



President's Brownbag Notes

Dr. Curt Freed, President

April 24, 2024, 12:00 p.m. via WebEx

- 1) Participants: 32
- 2) Curt Freed welcomed Catherine Pacheco-Ogle, Career Services Director. Catherine has joined the Title V MI CASA team. Curt introduced Michele Hodge, Interim HR Director. She has worked within CCCS for 15 years. She can be reached remotely by email, WebEx, Teams, etc.
- 3) Congratulations:
 - a) Six Collision Repair students competed at State Skills USA competition, with students taking first, second, and third place. Cole Curtis won first place and will move on to national competition in June.
 - b) George O'Clair's student, Cristopher Pineda, was accepted into the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program. The program included a five-day virtual experience this month where he had the opportunity to interact with NASA engineers and scientists.
 - c) Dr. Gary Dukes and Dr. Deborah Coates completed the Colorado Community College System's "Pathway to Executive Excellence" leadership program this month.
 - d) Lynne Collins was elected as the new Faculty Senate President.
- 4) Curt asked for feedback on Professional Development Day on April 12. Christiane Olivo noted that the Strengths Finder assessments offered great insight. She liked that it emphasized the strengths members of the team bring. Curt noted that the College is considering offering employees access to another assessment that they can use with a family member.
- 5) Budget Update:
 - a) The State Long Bill has been approved by the legislature and is moving on for the Governor's signature. If passed, MCC will receive around \$667K in new funding. This increase is due to good enrollment and changes in the CCCS funding formula.
 - b) MCC's budget will be submitted to the State Board in May and voted on during the June meeting.
 - c) Spring enrollment is up 1.8% overall. This is due to an increase in concurrent enrollment. Non-concurrent degree-seeking enrollment is slightly down.
 - d) There are some carryover funds from this year's budget, mostly from position vacancies. Departments are being asked to use FY 24 funds to buy equipment requested for FY 25, when possible. Some of the surplus funding will go into college reserves. Reserve funding is being used to pay \$1.6-1.7M for utilities work on the Dahms-Talton Center and to purchase and renovate the Wray Center building.
 - e) The FY24 budget will be padded with \$200K in case enrollment projections are not met. If enrollment is met, then this amount would be contributed to college reserves at the end of the year.
 - f) New personnel requests pending final approval include:
 - i. Computer Science/CIS Faculty
 - ii. Social Sciences Faculty (fills position vacated by Daniel Grafton)
 - iii. Nursing release for nursing projects
 - iv. Three Financial Aid/Advising/COSI precollegiate positions (untying from COSI funding)
 - v. Auto collision half-time faculty

- vi. Assistant Director of Facilities (modified from a Structural Trades position that was in this year's budget and never posted)
 - vii. Dean of Student Services (was in this year's budget but was never posted)
 - viii. Dean of Health Sciences (will seek faculty input in developing the duties of the position)
- 6) A controlled maintenance project replacing HVAC rooftop units (RTUs) on Cottonwood Hall, Aspen Hall, and 300 Main is scheduled to occur between the end of spring semester and the start of summer semester. Work was originally scheduled for spring break, but the RTUs were not available. Some staff will need to temporarily move out of their offices while the rooftop units are set.
 - 7) Steel beams have been delivered for the Dahms-Talton building.
 - 8) MCC now has in-person office space in Bennett to meet with students on Thursdays from 8:00 - 5:00 p.m. at 207 Muegge Way (Town of Bennett's Mayor's Office). MCC is continuing discussion with the Town of Bennett to secure a full-time Bennett Center location.
 - 9) An MCC Community Listening Session relating to the new Wray Center was held April 23 at Boonies restaurant. There was a good turnout, with around 25 participants. Curt expressed thanks to Holly Haman-Marcum, Mindy Centa, and Ariella Gonzales-Vondy for coordinating the event.
 - 10) Anthem and CommonSpirit have not yet come to a contract renewal agreement. Consequently, St. Elizabeth's hospital may not remain an in-network provider. Curt suggested taking this into account when making Open Enrollment selections. Benefits Open Enrollment for Classified employees ends April 29. APT and Faculty Open Enrollment closes May 13. Contact Human Resources if you have questions.
 - 11) APT supervisors should finish the current year's appraisal process with their employees by April 30 (some will be online and some via paper). The new appraisal year for APT employees will be completely online via NEOED Perform. Faculty and Classified online appraisals are still being developed in NEOED and will launch in August.
 - 12) MCC is in the matching process to secure a Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence from El Salvador. Two candidates applied, and Instruction leadership has indicated their preference. MCC is still awaiting final word on whether the candidate will be coming. Christiane Olivo shared that he has a Ph.D. in Anthropology with a specialty in Archeology. He would be able to teach History of Latin America and is interested in community involvement. Curt noted that when the scholar is finalized, he will need housing and a vehicle.
 - 13) Commencement will be held Saturday, May 4 in Glenn Miller Park downtown. Faculty and Staff walking in the ceremony should report to the United Methodist Church no later than 8:30 a.m. The ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m.
 - 14) The End-of-Year Employee Event is scheduled for May 6 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in Founders Room. Curt thanked Nancy Ruhl for her work on the event.
 - 15) The Student Life Department is planning a Student Awards Ceremony for May 1. The ceremony will include recognition of the Ziegler, Danford, Thornsby, and President's awards.

- 16) MCC will host a STEM Festival for Brush, Weldon, and Wiggins Middle School Students on May 8, and for Fort Morgan students on May 10. A community STEM event is planned for May 9.
- 17) CACE Events:
 - a) Brush Downtown Art Walk, May 8, 4-7 p.m.
 - b) Fort Morgan Art Walk, May 15, 4-7 p.m.
 - c) Astrophotography Exhibit at the CACE Gallery, May 16-June 20; Artist's reception June 20.
 - d) Author Talks
 - i. "Genius, Power, and Deception on the Eve of World War I," with Douglas Brunt, May 1, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 - ii. "A Murder Mystery, Family Story, & Love Letter to Strong Women Everywhere" with Nina Simon, May 8, 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- 18) Other:
 - a) Maria Cardenas asked whether there would be training on how to use NEOED for performance appraisals. Jane Fries noted that she is compiling user guides with screen shots and step-by-step instructions.
 - b) Jessica Edington inquired whether a third staff member will be added to the HR Department. Curt noted that this is still being considered. If the position is added, it would not be filled until after a new HR Director is hired.

Notes by: Jane Fries, Assistant to the President