

VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Meeting Number 337
Tuesday, February 4, 2025
Location: ADM Boardroom

The Virginia Highlands Community College Board convened at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025. Lunch was at noon, and the business portion of the meeting immediately followed at 1:00 p.m. in the ADM Boardroom.

Members Present

Dr. Doug Arnold, Washington County
Don Ashley, City of Bristol
Gwen Beattie, Smyth County
Donald Bowman, City of Bristol
Charlie Fugate, Washington County
Pamela Hill, Smyth County
Beth Rhinehart, City of Bristol
Dan Smith, Washington County
Tonya Triplett, Washington County

Staff Present

Dr. Adam Hutchison, President and Secretary to the Board
Jessie O'Quinn, Executive Assistant to the President
Christine Fields, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Laura Pennington, Vice President of Institutional Advancement
Dr. Derek Whisman, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services

Call to Order

Don Bowman, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes

Board Member Dan Smith made the motion to approve the minutes for November 12, 2024 Minutes No. 336. Board Member Gwen Beattie seconded, Board Member Beth Rhinehart abstained due to not being present at this meeting, and the motion carried with remainder of the Board in favor.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

College Updates

Department Highlight

Dr. Adam Hutchison mentioned we once again invited guests today as a “Department Highlight” of our campus. Faculty members Donnie Melvin and Erick Farris presented details of their Electrical Technology Program.

Instruction and Student Services

Dr. Derek Whisman, Vice President of Instruction and Student Services, began his address to the Board by asking for approval of several program changes effective Fall 2025:

- New Career Studies Certificate (CSC) in Victim Advocacy Assistant
- Discontinue Associate of Applied Science (AAS) in Human Services
- Discontinue Certificate in Human Services Advocate
- New Associate of Science (AS) in Social Sciences, Major in Social Work
- Discontinue CSC in Industrial Electricity

The details were in the packet that was handed out today. All of these proposals have been reviewed and approved by our Curricula and Programs Committee and Dr. Whisman.

The first program change proposal is a new CSC in Victim Advocacy Assistant. This one-year program would prepare students for entry level work as victim advocates in the criminal justice system and community organizations. Letters of support from community agency representatives were included. Board Member Dan Smith made a motion to approve the new CSC in Victim Advocacy Assistant. Board Member Tonya Triplett seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

The next proposal that Dr. Whisman presented is discontinuing the Certificate in Human Services Advocate and the AAS Degree in Human Services. These would be replaced with an AS Degree in Social Sciences, Major in Social Work. This new degree is fully transferable to all Transfer VA partners and better aligns with students’ needs. Board Member Pam Hill made a motion to discontinue the Certificate in Human Services Advocate and the AAS Degree in Human Services, and replace with the AS in Social Sciences, Major in Social Work. Board Member Don Ashley seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

The last proposal is discontinuing the Industrial Electricity CSC. This was created nine years ago for a specific employer that is no longer needed, and the course layout is now considered confusing and out of sequence. Furthermore, there are five other electrical technician certificates students can pursue which are much more relevant. Board Member Gwen Beattie made a motion to approve the new CSC in Industrial Electricity. Board Member Beth Rhinehart seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Dr. Whisman also provided an enrollment update. For Spring semester, our most accurate numbers as of today indicate we have an increase of 80 FTE compared to this time last year. Dr. Whisman reports that we expect enrollment to grow as the Washington County Promise Program begins this Fall semester.

Institutional Advancement and Educational Foundation

Vice President Laura Pennington provided updates in her division. The ribbon cutting for the Paramount Advanced Technology Workforce Center (PATWC) will be held on March 19. The Holiday Meal Boxes for students were a success and provided meals for 116 families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Ms. Pennington also shared that last week, she and Dr. Hutchison once again took three students to Richmond for the Southwest Virginia Legislative Reception and VHCC Day at the Capitol.

Finance and Administrative Services

Christine Fields, Vice President of Finance and Administration, gave a few brief updates of active campus projects. We have \$1 million in renovations dedicated to our Nursing Simulation Lab with an estimated start date in the Summer. The exterior doors project and electrical work of the patio will also begin soon. The Master Plan is still underway, and SFCS team is coming to campus the week of February 17 to talk with different groups.

President's Office

Dr. Hutchison began by asking the Board for approval for three Professor Emeritus nominations this year: Jim Kroll, Mary Munsey, and Melba Bolling. This process is a special way to honor retired faculty and staff that were long time employees with excellent service to the College. The three nominations have already been reviewed and approved by Human Resources, the ad hoc committee, and Dr. Hutchison. They will now need Board approval. Board Member Pam Hill made a motion to approve the Professor Emeritus nominations for these three individuals. Board Member Beth Rhinehart seconded, and the motion carried with all in favor.

Dr. Hutchison also informed the Board that the State Board for Community Colleges will have their next meeting here in Abingdon on March 19-20. Chancellor Doré and his staff will also be here. There are a couple of events incorporated in this visit, one of which is the ribbon cutting for the PATWC. Dr. Hutchison, along with individuals from Southwest Virginia Community College and Mountain Empire Community College, will be at their Board Meeting on March 20 to discuss the healthcare industry in our region. Dr. Hutchison mentioned to be on the lookout for invitations and further details.

Lastly, while he was in Richmond last week for the legislative sessions, Dr. Hutchison shared that there is some legislation around dual enrollment which possibly could allow us to offer more dual enrollment classes to more students at a lower cost. If the legislation passes, it will affect some behind the scenes processes.

Adjournment

The Board Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Submitted By: _____
Dr. Adam Hutchison, President

Approved By: _____ Date _____
Don Bowman, Chair