



**Finance Committee Minutes
Student Center, PDR, February 10, 2016**

Attendees: D. Bertolino, M. Bixby, R. Correia-Branco, T. Gorczyca, R. Haskell, E. Hayes-Johnson, S. Lancaster, T. Machado, A. Morse, L. Nadeau, C. Nuncio, R. Silva, L. Buckley
Guest: President Lane Glenn

Chair Andy Morse called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. The Jan. 27th minutes were approved.

President Glenn discussed the following topics:

New contract – any change in budget? The budget is always changing. Little is known as yet, but it is anticipated that the legislature will provide funding the first year with at least a 1% increase. Lane stated that the Secretary of Education and the government is not very helpful with helping to fund increases to collective bargaining, so therefore we may take a huge hit on top of the declining enrollment. The college is projecting up to a 6% decline in enrollment next year. At the end of the spring semester, the enrollment is expected to be down 8%, yet the college budgeted for 5%.

Police Academy in Lawrence: This project is a multi-year effort, involving multiple state agencies. Due to the high cost (\$71 million), together with a new governor and administration, needed improvements to the MBTA, and no capital funds, the police academy in Lawrence is not an immediate project but is still on our radar.

Academic space and administrative space: The computer lab space that was taken for financial aid offices was not administrative, but rather student services space. Regarding underutilized space, the second floor at 420 Common Street is being planned for Lyndon State, which is still awaiting approval from the Department of Higher Ed. Their programs have been approved, which is very positive, but the final approval may not be received for several months.

Intercession Courses: There is no updated information yet; however, the overall numbers show an improvement. This intensive format results in higher student success. Also, a 10-week course seems to be the optimal time for unprepared, underprepared, or undergraduate students. Ways to accommodate adult learners are being explored.

Incentives: President Obama has created incentives by restoring the Pell grants and granting a \$300 bonus for a schedule of at least 15 credits.

i-Health Security: A committee member noted that the 32 hours of security seemed to be insufficient for when non-i-Health classes are held in the building. While workable in the past, this semester has a higher classroom usage and has created a need for more security. i-Health is the only building on the Lawrence campus without a permanent security guard. Lane said that he would look into this.

Dominican Republic (DR): During Lane's and Noemi's recent visit to the Dominican Republic, a new agreement with the DR's first public two-year college was signed. This agreement will allow for the transfer of credits and provide opportunities for faculty, staff, and student exchanges. During this visit, they also helped implement a 911 system.

Internal Candidates: As a way to save money, most positions from December to May 2016 will be posted internally first. As qualified candidates apply and are placed in these positions, a domino effect may result in others being promoted, thereby avoiding lay-offs. In May, this process will be reevaluated.

Funding Formula: No changes are expected in the funding formula. There is little effect on the college, as capital money is not entirely frozen but has slowed for some institutions. NECC is fortunate in that the Spurk renovation funding is unlikely to change. Secretary Peyser is very involved in the details of funding projects.

25Live: It was noted that 25Live does not prevent classes to be scheduled at a time when there is no security. More information was needed on this – perhaps by Noemi and Allison Gagne.

Negotiations regarding outcome assessments: In answer to some stress surrounding this subject, Lane stated that the learning outcome assessment does not lead to standardized testing.

Future Proposed Guests: Noemi Custodia-Lora, Allison Gagne, and Ron Tabor.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Buckley

February 16, 2016