



**Coffee with the President Notes**  
**President Curt Freed**  
**8:00 a.m. May 2, 2023, via WebEx**

- 1) There were 51 participants during this Coffee with the President gathering.
- 2) Scott Scholes shared that he is retiring at the end of July.
- 3) Rad Tech and Nurse pinning ceremonies will be held May 5. Commencement will be held May 6 in Glenn Miller Park. Faculty and staff participating in the ceremony should report to the United Methodist Church by 8:30 a.m. The ceremony starts at 9:00 a.m. There will be two food trucks available, so staff wishing to purchase food should do so before 8:30 a.m. A funeral service will be held at the church at 11:00 a.m., so no items should be left behind at the church. There will also not be parking available in the church lot. Employees should reference an email from Kenne Bauer for additional commencement information.
- 4) Curt shared that the college is planning to put \$200K in reserves due to savings from this year's budget. The surplus is in large part due to unfilled positions. Curt noted that the college has budgeted to use \$1.2-3 M from reserves for groundwork for the new Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology, so adding to the reserves will help towards that expense. Curt noted that most budget requests for FY 24 have been approved.
- 5) Concurrent Enrollment rate changes have been communicated to school districts. The State Board approved a 5% tuition increase for resident face-to-face courses and a 2.5% increase for resident online courses. A third tuition rate has been established for concurrent enrollment tuition, which collapses face-to-face and online tuition into one rate. With the elimination of college service areas, the System now prohibits colleges from giving discounts for online courses. This is a significant change for the schools MCC serves, as the college previously discounted MCC Online and CCCS Online courses. However, MCC can continue offering 100% tuition discounts for Face-to-Face and Hybrid classes. The cost to offer CTE programs has increased, so these courses will only receive a 50% discount. MCC is working with school districts to help them decrease costs by making Face-to-Face or Hybrid course available whenever possible. Discounts won't be given to non-concurrent high school students or homeschool students, but scholarship funds have been set aside for them.
- 6) The Dahms-Talton Center for Skilled Trades & Technology project is moving full speed ahead with the architects. Groundbreaking must occur prior to December 16, 2023, due to a donor stipulation.
- 7) Controlled maintenance projects:
  - i) The irrigation/sprinkler system upgrade project has started. The first goal is to connect the system to the well. The project will continue over the next couple of months. Curt

suggested providing information to the public about the project, as the grounds will be disrupted and/or not watered well for a while.

- ii) Rooftop units will be replaced in Aspen, Cottonwood, and 300 Main. Unfortunately, there has been a delay in getting necessary equipment, so installation is planned to occur during the 2024 spring break.
  - iii) MCC recently received approval for funding to upgrade campus security systems. Gene Kind shared that this will involve upgrading fire panels, security alarm systems, and door locking hardware. A timeline for completion has not been determined yet.
- 8) Curt noted that MCC will be losing its Wray Center lease at the end of June, so leadership is exploring options. A shared office space will be rented until a more permanent location can be secured. The college is working on a lease with the Town of Bennett on a space that will be shared with Adams County. The space will cost significantly less than the most recent Bennett Center location and has good visibility. The goal is to occupy the space by July 1.
- 9) Curt noted that the VPI search is progressing and was expanded from an internal CCCS search to a nationwide search. Kathy Frisbie retires May 31. The VPSS position was posted April 28, and has a May 22 priority deadline. The VPSS Search Committee will be finalized soon. Julie Beydler shared that employees should watch for details on candidate forums for both positions and shared that there will be in-person and remote access options.
- 10) Curt shared that a new position, Dean of Students, has been included in the FY 24 budget. This role will help support the work of the Student Services Department. The timeline for posting the position and the qualifications are still being determined.
- 11) APT and Faculty Open Enrollment is open until May 15. Employees must re-enroll to continue their benefits. CCCS presidents voted for colleges to cover 75% of the premium increase for medical plans. Julie Beydler gave a reminder that HR is offering scheduled office hours to help with benefits enrollment, but they are available other times, as well. She noted that those who are declining coverage still have to indicate this through the online process. Julie expressed thanks for Megan Meininger's leadership over the open enrollment process.
- 12) Curt Freed gave a reminder for employees to complete the required CCCS compliance training by May 10.
- 13) The End-of-Year Employee Celebration will be held May 8 in Founders Room. Food will be available starting at 11:30 a.m. Julie Beydler thanked Deb Wacker and Jay Stretcher for donating meat for the burgers, and Gene Kind and his crew for volunteering to do the grilling. Kathy Frisbie and Kim Ewertz (retirees) will be recognized at the event.
- 14) Curt gave an overview of upcoming CACE events, and noted how impressed he is with the way CACE is impacting the community and region.
- a) Artist Judy Sprague Painting Exhibit, May 4 – June 8; Artist's reception May 18, 4-7pm
  - b) Fort Morgan Third Thursday Art Walk featuring Artwork from Columbine Elementary School Students, Thursday, May 18, 2023, 4pm – 7pm

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- c) Author Talks:
  - i) May 3, 11:00 am – Raising Anti-Racist Children: Author Talk with Britt Hawthorne
  - ii) Wednesday, May 10, 6:00 pm – Not Funny: Author Talk with Academy Award Nominated Jena Friedman
  - iii) Saturday, May 20, 12:00 pm – Author Talk with Courtney Summers: NY Times Bestselling Author

Notes by Jane Fries, Assistant to the President