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**METROPOLITAN STATE UNIVERSITY of DENVER  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

*Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting*  
Thursday, June 3, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairwoman of the Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) Committee, Trustee Marissa Molina, called the ASA Committee meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

**Board of Trustees Present:** Trustee Marissa Molina, Trustee Barb Grogan, Trustee Russell Noles, Trustee Mike Johnston (remote), Trustee Kristin Hultquist, Faculty Senate Representative Student Representative, Alaura Ward, and Savannah Martel, incoming Student Trustee.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the March 18, 2021 Academic and Student Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes - Trustee Noles **moved for approval** of the March 18, 2021 ASA Committee meeting minutes, with a **second** by Trustee Hultquist. The motion was approved unanimously.

**ACTION ITEMS**

Approval of New Certificate – Quality in the Chemical Industry Certificate – Dr. Shaun Schafer, AVP/Curriculum & Policy Development; Dr. Jason Janke, Interim Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Dr. Schafer encouraged the Committee to approve the certificate to move forward to the Board of Trustees. The certificate will not create a resource drain; there is both community partner support as well as student support.

Trustee Noles **moved to recommend approval** to the Board of Trustees of the new Certificate, Quality in the Chemical Industry, with a **second** by Trustee Hultquist. The motion was **approved** unanimously.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Faculty Promotions Report – Bill Henry, Vice Provost Faculty Affairs

There are three ranks of faculty: Tenure-Track faculty enter the university usually at the Assistant Professor rank, after 4-6 years, the faculty can apply for tenure to the rank of Associate Professor, and after an additional four years, faculty can apply for the rank of Professor; not every Associate Professor is promoted to Professor. Faculty must achieve and maintain a record of excellence and superlative performance in scholarship and service; promotion to Professor represents the crowning achievement in a faculty member's career.

Faculty are rigorously evaluated across the university. Provost Tatum has awarded promotion to 28 candidates this year.

Academic Affairs Program Spotlight: School of Education Solutions– Liz Hinde, Dean, School of Education

The innovative and newly created Office of Education Solutions (OES) in the School of Education has been established for intentionally confronting and seeking solutions to challenges that hold children back from learning. The OES is a community-facing solution-oriented office that collaborates with both university and community partners to do the hard work of facing and finding solutions for the systems as well as the cogs that continue to challenge learning. The OES is funded from grants, donations, and savings from SOE master's programs, and, in the future, fees for service. The mission of the OES is to address and seek solutions to persistent or local problems.

Student Success Initiative Spotlight: College Works: Leading the Charge to Close Equity Gaps at MSU Denver– Scott Bergman, Coordinator of Summer Bridge/Melt Programs; John Babcock, Associate Director, Orientation, Transition, and Retention; Ken Weil, Consultant & Co-Founder of Social Impact Solutions

College Work's mission is to increase the number of traditionally underserved students who successfully cross from high school to college and succeed in college. The core outcomes were reviewed. The structure is training students on job skills and secure them campus employment with no cost to departments. Students attend weekly college and career skill building workshops. There is a peer mentor program and are part of a cohort of other college works participants. The model changed during the pandemic where

students participated in a College Success seminar. There are community partnerships and collaborations with counselors at local high schools.

There were 120 participants between 2016-2020 with nine graduates. There was a 99% matriculation rate prior to the pandemic. There are plans to expand by securing more funding opportunities and financial resources from the Foundation and partnerships. The biggest challenges are finding enough jobs on campus to provide experience to the students and not having base-budget funding.

Student Achievement Spotlight: Tiyannda Dennis

Tiyannda Dennis is an MSU Denver Freshman, a graduate of East High School, 19 years old, and the middle child of a family of four. Her major is social work and music; she would like to combine music therapy and child and family social work to be a Mental Health and Substance Abuse Social Worker. Tiyannda was a member of the East Honor Band, Dance and performed in a production of Sister Act. She started playing clarinet when she was eight years old and entered the Upward Bound and Summer Bridge Program in high school. She participated in college works this past year and finished her first year of college. Tiyannda is a First Gen student. She has joined the TRIO Upward Bound team as a mentor/tutor.

MSU Faculty Trajectory – Alfred Tatum, Provost & Exec. VP Academic Affairs

Dr. Tatum outlined his vision for the academic trajectory as it relates to the faculty. It is important that faculty are supported to become unbounded and responsive with a high ethical standard. MSU Denver must brace an identity that includes innovation, research, and engagement that matches the aims of students and faculty while focusing on excellence and economic independence. We must expand our innovation footprint and be forward looking to expand our research footprint. The engagement footprint must be improved so communities know that MSU Denver is on their side. The Provost will work to support faculty to achieve the mission and vision of the university. Dr. Tatum will support senior leadership and work with the deans in support of the department chair level and their support of the faculty. There is an absence of students of color in departments; the Provost is reviewing policies and the programmatic infrastructure to look for ways to incentivize departments to find ways to collaborate to work on diversity.

**ADJOURNMENT – 3:43 p.m.**