The meeting took place in the Houghton Room, Harrison Campus.

Present: Betty M. Mussell, Vice Chair; Richard S. Allen, Jr., Secretary; Carolyn C. Bay, Trustee; Eric T. Kreckman, Trustee; Terry Petrongelli, Trustee; Tonya Clayton, Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees; Jennifer Fager, Vice President of Academic Services; Lori Fassett, Executive Director of Personnel Services; Anthony Freds, Chief Information Officer; Lillian K. Frick, Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services; L. Scott Govitz, Executive Director of Economic and Workforce Development; Christine M. Hammond, Ph.D., President; Matt Miller, Ed.D., Vice President Student & Community Relations; Scott Mertes, Vice President for Community Outreach & Advancement

Absent: Douglas A. Jacobson, Board Chair; Thomas W. Metzger, Treasurer; Kim Barnes, Executive Dean of Student & Academic Support Services; Michael W. Jankoviak, Ph.D., Vice President of Accreditation, Quality Assurance, and Institutional Research; Bob Elmore, Faculty Senate President; Char Keel, ESPA President;

Guests:

Agenda Item I: CALL TO ORDER

The Board Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. There were no public comments from the guests.

Agenda Item II: APPROVAL OF AGENDA

With no proposed changes, the Board Vice-Chair stated that the agenda stands as approved as reflected in the Board packet.

Agenda Item III: APPROVAL OF CONSENT ITEMS

With no changes noted, the Board Vice-Chair stated the consent items stand as approved.

Agenda Item IV-A: CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Hammond reviewed the correspondence items including the recent Michigan College Access Network presentation, Office of Civil Rights Complaint, and Ronnie Jankoviak’s thank you note.

Vice President Frick informed the Board that Michigan Community Colleges are working to understand the recent payment to community colleges from the State. A few years ago, there was a change in the Personal Property Tax making it no longer subject to millages. To offset the loss of revenue, the State sends a payment to compensate. The State paid $38 million to community colleges this year to compensate for the loss of revenue, which is an increase from last year. However, Mid and other community colleges received fewer funds than prior years and funding between community colleges varied widely.

Vice President Frick provided an update from a recent Michigan Supreme Court settlement. The Michigan Supreme Court declared it was unconstitutional for the State to impose a 3% contribution of MPSERS members’ salaries toward retirement healthcare in 2010 and ruled the funds must be returned to members. The State will return the funds to Colleges who will be responsible for distributing to the employees who were employed from July 2010 to September 2012. These are complicated calculations and the College will seek guidance from MPSERS and from Plante Moran to ensure compliance.
Agenda Item IV-B: ENROLLMENT REPORT

Vice President Miller provided an enrollment report for the 2018 winter semester. Enrollment is down 1% in billing hours. Classes start this Saturday, January 6, with registration open through Wednesday, January 10. LUCES classes begin January 15. The College expects de-matriculated students from CMU will be registering this week.

New financial aid regulations may be affecting returning student enrollment numbers. The political climate and troubles with obtaining student visas may be contributing factors in the decreased international student numbers.

Agenda Item IV-C: COLLEGE NAME

Vice President Mertes and Vice President Miller lead a discussion concerning changing the college’s name. Nine of the twenty-eight Michigan Community Colleges do not include the word community in their name. The reasons for the name changes include better positioning for graduates in the employment market, enhancing recruitment efforts, preparing for the possibility of offering bachelor’s degrees, and attracting international students.

Arguments against a name change include the cost (e.g., signage, website, letterhead, publications, diplomas, etc.) which is estimated at $50,000 the first year. Of these costs, new signage is the most significant. However, the College plans to invest in new signage based on the recommendations of the 2016 Master Plan and those costs would be the same regardless of the decision on the name. A further concern is the possibility of confusion and/or resentment among community members.

A lengthy discussion took place among Board members and others in attendance concerning the name change. Discussion included the suggestion that a totally different name might be considered. In addition, the importance of timing and sequencing was discussed as renovations to the Harrison campus will require new signage and the preferred name should be used.

A motion was made by Trustee Kreckman and seconded by Trustee Bay to place this item on the February 6, 2018 Board of Trustees meeting agenda. All ayes; motion carried.

Agenda Item IV-D: HARRISON CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION

President Hammond reviewed the Harrison Campus Construction request with the Board. At the December 5, Board of Trustees meeting the Board authorized negotiations with Hobbs + Black Architects at a cost not to exceed $200,000 for Phase I renovations.

President Hammond reported that negotiations for Phase I design were successful. However, the sequencing of project will require architectural and engineering design work beyond Phase I elements if the Chiller Project is to be accomplished in the winter of 2019. Approximately 70% of this design work will be the technical requirements as identified by the engineering firm Peter Basso & Associates. The design work will enable the College to launch a request for proposal (RFP) process by March 2018 so that the Board can consider awarding contracts at its April 2018 meeting. Planning to complete the chiller project during the winter months will enable contractors to provide preferential pricing options rather than completing work in the summer.

As stated before, these updates and renovations are a part of the Campus Master plan and will provide a more student friendly environment on the Harrison campus as well as the capacity of offer new programs to attract students.

A motion was made by Trustee Kreckman to authorize MMCC administration to work with Hobbs + Black Architects and Peter Basso Associates to complete design and specification work to prepare bid documents for construction.
related to a new fitness center in the Goldberg wing and the relocation of the administrative offices in the East/West wing, improvement to lighting and controls throughout the main classroom building, acquisition and installation of a new chiller system; and design development work related to the renovation and reconfiguration of space in the East/West wing and the connection between the current Administration Wing and Goldberg Center. Seconded by Trustee Allen. All ayes; motion carried.

A second motion was made by Trustee Kreckman to authorize MMCC administration to continue the College’s work with Rowe Engineering in the design and specification work needed to prepare bid documents for an additional entrance to the College from Clare Avenue to the east parking lots. Seconded by Trustee Allen. All ayes; motion carried.

Agenda Item V-A: CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Board Vice-Chair reviewed the calendar of events for upcoming months, an informational item.

Agenda Item V-B: OTHER BUSINESS

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Recording Secretary,
Tonya Clayton
Executive Assistant to the President and Board of Trustees

__________________________________  ______________________________
Betty M. Mussell, Vice Chair   Richard S. Allen, Jr., Secretary