

CHESAPEAKE COLLEGE
Wye Mills, MD
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 25, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Chesapeake College Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 3:01 p.m. via Zoom video conference. Chair, Mr. Reza Jafari called the meeting to order.

ATTENDANCE

Ms. Mary Dennard-Turner, Ms. Addie Eckardt, Mr. Brent Fuchs, Mr. Reza Jafari, Ms. Erica Osterhout, , and Ms. Brenda Shorter attended the meeting on Zoom. Absent were Dr. Blenda Armistead, Mr. Chris Garvey, and Ms. Shelly Gross-Wade. Dr. Clifford Coppersmith and Ms. Latellya Stewart were also present.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Dennard-Turner, seconded by Ms. Osterhout and carried unanimously, the Board approved the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Osterhout, seconded by Ms. Shorter and carried unanimously, the Board approved the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of Minutes - The minutes of the August 28, 2025 meeting.
The minutes of the August 28, 2025 closed session meeting.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT REPORT

Ms. Sarah Crump, SGA Secretary, reported that the SGA and other student organizations are establishing regular meeting schedules. UHUR hosted a welcome-back cookout, and the SGA held its first open house to bring student organizations together. Students, in addition to SGA members, participated in several events, including the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, and Constitution Day, which had strong student attendance. SGA is focusing on improving campus police communication and raising awareness of student resources. A small staff appreciation event is planned for next week, weather permitting. The SGA would like to build stronger connections with faculty, staff, and administration. Ms. Crump recently attended a focus group with the Maryland Department of Transportation addressing transportation challenges that have persisted for over 60 years, particularly regarding how students get to campus. The SGA plans to share that information more widely with the student body. Additional meetings and events are planned throughout October.

Mr. Jafari thanked Sarah for her leadership and noted that the SGA is making a meaningful difference in students lives and helping to strengthen engagement across campus.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Coppersmith reported that the College is in the sixth week of the fall semester and that students are doing well. Current enrollment is 7.4% in headcount and 6.1% in FTE, with 35% of students enrolled through Dual Enrollment. He expressed appreciation to faculty and staff for their continued efforts.

Dr. Coppersmith shared that he recently presented at Emory University to share information about the College and its students. He also reported that the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) and the Department of Budget and Management have approved the Queen Anne's project. This marks the first time the State will build a college facility dedicated specifically to non-credit programs. Dr. Coppersmith thanked the faculty and staff involved in this effort, particularly Ms. Karen Smith, Mr. Jason Mullen, Mr. Steve Dyott, Ms. Miriam Collins, Mr. Chuck Davis, and Dr. Dave Harper. He noted that the College is in a strong position moving forward with the building's design phase.

FINANCE AND FACILITIES REPORT

Mr. Jafari presented the following action items to the board for approval.

Action Item: Award of Contract – Queen Anne's Technical Building Architectural (A/E) Services

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Shorter, seconded by Mr. Fuchs and carried unanimously, the Board approved proceeding with negotiating a contract with the firm of Grimm + Parker for an amount not to exceed \$3,113,830. The contract is for design services associated with the Queen Anne's Technical Building and is subject to Maryland Department of Public Works approval.

GOVERNANCE & HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Ms. Dennard-Turner did not have any action items to present.

PROGRAMS, PLANNING AND OUTREACH

Ms. Shorter presented the following action items to the board for approval.

Action Item: 2025 Performance Accountability Report

This is an annual report which is required of all Maryland community colleges. The report includes 28 indicators used to measure institutional success and marks the final year of the current five-year cycle. This year's report compares performance data to the 2021 indicators. The College met or exceeded several benchmarks during the reporting period. Mr. Hall noted that the College is awaiting the finalized non-credit "freeze" data. The completed report is due to the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) by September 30.

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Shorter, seconded by Ms. Eckardt and carried unanimously, the Board approved 2025 Performance Accountability Report.

COLLEGE REPORTS

Faculty Assembly

Mr. Crouse, Faculty Assembly Chair, reported that the faculty are continuing their work on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. A general in-service will be held on Friday, followed by separate meetings with staff to address specific compliance requirements. He also shared that one of his students was recently called to National Guard duty in Washington, D.C. He emphasized the importance of accommodating students in similar situations to ensure they can continue attending classes and completing their coursework. Mr. Crouse noted the need to develop new and flexible methods to support these students.

Staff Assembly (StARs)

Ms. Ruppert, StARs Secretary, reported that there are currently two open non-exempt staff positions. The next Staff Assembly Social Hour will be held at Ten Eyck. Upcoming events include Reverse Trick-or-Treating and a Holiday Door Decorating Contest. The next Staff Assembly meeting is scheduled for October 16.

TRUSTEES REPORT

Mr. Jafari, Chair of the Board, reported that the review and approval of goals and objectives for both the Board of Trustees and the President will be moved to the November meeting. Ms. Stewart will distribute the related documents for review prior to that meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a **MOTION** by Ms. Osterhout, seconded by Ms. Dennard-Turner and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM.



Latellya Stewart, Staff Associate to the Board

APPROVED: 

Reza Jafari, Chair

DATE: 11/20/25