Homeland Security. He teaches Cybersecurity and Information Technology courses at the Woodbridge Campus. Konadu's primary focus includes System Monitoring, Infrastructure Protection, Malware Analysis and Reverse Engineering, CyberRobotics, and hardware development. He spent the first 12 years of his career building and testing space hardware applications for nuclear vulnerability/survivability assessment, and more than 10 years working as an Information Systems Security Engineer. Professor Konadu is also a Faculty Coach and the Director of Engineering for Cybersecurity Competitions at the Woodbridge Campus where he is responsible for providing virtualization platform infrastructure for offensive and defensive cybersecurity. He holds an M.S. in Telecommunications Network and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from George Mason University.

Provost Knights: Introduced Professor Kwabena Konadu as a shining example; a passionate and dedicated faculty member committed to student success.

Prof. Konadu: Prof. Konadu stated that NOVA is the best place for him to work and make the greatest impact. Prof. Konadu shared key highlights about the IET program. He noted that the Cybersecurity program curriculum is mapped to National Center of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C).

The professor shared that NOVA was the first college to be designated CAE-2Y in Virginia. Students receive a special diploma designating that they graduated from a CAE school with official NSA and DHS seals attached. He noted that NOVA's IET Program provides skill development using real-world tools in Cloud and Cybersecurity and offers intensive hands-on experience. Students learn to problem-solve and innovate by competing in national and state Cybersecurity programs (i.e., Hackathons) with other designated CAE institutions. NOVA students are workforce ready. The goal is to make sure no one is falling behind.

Chair O'Neil and Mr. Rowley: Thanked Prof. Konadu for a wonderful presentation. Chair O'Neil then congratulated both Makeda and Prof. Konadu as examples of the talent that we have at NOVA.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

To be moved and second as a block, unless a motion is made, seconded and approved to consider the items "ad-serialatum" (separately). If this happens, each time will be considered individually with separate motions and seconds required.

MOTION, SECOND AND ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Alvie Johnson moved the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Mr. John Porter. Ms. Mariella Abanto initiated a roll call vote. Without objection, the motion carried.

2.1 Approval of the September 14, 2020 NOVA Board Minutes TAB 1
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College approves the Board minutes as presented

2.2 Approval of the October 26, 2020 NOVA Board Retreat Minutes TAB 2
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College approves the Board Retreat minutes as presented.

Finance, Building and Sites Advisory Committee

2.3 Quarterly Report, Local Funds Budget July 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 TAB 3
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed the quarterly report of the Local Funds Budget for the period July 1, 2020, through September 30, 2020, and approves it for record purposes.

2.4 Quarterly Report, Non-state Funded Investments as of September 30, 2020 TAB 4
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed the quarterly report of the Non-state Funded Investments for the period July 1, 2020, - September 30, 2020, and approves it for record purposes.

2.5 Quarterly Report, Local Board Budget July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020 TAB 5
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed and approves the Quarterly Statement of the Local Board Budget for the period July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020.

2.6 Virginia Community College System (VCCS) Report on System Audit for FY19 TAB 6
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed the Audit of Public Accounts (APA) report for FY19 and approves it for record purposes.

3. ACTION ITEMS

Recommendations to be considered one item at a time with the action items to be moved individually by Committee Chairs (if present). A second is required for these motions as there will not have been separate, committee vote.

Finance, Building and Sites Advisory Committee

3.1 Investment Policy TAB 7
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed and approves the Investment Policy Statement of the College.

MOTION, SECOND AND A ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Alvie Johnson moved approval of the item. Seconded by Mr. Todd Rowley. Ms. Mariella Abanto initiated a roll call vote. Without objection, the motion carried.

President's Submitted Action Item

3.2 Resolution Reframing Strategic Plan Goals TAB 8
RECOMMENDATION: The Northern Virginia Community College Board has reviewed and approves the Resolution Reframing Strategic Plan Goals.

Dr. Kress: Reviewed the resolution and noted the importance of regularly updating the College's Strategic Plan.

