

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2026
12:00 p.m., MTC 102/Boardroom

The Board of Trustees of Wor-Wic Community College held a regular meeting on February 12, 2026. Board Chair Morgan Hazel presided.

PRESIDENT

Dr. Deborah Casey

TRUSTEES

Chair Morgan Hazel
Vice Chair Anna Newton
Mr. Russell Blake
Ms. Kim Gillis
Mr. Marty Neat
Ms. Lorraine Purnell-Ayres-absent
Mr. Bill Turner

VICE PRESIDENTS

Dr. Michael Hutmaker
Dr. Deirdra Johnson
Ms. Jen Sandt
Dr. Karie Solembrino

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Karen Berkheimer-absent

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE FOUNDATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Stefanie Rider

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Mr. Ayman Idress

PRESIDENT, WORCESTER COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, LIAISON

Mr. Chip Bertino

WICOMICO COUNTY EXECUTIVE, LIAISON

Ms. Julie Giordano-Tracey Taylor attended

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Dr. Dana Feightner, Dr. Eric Jodlbauer, Dr. Kim Purvis, and student Angelina Li delivered a presentation and discussed their travels to Scotland for the first international trip conducted by Wor-Wic Community College. The two-week excursion incorporated fully immersed learning in the classroom, visiting historical sites, and personal growth for all the students.

INTRODUCTIONS OF NEW FACULTY AND/OR ADMINISTRATORS (first)

Mr. Alex Smith, Skilled Trades Coordinator was introduced by Dr. Karie Solembrino.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Jill Gordon took roll and recorded minutes.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Russell W. Blake

Kimberly C. Gillis

Morgan Hazel

Martin T. Neat

Anna G. Newton

Lorraine Purnell-Ayres

Bill Turner

PRESIDENT

Deborah Casey, Ph.D.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made to approve the January 15, 2026, meeting minutes by Mr. Russ Blake and seconded by Mr. Marty Neat. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURERS REPORT

Ms. Jennifer Sandt reported that tuition and fee revenue is approximately \$200,000 below the prior year, primarily due to the additional Summer II term included at the beginning of last year. Increased credit enrollment in the current Spring term is beginning to offset this variance. Overall, year-to-date revenues for FY 2026 remain positive and exceed the prior year by approximately \$450,000.

Total expenses are approximately \$871,000 higher than the prior year, driven largely by increases in salary and fringe benefits, along with higher supplies and fixed costs. The contingency balance remains stable at approximately \$140,000. A detailed review of line-item expenditures will be conducted at the end of February to identify any anticipated unspent funds.

FY2027 BUDGET

Ms. Jennifer Sandt presented the proposed FY 2027 budget.

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE SAAS IMPLEMENTATION

The SaaS project was previously approved by the Board in November 2025, to reserve funding to transition Colleague from an on-premise system to a Software as a Service (SaaS) model. The implementation is expected to begin in February 2026 and conclude by December 2027.

Based on the experience of other Maryland community colleges that have completed this transition, the implementation requires significant technical support. Given the size and current workload of the college's enterprise resource team, the college has engaged Strata Information Group (SIG) to provide implementation support. SIG's scope of work includes project management, data cleanup, review of customizations, user acceptance testing support, documentation, data governance assistance, programming support, report development, and staff mentoring.

The total cost for consulting services is \$314,500 for the duration of the implementation. We are requesting that the board of trustees consider funding the FY 2027 portion of the migration support services, \$140,000, from the capital reserve fund.

ROUTE 50 EGRESS

We received an MOU from Wicomico County and have reviewed this with our legal team and provided revisions. The interim MOU allows the process to move forward to complete additional design and studies. Tracey Taylor, the Wicomico County planning director shared that they recently received the geotechnical report, and an upcoming traffic study will redefine the road. They plan to have everything submitted to SHA by the end of March. Estimated costs are still being determined.

PROPOSED COURSE FEE INCREASES

Dr. Karie Solembrino proposed the following course fee changes.

The Nursing Department has requested to increase fees in NUR 260-Preparation for NCLEX-RN course effective fall 2026.

Current course fee \$490.00

New course fee \$525.00

This will replace the current ATI Live Review and implement a new Virtual ATI Review. This change increases the review to twelve weeks, with a one-on-one ATI tutor for each student. The tutor designs a unique review plan to meet individual student learning needs. This change will improve NCLEX-RN

examination first-attempt pass rates and support CLC CNEA accreditation standards and program outcome requirements.

The Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Department requested changes in the laboratory component of the OTA curriculum. It was identified that the laboratory instruction in OTA 150 and OTA 200 was redundant. A review of OTA 165 revealed students would benefit from dedicated laboratory instruction.

The following changes in laboratory instruction and fees are effective in fall 2026.

OTA 150-Pediatric Occupations remove the laboratory component and the \$25.00 fee.

OTA 165-Biomechanics and Physical Function add a laboratory component and a \$25.00 fee.

OTA 200-Adult and Geriatric Occupations remove the laboratory component and the \$25.00 fee.

STANDING REPORTS

ENROLLMENT REPORT

Dr. Michael Hutmaker shared the enrollment report, providing a full copy of the report to the board of trustees, liaisons, and executive leadership team.

