

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #512
COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE, AND McHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of Wednesday, February 19, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee of the Whole meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair Bill Kelley on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. in of the Wojcik Conference Center, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL

Present: Members Greg Dowell, Diane Hill, Herb Johnson, Bill Kelley, Nancy Robb, Pat Stack, and Walt Mundt

Late Arrival: None

Absent: Student Member Liman Lei

Also present: Dr. Jason Altmann, Interim Dean of Students; Dr. Yolanda Barnes, Dean of Business and Social Sciences; Tony Butler, Director of Risk Management; Orlando Cabrera, Tech Support Specialist; Tom Cassell, Senior Manager, Business Development; Amanda Duval-Norwood, Chief Human Resources Officer; John Faerber; Rob Galick, EVP Finance and Administrative Services; Bob Grapenthien, Controller; Erika Hartman, Administrative Coordinator; Bob Hayley, Assistant Controller; Dr. Joanne Ivory, Dean Career and Technical Programs; Dr. Tamara Johnson, Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Jeff Julian, Chief of Staff/Vice President of External Affairs; Rick Kellerman, Network Specialist; Dr. Derek Leiter, Dean of Health Careers; Nancy Medina, Executive Director Facilities Management; Kristyn Meyer, Associate Executive Director Foundation; Robert Parzy, Associate Provost-Enrollment Services; Steve Petersen, Campus Architect; Gloria Plaza, Director of Business Operations and Security; Kim Pohl, Director of Communications; Kimberley Polly, Dean Mathematics and Science; Sharon Rainbolt, Manager Dual Credit; Colleen Rice, Executive Assistant Board of Trustees; Jaime Riewerts, Dean Liberal Arts; Darlene Schlenbecker, Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Anna Strati, Director Institutional Research and Analytics; Deann Surdo, Director of Outcomes Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness; Darice Trout, Senior Director of Workforce Solutions and Job Placement; Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost; Heather Zoldak, Chief Advancement Officer.

Guests: Eric Knox, Citizen

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

DISCUSSION OF
FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Dr. Avis Proctor, President, introduced Executive Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services Rob Galick, who presented again on the recommendation regarding proposed fees for FY2026. Galick reviewed the recommendation with the board, which includes three key components, all supported by the finance committee:

1. \$3 Base Tuition Rate Increase
2. \$20/course Distance Learning Fee Converted to \$3/credit hour Universal Fee (revenue neutral)
3. Eliminate the \$10/course Fast Track Fee.

Various scenarios were shared to demonstrate the financial impact on students, with the increase in the universal fee and tuition combined. The goal is to ensure fairness, as previously, online students were charged more. This change makes the fee structure more equitable.

Student leaders were consulted. They supported the proposal after understanding the rationale. Shared Governance contributed to the recommendation.

The Board will vote to approve these proposed tuition and fees for FY2026 at next week's Board Meeting.

Dr. Proctor introduced Dr. Ruth Williams, Provost, and Sharon Rainbolt, Manager of Dual Credit, and asked them to give updates on Northwest Educational Council for Student Success (NECSS) and Dual Credit.

Dr. Williams gave an overview of the relationship between NECSS and Harper College. NECSS is a partnership between D211, D214, D220 and Harper College. The 2024-2025 NECSS areas for focus are:

1. Equity for All
2. Regional Alignment
3. Student Transition

Rainbolt then gave an update on Dual Credit at Harper College, with regards to the NECSS districts' participation. Dual credit headcount has steadily increased from 4,594 in FY20 to 5,503 in FY24, reflecting a 20% growth over the last five years. FTE for FY 24 was 969. (The current tracking is at over 1,000 FTE for FY2025).

Even though overall campus enrollment experienced some fluctuation over the past five years, dual credit enrollment showed consistent growth. Almost a quarter (24%) of Harper's population is being served by dual credit.

The gender distribution is balanced, but dual credit has a slightly higher proportion of female students. (47% male to 52% female). Dual credit students and their families saved over five million dollars last year alone.

The dual credit population shows increased representation of Hispanic and first-generation students over at least the past 5 years, indicating potential progress toward expanding access and equity.

Last year, Harper offered sixty-seven unique dual credit courses across five hundred sections, up from forty-four courses and 159 sections ten years ago (2014). Most courses are now held in high schools, reflecting a significant shift in how dual credit is delivered. The High School teachers must meet the same credentials as Harper Faculty.

With offering even more this year, (seventy courses and a record high 545 dual credit sections) Harper faces operational strain, risking program quality and sustainability. Addressing staffing gaps, optimizing scheduling, and ensuring sustainable processes will be key for future efficiency and support future growth. There are currently two dedicated staff in the Dual Credit office.