MOTION, SECOND AND A ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. John Porter moved approval of the item. Seconded by Vice Chair Zuzana Steen. Ms. Mariella Abanto initiated a roll call vote. Without objection, the motion carried. (Mr. Christopher Wade abstained as he joined late, during the presentation).

4. SPECIAL PRESENTATION – PowerPoint presentation

“Overview of the Reaffirmation Accreditation Process” was presented by Dr. Sheri Robertson, Interim Chief Academic Officer.

Dr. Robertson: Shared that regional accreditation is a peer-review process that reaffirms the institution's commitment to the principles and philosophy of our accrediting agency which is the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Maintaining fully accredited status ensures that NOVA remains in compliance with federal expectations and continues to receive federal Title IV funding. NOVA expects its accreditation to be reaffirmed in June 2022.

Dr. Robertson noted that this re-accreditation occurs every 10 years and underscores NOVA's commitment to continuous improvement and remaining a good steward of the public funds entrusted to the college.

Mr. Rowley: Asked about the status of the College's partnership with Virginia Tech. Dr. Robertson shared how well the partnership is going.

Chair O'Neil: Thanked Dr. Robertson for noting the difference between regional and national SACSCOC accreditation.

Vice Chair Steen: Asked about the status of the College's partnership with George Mason. Dr. Robertson shared that the ADVANCE program continues to grow and that the program is getting better at reaching out to high schools.

Chair O'Neil: Commended Mason and NOVA presidents for a great job with the ADVANCE Program.

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Kress framed her report using the five E's of the College's updated Strategic Plan: Equity, Excellence, Empathy, Evidence and Economic and social mobility.

- **Equity:** Dr. Kress noted the College's roll as a pilot VCCS College in implementing Direct Enrollment rather than the current practice of placement exams that tends to negatively impact student success.

Dr. Kress also provided an update on the Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (CDEIO) recruitment and selection process. Provost Nicole Reaves is chairing the search committee and she will be providing recommendations to Dr. Kress this week. Dr. Kress indicated that the CDEIO should be appointed and in place by the end of the year.

- **Excellence:** Dr. Kress provided a report on the updating of the VCCS Strategic Plan. The system recognizes that some of the most valuable programs to NOVA students are also some of the most expensive programs to deliver. In order to keep the programs where they need to be, Dr. Kress noted the need to consider a different way to fund them.

She also provided an update on the Online Early College High School Pilot initiative with Fairfax County Public Schools. Fairfax is very excited with how the pilot is going.

- **Empathy:** Dr. Kress thanked Mr. Porter, for bringing the opportunity for the Alexandria Campus to partner with the Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically (ALIVE) not-for-profit group. ALIVE will be distributing food at the Alexandria Campus parking lot over a series of Saturdays. This will be partly for NOVA students but primarily for the larger community. She noted that the College has started conversations with similar local agencies to potentially have food distribution at other campuses.

Dr. Kress also thanked Dr. Villagran-Glover and Mr. Steve Partridge for their success in winning a Federal grant that will bring, over the next four years, about a half a million dollars to help students pay for childcare services.

- **Evidence:** Dr. Kress mentioned the conclusion of a space audit at the Brault Building and Pender facilities; with the objective of looking to the future and how the College can maximize the usage of space while minimizing the amount of leased space.

Dr. Kress also noted and thanked Dr. Gabriel for assigning staff from the Office of Institutional Research to serve as data coaches for the College's campuses and divisions.

- **Economic and Social Mobility:** Dr. Kress reported that the Re-employing Virginians (REV) program at NOVA has already received more than 3,100 inquiries. Ms. Tykesha Myrick is leading the program.

Mr. Rowley: Asked if he could help craft a communication to send out to the five major regional chambers on the Online Early College High School Pilot Program. Dr. Kress suggested to getting together with Dr. Robertson and Mr. Partridge.

Mr. Wade: Asked if there is a chance to “chip away at the VCCS confederation model?”

Dr. Kress responded that she has been part of discussions on how the VCCS funding model might be amended to incentivize actions to grow workforce programs. **Mr. Wade** then asked a follow-up question about direct placement. **Dr. Kress** answered that the VCCS pilot program proposes direct placement in college credit courses, while acknowledging that some students will need more support than others.

