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Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2026

12:00 p.m., MTC 102/Boardroom

The Board of Trustees of Wor-Wic Community College held a regular meeting on January 15, 2026. Board Chair Morgan Hazel presided.

PRESIDENT

Dr. Deborah Casey

TRUSTEES

Chair Morgan Hazel
Vice Chair Anna Newton
Mr. Russell Blake
Ms. Kim Gillis
Mr. Marty Neat
Ms. Lorraine Purnell-Ayres
Mr. Bill Turner

VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Michael Hutmaker
Dr. Deirdra Johnson - Absent
Ms. Jen Sandt
Dr. Karie Solembrino

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Karen Berkheimer - Absent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Stefanie Rider

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Mr. Ayman Idress - Absent

PRESIDENT, WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LIAISON

Mr. Chip Bertino - Absent

WICOMICO COUNTY EXECUTIVE, LIAISON

Ms. Julie Giordano - Absent

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES

Dr. Melarie Brown, Disability Services and Innovation Grant Administrator, delivered a presentation about the Workforce & Academic Victory through Empowering Success (WAVES) program. We are the only community college awarded the Disability and Innovation Fund (DIF) grant. Dr. Brown reviewed the program and its key personnel, partnerships, impacts, results for 2025, and goals for 2026.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW FACULTY AND/OR ADMINISTRATORS

Ms. Lori Wagner, Instructor of Nursing and Dr. Susan English, Mathematics and Science Department Head and Associate Professor of Mathematics were introduced by Dr. Karie Solembrino. Ms. Robynn Chandler, Academic Advisor, Ms. Vickie Elliot, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and Ms. Daron Mulligan, Global Education Coordinator were not able to attend the meeting.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Russell W. Blake

Kimberly C. Gillis

Morgan Hazel

Martin T. Neat

Anna G. Newton

Lorraine Purnell-Ayres

Bill Turner

PRESIDENT

Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

Dr. Casey introduced Achieving The Dream (ATD) coaches Dr. Shawnda Floyd and Ms. Soon Flynn. They are presenting at tomorrow's employee professional development day, Dr. Floyd as the keynote speaker and Ms. Flynn is discussing the Institutional Capacity Assessment Tool (ICAT) survey results.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Jill Gordon took roll and recorded minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the December 4, 2025, meeting minutes by Mr. William Turner and seconded by Mr. Russell Blake. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Jennifer Sandt reported that tuition and fees revenue are about \$400,000 below the prior year's level. Year-to-date revenues for FY 2026 are approximately \$277,000 higher than last November with the receipt of State and County revenue this month. Total expenses have increased by nearly \$640,000 compared to last year, with higher costs in salary/fringe benefits, supplies, utilities and fixed expenses. Medical utilization continues to be trending higher than last year. The contingency balance remains at approximately \$140,000. We are experiencing an increase in many fixed expenses and are adjusting our FY27 budget accordingly.

STANDING REPORTS

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Dr. Michael Hutmaker shared the enrollment report, providing a full copy of the report to the board of trustees, liaisons, and executive leadership team.

Total FTE's for Spring are 1,004.78, which is 76.03% of our FY26 FTE goal. On the credit side there are 633.42 FTE's, 89.10% of our FY26 goal, and the total CEWD FTE's are 371.36, 49.19% of the FY26 FTE goal. We are still enrolling credit and CEWD students for the spring semester, the second seven-week session, and the summer session.

The dual enrollment headcount for Spring 2026 is 387 students, which is an 8% increase from Fall 2025.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Deb Casey praised her teams continual visionary, intentional, and action-oriented work.

Some of this month's highlights include:

Ms. Stefanie Rider and Dr. Michael Hutmaker for their work with ASAP and Arnold Ventures. We have developed this grant off the Fins to the Finish Line program where students are linked with wraparound services that provide resources to remain academically focused to completion. We are one of four Maryland community colleges participating.

Mr. Ayman Idrees and Mr. Matt Geel are working with Dr. Casey in creating the AI Task Force. They are creating the AI policies for the college, hopefully being the first out of all the community colleges in Maryland. We will have members of each stakeholder as part of the team, including students, faculty, support staff, and administrators on the committee in the future.

Dr. Michael Hutmaker has officially applied for WWCC to become a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). Our region includes Maryland, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania colleges. They will have a site visit to our campus on January 26th. We are currently working with our athletic consultant, Dr. Harris, who has extensive experience building athletic programs.

The college has completed its inaugural four-part webinar series in collaboration with Symbiosis University, focusing on the Global FinTech Ecosystem. Over 1,000 participants received attendance badges. Special thanks to Dr. Deirdra Johnson, Mr. Matt Geel, Mr. Ayman Idress, and Mr. Jason Wright who taught segments of the webinar. Dr. Casey is working on how to make this a credentialed program.

On Saturday, January 17th, students and faculty return from Scotland as they complete the first study abroad program. We have been keeping up with their daily WhatsApp posts and cannot wait to hear of their adventures.

Ms. Stefanie Rider is focused on donor commitments for the Spring Golf Tournament and upcoming donor recognition event.

Ms. Jen Sandt provided an update on the Jordan Center. There is some much-needed HVAC system upgrades occurring this Spring/Summer. We are not going to have the summer camp program this year, so that the work can be completed in its entirety. We will continue the child care portion year-round and the Pre-K program during the public-school year. We are in the process of getting letters out to existing child care parents letting them know that there won't be a camp option available this summer.

A draft MOU between Wicomico County and Wor-Wic Community College was provided on the Rte. 50 egress. The MOU will be reviewed by legal counsel.

A full report was provided to the board of trustees.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEMS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

1. Treasurers Report

Mr. William Turner made a motion to approve the board action items, with Mr. Russell Blake seconding the motion. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved all meeting action items.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Morgan Hazel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. and was seconded by Mr. Marty Neat. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Deborah Casey, Ph. D
Board of Trustees Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted



Morgan Hazel, Board Chair