

Delta College
Board of Trustees Dinner Meeting
Delta College N7
Tuesday, September 12, 2023
5:30 pm

Board Present: A. Clark, B. Handley-Miller, M. Nash, M. Rowley, M. Thomas, M. Wood

Board Absent: A. Baldwin, S. Gannon, D. Middleton

Others Present: D. Allen, R. Battinkoff, T. Brown, J. Carroll, P. Clark, A. Cramer, R. Curry, S. DuFresne, P. Fox, J. Garn, M. Gavin, L. Govitz, D. Hopkins, D. McQuiston, J. Perry, W. Ramirez, S. Raube, S. Roche, P. Ross McClain, K. Schuler, A. Ursuy, E. Yaworski

Press Present: None

Board Chair, M. Thomas, called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. She turned the meeting over to Mike Gavin, President. M. Gavin stated that this presentation was a continuation of the discussion that started at the Special Board Meeting this past summer in regards to transfer. The presentation will better explain some of the obstacles we are running into and how the Board can help. M. Gavin then introduced David Hopkins, Dean of Transfer Programs and Online Learning.

D. Hopkins began his presentation by saying that students completing a degree or certificate at Delta increases the likelihood that they will complete a Bachelor's degree. Looking at transfers nationally, of the 80% of transfer students who want to earn a degree in 6 years, only 13% do. Each year more than 50,000 lower-income students do not transfer despite having a 3.5 GPA or higher. Roughly, 15,000 of those students have a 3.7 or higher GPA. This is important as education is a driver of social mobility for all students, especially low-income students, people of color, etc. More jobs are requiring a postsecondary credential, therefore earning an associate degree prior to transfer may be the best bet against the possibility of leaving higher education without any degree.

D. Hopkins talked about transfer within the State of Michigan. There is a lack of incentive for 4-year universities to insist on completion for transfer. There is no incentive for universities to encourage Delta students to complete a credential prior to transfer. State policy does not protect students from repeating courses they have already completed at Delta. Also, state policy does not ensure program-to-program transfer.

M. Gavin noted that the Michigan Transfer Agreement (MTA) still incentivizes transfer before completion. The My Michigan Pathways Program is only effective for those institutions that buy in. M. Gavin said that he is chairing the MCCA Student Success Committee where they are focusing on incentives for completion and there is policy level discussion.

D. Hopkins spoke specifically about transfer at Delta College. He shared the importance of promoting the completion of a credential from Delta prior to transferring to a 4-year institution. The College is in the process of further streamlining the transfer process. We are also working hard to promote agreements that are already in place, specific to the top 10 academic programs at Delta. He is working

with faculty to improve the outreach to our students. This is being done by highlighting the cost savings for the corresponding top transfer majors at Delta to our top transfer partners such as CMU, Davenport, Northwood, Ferris, SVSU, U of M Flint, etc. The topic of transfer is being discussed in a way that students will understand.

All of this work is in line with Delta's Strategic Plan specifically:

- 1.3: Increase access and understanding of the value of a college degree for adults and first-generation students, by making swift efforts to demystify and simplify college processes and systems.
- 3.3-1: Assess and revise postsecondary articulation agreements, as necessary, to ensure seamless transfer after a student completes their degree at Delta College.

D. Hopkins shared with the Board the bottom line for Delta College. Historically, Delta students who complete a Delta degree or certificate transfer more frequently than those who do not complete. Once they have transferred, the students with a Delta credential are approximately 25% more likely to complete a 4-year degree than students do without a Delta credential. This is based on the 2017-2018 cohort.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Talisa Brown, Assistant Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Board Secretary