6. CHAIR’S REPORT

Chair O’Neil shared sad news about the passing of former NOVA Board Chair Jerry Barrett. She noted that **Dr. Barret** was a passionate representative and advocate for the College. He served on the NOVA Board from 2006 to 2014; chairing the Board from Sept. 2013 to May 2014. In his honor **Chair O’Neil** requested that the Board observe a moment of silence. The Board did and **Chair O’Neil** followed with some additional history on **Dr. Barrett’s** service to the College, his community and his years of Federal Government service.

Chair O’Neil thanked everyone who participated of the Board Retreat, especially her colleagues who served as panelists. **Chair O’Neil** encouraged members of the board to continue to connect **Dr. Kress** with members of the community per the discussion at the October retreat.

Chair O’Neil noted that Wednesday, Nov. 11, will be Veteran’s Day and thanked Board Member **Alvie Johnson** for his service. She went on to share that NOVA has almost 4,500 students who are attending classes thanks to GI Bill benefits.

Mr. Johnson: Thanked **Mr. Kauffman** and staff for helping draft his letter that will go out to the College community acknowledging their commitment to and support of veterans. **Mr. Johnson** thanked **Dr. Kress** for the opportunity.

7. FOUNDATION LIAISON’S REPORT

- Guest presentation by Foundation Chair and Foundation Executive Director

Mr. Porter, College Board Liaison to the NOVA Foundation: **Mr. Porter**, after brief words on the activities of the Foundation, introduced **Ms. Kelly Persons**, Executive Director of the Foundation.

Ms. Persons: Thanked **Mr. Porter** for the introduction and then **Chair O’Neil** for joining the Foundation’s Oct. 28 meeting. She shared three topics:

- **COVID-19 Student Emergency Aid Grant program** - Launched on March 23, with an initial \$250,000 commitment from the Foundation, the program has awarded \$743,000 in \$500 emergency grants and grocery cards to over 1,400 students.
- **Nov. 12 Annual Foundation event** - The event will take place both at the Stone Tower Winery and remotely via simulcast. **Ms. Persons** invited all members to participate. **Ms. Persons** thanked Vice Chair **Zuzana Steen** and **Ms. Jennifer McGarey** for their continued help in raising corporate support from their employers.
- **Foundation Priorities** - **Ms. Persons** will be working with **Dr. Kress** in January and February to identify two to three strategic initiatives where philanthropy can make a difference.

Ms. Ellen Dyke, NOVA Foundation Board Chair: Commented that it was a pleasure to sit in on the Board meeting and listen to the student and faculty presentations. She is looking forward to working with **Chair O’Neil** and the rest of the Board.

8. STUDENT LIAISON'S REPORT

Mr. Daniel Christman, Student Liaison to the College Board: Offered the following report:

- **Student engagement, SGA is working with student life to improve the student experience during remote learning. Town halls have been held to identify opportunities. As one example, he shared that The Hispanic Union put together a talent show and that Provost Leidig participated. He also shared an initiative from all SGA's regarding student mental health.**
- **What has stood out for students during remote learning, Main thing is engagement. It's a lot more difficult to engage online. Students have created group chats, outside of classroom, to go over different topics or to decompress. He and other students are looking forward to going back to in-person classes, hopefully next year - based on CDC recommendations. Online services that NOVA offers help to reduce stress and anxiety.**

Chair O'Neil: Thanked Daniel for his ACCT participation in October.

Vice Chair Steen: Was happy to hear that NOVA's online services are helpful and that many will continue even when classes go to back to being held in-person.

9. OTHER/NEW BUSINESS

Chair O'Neil: Reminded Board Members of the Foundation Event on Nov. 12 and encouraged their participation. She will be attending.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion and second required for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. John Porter moved to adjourn. Seconded by Vice Chair Zuzana Steen. Ms. Mariella Abanto initiated a roll call vote. With no objections, the motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.

Submitted by:



Ms. Rosaelena (Rosie) O'Neil
Chair
Northern Virginia Community College



Dr. Anne M. Kress
Secretary
Northern Virginia Community College Board
President
Northern Virginia Community College