As of February 6, 2026:

The total credit FTEs in Spring 2026 are 725.15. The running total of Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 is 1472.82, which is 95.02% of our goal of 1550.00 FTEs. The total CEWD FTEs running total for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 is 423.77, which is 56.13% of our goal of 755.00 FTEs. The total FTEs for Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 is 1,896.59, which is 82.28% of our total goal of 2,305.

The total credit headcount in Spring 2026 is 2,963. The running total of Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 is 5,992. The total CEWD headcount of Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 combined is 3,946. The total headcount of Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 of credit and CEWD is 9,938.

The Dual Enrollment Spring 2026 headcount is 729. In Spring 2025 the Dual Enrollment headcount was 601.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Casey shared the new format of the Presidents report which focuses on student success reforms: transfer, dual enrollment, workforce pathways, and seven-week shortened academic terms. Institutional updates remained for Campus facilities, ground and policies, community partnerships, and professional development of employees. A full report was provided to the board of trustees.

The Joint County dinner is on February 25, 2026 in Fulton-Owen Hall (FOH) 307.

The April board meeting has been moved to April 16, 2026 in Maner Technology Center (MTC) 102.

Dr. Casey shared that we received congressional funding for the culinary laboratory renovations thanks largely to our director of grants, Carla Makinen, and also to Senator Val Hollen's office.

We propose to purchase a 25-passenger shuttle bus to utilize for dual enrollment students to alleviate the transportation hurdles that prevent student enrollment. We plan to expand this into other areas as needed.

Dr. Michael Hutmaker shared that student affairs has worked with 70 students that were on previously on academic suspension and successfully assisted 52 students beyond this; 32 students have successfully continued with classes, 11 students are completely off suspension, and 5 made the dean's list. There are 18 students that are still on academic suspension; Dr. Purvis will continue to reach out to them.

We hosted a site visit from our consultant working with our strategic enrollment and retention management (SERM) in early February.

Ms. Jen Sandt shared that the schematic designs for the maintenance building have been submitted to DGS. We are proceeding with the next set of drawings. Design should be completed by July, then construction time begins.

We have hired a new director of golf, Robert Beckelman, at ORGC. Jeff Fields will retire at the end of February.

We have been asked to consider adding two more pre-K rooms in the Jordan Center. We are discussing combining the two- and three-year-old child care rooms into one in order to make room for the additional PreK rooms. We are still determining what makes the most sense financially. This grant is due in mid-March. We may need a virtual board meeting in order to approve these changes.

The EMS accreditation site visit was earlier this week. This was an excellent visit, and the group was very excited about our faculty and their expertise. Many graduates came out to interview in order to support the program.

We will have a site visit from the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) at the end of February.

This month we are celebrating CTE; we are visiting Parkside every Wednesday to discuss programs with their CTE students.

Ms. Stefanie Rider shared that in the month of January we received almost \$900,000 in gifts. So far for the year we have received \$2.5 million in total gifts. At the last foundation meeting in January two additional members were welcomed, Dr. Kathryn Fiddler and Mr. Dominick Powell.

Ms. Rider thanked board members Mr. Bill Turner and Mr. Marty Neat for facilitating some successful meetings.

The golf tournament will be held on June 5, 2026. The goal this year is to net \$50,000.

Mr. Ayman Idrees shared that the SaaS project kick off is on February 1, 2026. Everything is on track and the strategic alignment session will be on March 19, 2026. He also shared that the badging credential we are working on with Credly is in the initial phases. We hope to have CTE students funneled into this program to receive professional development credentials.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACTION ITEMS REQUEST FOR APPROVAL

1. Treasurer's Report
2. FY 2027 Budget
 - Tuition Increases-none. The in-county tuition remains the same at \$136 per credit hour
 - Technology Fee increase from \$25 to \$29 per credit hour
 - Student Activity fee increase from \$2 to \$5 per credit hour (max \$60 or 12 credits)
 - Use new initiative funding to hire a Director of Athletics, effective January 1, 2027
3. Consulting Services for SaaS Implementation
4. Rt. 50 Egress MOU edits to submit to Wicomico County
5. Proposed Course Fee Increases
 - Increase the NUR 260-Preparation for NCLEX-RN course fee from \$490 to \$525, effective fall 2026

- OTA 150-Pediatric Occupations remove the laboratory component and the \$25.00 fee
- OTA 165-Biomechanics and Physical Function add a laboratory component and a \$25.00 fee
- OTA 200-Adult and Geriatric Occupations remove the laboratory component and the \$25.00 fee

Mr. Bill Turner made a motion to approve the board action items, with Mr. Marty Neat seconding the motion. The Board of Trustees unanimously approved all meeting action items.

TRUSTEES ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

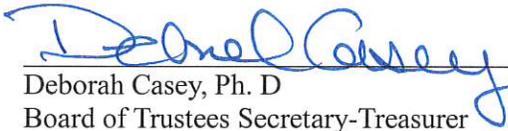
OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Kimberly Gillis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and was seconded by Mr. Russell Blake. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Deborah Casey, Ph. D
Board of Trustees Secretary-Treasurer

Accepted

Morgan Hazel, Board Chair