

Allegany College of Maryland
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES
February 24, 2025

Thomas Welcome Center
Iris Eustace Halmos Community Room

PUBLIC SESSION

The Allegany College of Maryland Board of Trustees met on Monday, February 24, 2025, at 4 p.m. in the Thomas Welcome Center, Iris Eustace Halmos Community Room. Board members in attendance included: Mr. Kim Leonard, Ms. Jane Belt, Mr. Eugene Frazier, Mr. James Pyles, Ms. Linda Buckel, Ms. Mirjhana Buck, and Mr. David Jones (President and Secretary/Treasurer).

Others in attendance included:

Dr. Kurt Hoffman	Scott Harrah	Christina Kilduff
Melinda Duckworth	John Bone	Melanie Chapman
Courtney Jensen	Elaine Bridges	Liz Rockwell
Tara DeVore	Beth Little	Dr. Renee Conner
Dione Clark-Trub	Lori Spence	

Before the meeting, a group photo was taken of all meeting attendees to highlight the Board and Employee signed Vision Banner.

Adopt the December 9, 2024 Minutes

On a first from Mr. Pyles and a second from Ms. Buck, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman's Update

Mr. Leonard welcomed ACM's new college President, David Jones, to his first meeting in his new role. Mr. Leonard, Ms. Belt, and Mr. Jones attended the MACC Trustees Leadership Conference in Annapolis on January 27, 2025. The Conference included trends and issues in higher education, government relations, the MACC Legislative Agenda, and important legislation, including funding for cybersecurity initiatives.

In February, Mr. Leonard and Mrs. Belt joined Mr. Jones in walking around campus to meet and greet ACM staff. In the coming months, Mr. Leonard requested that other Board members select a month to join Mr. Jones. Jim Pyles and Mirjhana Buck will join in March, Mr. Frazier will participate in April, and Ms. Buckel will participate in May.

A Board retreat is planned for June 9th or 23rd. A scheduling poll will be sent to determine which date works best and the Board meeting will be moved to follow the retreat.

A committee is planning an inauguration for Mr. Jones on Friday, September 12, 2025. Additional details will be communicated as the plan unfolds.

Mr. Leonard suggested that the Board meet ten times yearly instead of twelve. With this change, there would be no meetings in January or July. The Board bylaws allow this and the Trustees have agreed to this change.

President's Update

Mr. Jones asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. Beth Little, the new Chief Advancement and Community Relations Officer, was also introduced as this was her first Board meeting.

Mr. Jones provided a four-page College update, which included information about the College's budget and funding from the State of Maryland and the County, enrollment, ACM's compliance with recent Federal Executive orders, recent testimonies made to the Maryland House and Senate, and Bedford County Campus updates.

Board Education: Pathways for Success Program

Tara DeVore, Director of Pathways for Success, provided an overview of the program. The Pathways for Success Program is a TRIO Student Support Services project funded through a U.S. Department of Education grant. Program goals include increasing the retention, grade point average, graduation, and transfer rates of first-generation, income-eligible students as well as those students with documented disabilities. Highlights of services include the development of Student Success Plans, supplemental academic instruction, one-on-one tutoring, intrusive/proactive academic advising and coaching, financial aid assistance, economic literacy, transfer advising, career counseling, personal counseling, peer mentoring, and college visits.

Program Advisory Committees Updates (Information Item)

Dr. Hoffman presented the changes in membership to the Program Advisory Committees for Spring 2025. On a first from Ms. Buckel and a second from Mr. Frazier, the Trustees approved the changes.

Maryland Accountability & Implementation Board Blueprint for Maryland's Future Pillar 3 Update (Information Item)

Dr. Hoffman shared that he recently presented to the Accountability and Implementation Board (AIB Board) about ACM's initiatives on Pillar 3 (Career and College Ready), which are innovative and in alignment with Maryland's Blueprint for Education. Dr. Hoffman highlighted ACM's CHEER (Creating Higher Education Experience and Readiness) program, the Meeting the Moment Grant for Mind-Body Medicine, and the Engineering-Automated Manufacturing Technology Program through Western Maryland Works. Dr. Hoffman also shared that ACM is expanding early college into the 11th grade in partnership with ACPS.

Career & Technology Education Advisory Committee Membership (Action Item)

Dr. Hoffman requested that Dave Romero be added and Max Green be moved to ex officio. On a first from Ms. Belt and a second from Ms. Buck, the Trustees approved.

Credit Tuition and Fee Policy (Action Item)

Ms. Kilduff shared that changes were made to ensure compliance with COMAR guidelines. On a first from Ms. Belt and a second from Mr. Frazier, the Trustees approved the changes to the policy.

Redesignation of Fund Balance (Action Item)

Ms. Kilduff requested additional funds to purchase an off-road vehicle for the special police, build a shed to house the vehicle, and purchase needed first aid supplies. On a first from Mr. Frazier and a second from Ms. Belt, the Trustees approved the request.

Campus Security/Controlled Access Update (Information Item)

Ms. Kilduff provided an overview of the Campus Security project, funded through an MHEC Security grant that will overhaul safety and security for the campus. Funding will allow buildings to be locked down. The purchase and installation follow ACM procurement policies and will be completed by June 30, 2025.

At 5:28 p.m., the Trustees moved out of Public Session into Executive Session, on a first from Ms. Buck and a second from Ms. Belt.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Trustees will convene to Executive Session to discuss personnel items [Article § 3-305(b) (1)] covered under the Maryland Open Meetings Act. If necessary, action may be taken in the Public Session as a result of items discussed in the Executive Session.

Professor Emerita, Cherie Snyder

Dr. Hoffman recommended the appointment of Professor Emerita be bestowed on Cherie Snyder, who retired after 34 years from the Human Services Associate and Allied Health Departments. This recommendation was based on Cherie's numerous accomplishments and accolades.

Personnel Recommendations

Dr. Hoffman recommended Shawn O'Rourke as Director of Western Maryland Works. Mr. Jones recommended Elizabeth Little as Chief Advancement and Community Relations Officer.

Tracking and Managing Executive Orders and Federal Directives

Dr. Renee Conner provided the Board with an overview of recent executive orders and federal directives impacting higher education. Key focus areas included Title IX, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, COVID-19 vaccination policies, transgender student-athletes, First Amendment rights, and immigration. She outlined each directive, its legal status, potential implications for Allegany College of Maryland (ACM), and possible actions. Dr. Conner emphasized that ACM is assessing how these directives may affect institutional policies, planning documents, and operational procedures. She noted that the leadership team continues to monitor the evolving legal landscape and collaborates closely with legal counsel and regulatory agencies to ensure compliance while fulfilling ACM's mission of educating and serving students.

The Board supported this approach and reaffirmed its commitment to compliance with federal directives.

At 6:01 p.m., on a first from Ms. Buck and a second from Ms. Belt, the Trustees went back into the public session to vote on Professor Emerita and personnel recommendations.

Professor Emerita Recommendation

On a first from Ms. Belt and a second from Ms. Buck, the Trustees approved the Professor Emerita recommendation.

Personnel Recommendation

On a first from Ms. Belt and a second from Ms. Buckel, the Trustees approved the personnel recommendations.

With no further business to discuss, on a first from Ms. Belt and a second from Ms. Buckel, the meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim B. Leonard
Board Chairman



David Jones
Secretary/Treasurer