Rainbolt referred to charts that outline where students go after high school:

1. Around 27% to 33% of former dual credit students enrolled at Harper in the fall immediately after graduating high school. This percentage is slightly declining, with 31% in 2019 and 27% in 2022 and 2023.
2. The percentage of dual credit students who did not enroll in any college in their first fall after high school has increased from 28% in 2019 to 41% in 2023. This is concerning, suggesting either a potential decline in postsecondary participation or a delay in enrollment among recent graduates.

It was also noted that Dual Credit students, who enter Harper within three years of graduating High School and take at least one dual credit course compared to students with no previous Harper credits earned while in High School, end up having higher persistence.

Member Diane Hill commented that this was an informative presentation. Member Greg Dowell asked for more information regarding the percentage of dual credit students who did not enroll in any college in their first fall after high school. Dr. Williams and Rainbolt are investigating with a working group, trying to get information from the high schools to understand who these students are and what their demographics are. Member Dowell asked if it may have to do with the economy. Williams stated that this is a national trend.

Member Stack asked if dual credit competes with AP courses. Member Robb was pleased to hear that Dual Credit is strong and asked how many courses are taught at the high schools vs. on Harper's campus. Rainbolt answered that 18

courses are on Harper's campus and the rest are taught at the high schools. Member Robb stated that a problem in the past was that the students would have to take so much of their day to take one course at Harper. It makes sense that they are available at the high schools. It is more accessible to what the students need.

Member Walt Mundt commented on what an opportunity this is for students to save thousands of dollars and time and be ready for their next steps after high school. He then asked about the fee model and revenue to Harper. Dr. Proctor stated that the districts pay \$23 per course per student and there is some state reimbursement as well. Member Mundt also asked if there is an opportunity to work with parochial schools in the area, and Rainbolt answered yes – they are currently pursuing this as well as with institutions in other regions.

Member Herb Johnson asked if there is an issue with the qualifications of teachers that are teaching these courses. Dr. Proctor stated this is not a concern unique to Harper or IL. There is legislation being brought forward regarding setting the standard for faculty. Harper follows the ICCB minimum qualifications for faculty.

Chair Bill Kelley asked if there is an opportunity to see statistics of PELL eligible students who enroll in Dual Credit. There may be an opportunity to look at how those students may benefit from Dual Credit. Dr. Williams will get that information.

Next, Dr. Proctor began by providing an overview of the progress made on the Strategic Plan, expressing her sincere appreciation for the significant efforts of Vice President of Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness Darlene Schlenbecker, the Strategic Planning and Accountability (SPA) committee, and the Executive Cabinet (EC) team. She acknowledged the substantial amount of work that has already been completed, emphasizing the dedication of all involved.

Schlenbecker then took the floor to offer a more detailed update on the strategic planning process. She mentioned that the team is now more than halfway through the timeline for the plan. She highlighted some of the key activities and accomplishments, such as the dialogue sessions, which were made available online and recorded to allow for feedback from a broader audience. Additionally, internal Data Summits were conducted, providing another avenue for discussion around the data gathered. A survey was also distributed at the end of the year, which garnered over four hundred responses.

In terms of analyzing the feedback, Schlenbecker explained that the team initially identified thirty-three themes from the input sessions. These themes were then narrowed down to

twenty-seven by finding commonalities across the data. The next step involved identifying three broad overarching themes, which will guide the strategic planning moving forward. These themes are:

1. Supportive and Inclusive Community
2. Innovative and Responsive Education
3. Organizational Excellence

Looking ahead, Schlenbecker shared that the upcoming Strategic Planning Conference has 227 registrants, including 32 students. She gave a brief preview of what will take place at the conference and explained that the day after the conference, the SPA committee would begin their work of reviewing the feedback received. The Board will also be involved in this feedback process. It was noted that the committee is composed of 22 people, with representatives from all employee groups on campus.

Member Robb raised a question about the use of AI in the process of gathering and analyzing input. Schlenbecker confirmed that AI has been employed to help with theming and data analysis. However, she clarified that while AI has been useful, the team ensures that the intent behind the feedback is properly understood and captured.

Jeff Julian reviewed the February Board Packet.

FORMAL ACTIONS

Member Robb moved; Member Dowell seconded to enter closed session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss OMA section 2(c)(1): The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body ... ; OMA section 2(c)(2): Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives...; and OMA section 2(c)(11): Litigation.

Closed session began at 6:07 p.m. Also in attendance were: Amanda Duval-Norwood, Robert Grapenthien, Dr. Ruth Williams, Rob Galick, and Jeff Julian. Grapenthien left at 6:34 p.m.

Member Dowell motioned; Member Mundt seconded to adjourn the closed session and re-enter the regular meeting at 7:14 p.m. In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Robb moved, Member Dowell seconded, adjournment at 7:16 p.m.

In a voice vote, motion carried.

Chair



Secretary

