AGENDA

All Academic Meeting

11/16/26 | 2-3pm | *Recorder:* Sandra Stebenne

In Attendance

Mission, Vision, Values

Mission - Bristol Community College provides an accessible, innovative and inclusive education that prepares students to navigate and succeed in our ever-changing world.
Vision - Advancing a vibrant, diverse community through education, learner by learner.
Values - Collaboration, Communication, Inclusion, Innovation, Respect, Student Success

Agenda Item – Bristol VIBE Session (Dr. Harris)	
Minutes	22 months since Dr. Harris arrived at Bristol; during Spring 2025 semester, given three questions to focus on how he, as a new president, could be positively impactful. Here to express things he's observed, that have helped us and driven us to Vibe; in order for him to continue to provide avenues to work with faculty/staff to positively impact students. Open Office hours, meetings; saw faculty and staff numbers in OO hours stay reasonable; appointments are still filling at a 68% rate, but students were not participating. Before he arrived, a large portion of the strategic plan was completed. Has been working off these questions to move things forward in a transparent and collaborative manner. What does success look like for a president in first year? Immediate Priorities? What can you do in your area to enhance student experience? Heard a lot of things about communication, transparency, shared governance. New SG model; collaborate on communication and transparency. Continue to work on those things; is collaborative, goes both ways. Want to continue to meet your and students' needs. Continue to move forward on several things, including AtD. AtD does not replace Strategic Plan, but enhance it. Made sure Core Team was representative of every part of institution as much as possible. Met with people outside of institution, including city mayors. We continue to work outside institution to make sure we are meeting needs of our students. Purpose of VIBE/Vibe Room is to continue to work on three questions, engage Board of Trustees, to meet people's needs. Two episodes will be out, one tomorrow, another one in December.

	Questions: Are you going to have people from the community in the vibe sessions? Yes; second Vibe Room episode has Tiny Tavares (?). Opportunity for us to work as hard as we can to bring community into community college. One of the steps has been making sure our programs meet needs of community. Employers we've talked to have given feedback and we created Advisory Breakfast. I'm glad to hear you say we're not all the way there yet with communication, but is there going to be a continued effort to help collaborate more with faculty, i.e. including them on invites for things early on. I.e. Advisory Breakfast, felt disconnect. Will we see more collaboration early on to build partnerships? Yes; as we move into these business and industry areas, we will continue to collaborate as a team and make sure there is a full and encompassing process to make sure everyone has input. There will be bumps in the road. Told Board when he hopes to retire, he hopes next president will say we need to change the mission statement because we are now a comprehensive community college. I see an institution that has the ability to offer programs and opportunity to everyone in Bristol County. We're doing a great job, but don't offer opportunities to entire county. Previous college, had a ballroom dance class to the community; Bristol doesn't do things like that. Keeps hearing we used to, but don't now; he's hearing people say "why would I go there? There's nothing there for me." There's a lot we can do to address that. Kellog Community College: program called "Computers don't bite" for seniors to learn about computers. Bristol doesn't offer those opportunities very often; wants to bring those opportunities back. In the spirit of community collaboration, I'm going to bring up the Fall River Symphony Orchestra; they practice hear, but few faculty/staff attend/participate. More flyers around campus? Students could participate. This is the second college he's worked for that has a theater program but no music piece to go with it. Something we could look into; opportunity to collaborate without having to add a lot of stuff. Back in the 90s, before I started working here, took tennis, guitar; daughters did dance. There's a lot of things we don't do anymore. I would love to see us potentially bring a summer youth program here, conversations with Keith about multimedia, summer camp that deals with that? Summer camp builds a community of students who know Bristol Community College. Remembers doing career exploration at Kellog in 6th grade, where he used to work. Emphasis on Sports at this college, but have we looked into trying to bring sports back to Fall River so more people can participate? I'm a big sports advocate; hope to do positive things about athletics. Problem we have with indoor sports is that we don't have the necessary facilities. Second/third/fourth of this month, down in Atlanta with a private equity group, people who invest in things, they just build new residence

	halls; looking to ways to bring an indoor facility here. Also looking at bringing outdoor sports to Bishop Connolly facility next door. Teams need to have more people attend games than just families. Would love to bring baseball here; Massasoit's baseball team has six kids from Durfee on their roster, they wouldn't be there if we offered baseball. We no longer have full time music professor…[missed full comment]. Conversation throughout decades about getting a full time professor again, talked about collaboration with UMASS Dartmouth and Bridgewater. Two former institutions had both theater and music; the two kind of go together. Your president is supportive of that. We should have a full gym like most community colleges. We've had discussions about music connected to new media and voiceover. Approached by law enforcement; full gym would allow collaboration. Would love to have commencement indoors so it doesn't get cancelled due to weather; too much money to postpone to next day. Would give controlled environment (no insects, heat). At the expense of sounding like a dinosaur…I'm very supportive of initiatives you are discussing, the more we offer to community, the more successful we'll be, but hope we don't lose sight of fact that one of our goals should be to encourage people to be critical thinkers, adjust to changes. Can't stress that enough; as I used to tell students, if you want to be a technician, you can do that, but connotation of college degree is that you know how to think and deal with issues. Core aspect of institution is to build critical thinking skills. Sewing classes would tie back into community history. I feel like there's so much emphasis on workforce development, it's really nice to hear these ideas and classes that people want to take, people are interested in art classes, love the idea of sports. Just want to remind people there's more to community than workforce development. In Culinary Arts, we've seen community want to take cooking classes without pursing degree; in past, met that need through workforce development, used to do non credit classes. Want to bring that back, but we found a couple of issues: those classes are considered personal enrichment, don't lead to certificate/credential, so how do I run a personal enrichment class not through AA or workforce development? That arm has not been developed yet, but will sit in workforce development. In other institutions, we've addressed community engagement/participation in the form of workshops, not classes; paid for that by bringing in professionals and paid a stipend. There are avenues outside of traditional classroom setting to engage with community. I don't disagree; exploring those things through focus groups in community.

	Two or three things I have in mind: many years ago, at the end of spring semester, all of the graduating seniors, faculty, and staff had gathering at large restaurant in area to celebrate end of semester/end of time at Bristol. People got dressed up, danced, it was a really, really fun time. Second thing: at end of spring semester, had a roast of faculty/staff who were retiring/leaving, in the G Building, fancy tables, etc., real fun time. Final thing: regenerative activities to take place in communities we serve with students involved: tree planting, garden maintenance, in collaboration with organizations involved in those areas. I wonder if a lot of the reason we've fallen off community's radar is high percentage of online classes; being in person makes it feel more like a home base. Majority of academic classes are still online, campus is much quieter than it ever was before. Is that part of the cause? No doubt that pandemic impacted how we are today. Was at a community college at that time; out of the 44/45 administrators, was one of two considered essential so I never left campus. I think there are ways we can get around that, but requires strong collaboration. Many of our students look at online classes as flexible and meeting needs; price of gas has not been easy on anyone. Online is hear to stay; if students didn't have that option, would impact enrollment. I think there are several students who are online who would prefer to be on ground, but online option is the only option that they have. Are we providing learning environment for every student to be successful? Need to look at how to adapt to students' needs. Teaching synchronously, getting students who are working and using lunch breaks to take my class. We are accommodating them, building online community, students are graduating and gaining voices. Reaching people all over the world with consulting work; this is the opportunity that they have and I think the students are thriving and I applaud BCC for doing that. From perspective of faculty in BICP, I've had a lot of people reach out saying they want to take in person classes but struggle with distance, etc. and need online. High flex will become more and more important, allows those who can be here to be there but those who can't can join via Zoom; asynch for those who cannot do either. Need for equitable student support; offer opportunities for all students no matter their challenges. Working on that. I think of so many things we have done/could do. What about baseball games, holiday strolls, etc.? Always part of community parade; loss of kids college hurt. Send me an email or attend Open Office Hours if you have more you would like to say. Please send me any additional questions you may have.
Follow-up	

Agenda Item – Taunton Campus (Christine Hubbard)	
Minutes	Last Friday, Dr. Harris sent out message to college community; want to take time to share it with you again. We have been in many places over the years; currently at high school. Ongoing construction, moved around; despite attempts to have positive experience, construction is disrupting things, so we have decided that in order to provide best experience for students, no face to face classes or student services in Taunton after this semester. Not leaving Taunton, just can't use this particular space; trying to id space for Spring, in the meanwhile we are shifting things online or to another campus. Other option is to cancel it altogether. Deans will be working with you to think things through and determine what will be best. As we do this, asking for grace, patience, support. We have some good possibilities for new spaces, will share new information as it comes in. Unfortunately we are in position where we don't have result; will not continue to put faculty/staff/students in such an environment. Bob: What really drove this was upcoming construction that will be happening will be to a level where we could no longer co-locate. Disruptions have been annoying for the last full year; what's coming needs to get done to this building, city has been upfront with us about needing to get building ready for their new purpose. Timeline just wouldn't be fair to students/faculty/staff to move forward with more disruptions. There seems to be space in Weir district in Taunton; look into it? Course offered in Taunton; will be going online? 80 classes scheduled for Taunton have been put on hold pending review; we have been asked by the end of this week to make decisions as to how those classes will be re-worked. That's why I wanted to get this in front of you today, so you will be aware and be ready. Can't guarantee it's just for spring, though it also won't be forever. Quick question: how will we take care of staff in the interim? We already identified staff who work at that center, and are being relocated or working remotely. Doing what works best operationally by area; will be flexible. This is not something we want to have a negative impact on anyone; do not anticipate it will lead to loss. Is public transportation between Taunton and other campuses? Students walk or get dropped off; want them to be engaged, can we provide them that information? Bus system that serves Taunton is greater Attleboro/Taunton area; some students are already doing that. Also the Gateway Link with GATRA, bright yellow busses connect Brockton, Taunton, Fall River; one of the stop si FR campus. Also train option. In this context: Bob and I have worked on Taunton scheduling; entire schedule built, now Taunton goes away. For the faculty in the room/online,

	please give us grace as we figure out who can go where, what to do for those who cannot be moved to another location, this will take time. Send email to Michaela or Christine Hubbard with any questions you may have. Can also continue discussion at Faculty/Staff Roundtable happening next.
Follow-up	
Agenda Item – New Program Voting Process (Tim Hathaway)	
Minutes	Email invitation to participate in vote on two new programs; please read, click on button, see all relevant documents. If you want to vote, click on link. Please read it. This is the culmination of over a year of your colleagues' work; want faculty to vote because we are a community and want your input; part of shared governance. Closure is Nov. 24th, need minimum of 100 votes. Please reach out with questions.
Follow-up	