



MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL

AT EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

MODEL LABORATORY SCHOOL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2020

Model Lab School Library

4:30 p.m.

Members present: Beth Campbell, Model Non-Faculty
Rodney Davis, Community Member
Mendi Goble, Community Member
Robin Jones, Model Parent
Tom Martin, ECU Administrator
Heather Taylor, Model Teacher
Lynn Taylor Tye, ECU Board of Regents
Katelyn Upchurch, Model Student
Alex White, Model Teacher
John Williamson, Chair, Model Superintendent

Members not present: Gerald Tatum, Model Parent

Also present: Dr. Christopher Budano, Associate Dean K-12 Programs / Model
Director of Teaching & Learning
Erick Collings, Model Communications Coordinator
Laura Dedic, Principal Model Middle & High/Director Upper School
Dr. David McFaddin, Interim ECU President
Donna McGuire, Model Executive Assistant
David Naylor, Principal Model Elementary/Director Lower School
Kim Puckett, Director of Student Services

Copies of the meeting agenda and PowerPoint slides are bound at the conclusion of these Minutes.

I. Call to Order

Mr. John Williamson, ECU Dean of K-12 Programs and Superintendent of Model Laboratory School, opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for participating. He welcomed Tom Martin, ECU administrator, who was unable to attend the first meeting of the Committee.

II. Superintendent's Good News

- Mr. Williamson displayed the giant State Championship gavel earned by the Model Mock Trial Team. The group, which is coached by Lynette Noblitt and Chris Budano, has advanced to the national level of competition.
- Mr. Williamson reported that all of the Model's academic teams (high school, middle school, elementary) had won their district championships.
- Mr. Williamson shared that the boys' swim team won the regional championship and the girls' team placed as runner-up.

III. Approval of Minutes – 12-3-19

Minutes of the first meeting of the Advisory Committee held on December 3, 2019, were presented for review and approval.

Motion to approve the Minutes as presented was made by ??, seconded by Ms. Tye. Motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Review of Items – House Bill 366 Update

Mr. Williamson shared the current status of legislation regarding Model's future operation. The bill, which defines the laboratory school and ensures its continuation, has unanimously passed in the House Education Committee. Dr. McFaddin said it is expected that the bill will be heard by the House of Representatives on March 4th, though items are not moving through very fast.

Mr. Williamson reminded Committee members that maintaining Model involved a two-stage process, which includes legislation and budgeting. He added that K-12 school personnel are unaccustomed to the budget process, but he understands that it is normal for universities. Dr. McFaddin said universities are not a constitutional entity with a funding formula like K-12 schools. He said the House budget should be addressed on March 5th.

Dr. McFaddin asked if there was any feedback from the community regarding Model. Ms. Dedic said she had heard concerns expressed by middle school students, especially 8th graders who are transitioning to high school as they have been work with them to schedule classes. She said making schedules for next year helps to calm and reassure them. Dr. McFaddin said the public and parents do not seem to be as concerned about Model's future as in the past. Ms. Puckett said she thinks they are more secure in the process and have faith in the leaders who are working to get legislation passed. Ms. Jones said hiring the soccer coach for next year had been reassuring for people. She said she may have had 20 calls about it. Ms. Upchurch (student) stated that newer students were more nervous about it but long-term Model students do not feel threatened. Ms. Jones said the positive press coverage had been good. Ms. Dedic said the Richmond

Register would be interviewing Mock Trial students and that Madison County Schools' peers seem supportive of Model and the legislation.

V. Review of Items – Proposed Tuition Rates

Mr. Williamson reviewed the previous discussion regarding Model tuition rates. The same rate for every grade level was preferred, with the exception of kindergarten, and with only a slight increase. Mr. Williamson said he had been advised by Dr. McFaddin that modest, incremental increases are better than waiting a long period and requiring a drastic increase. Ms. Jones said parents were relieved that the rates would remain in the \$4,000 range, as a more significant increase had been anticipated.

Mr. Williamson shared a comparison of Model's rates with other regional schools. Adding students from Fayette County versus other surrounding areas was discussed. The consensus was that the facility is general perceived negatively. Mr. Davis asked if other schools that charge tuition receive tax money. Mr. Williamson said they do not. Model is the only school that receives state funds and charges tuition. Discussion ensued about students attending early grades at parochial schools. Ms. Upchurch said there is a faith-based curriculum. Several agreed that this is the reason parents send their children to those schools.

VI. Review of Items - Enrollment

Mr. Williamson reported that the number of applications received from potential Model students has increased, however the number of enrolling kindergarten students has decreased. Of 89 applications, 34 will actually be attending, which is a reduction from 48 last year. He questioned whether this is due to other places serving those students or lack of Pre-K. He said we do not have full enrollment at the kindergarten level. Mr. McFaddin said that is a concern due to the 12-year cycle and the long-term implication. The goal was to have three sections at all grade levels. Mr. Williamson said free/reduced scholarships for eligible students could be an option.

Mr. Williamson reported that 220 current Model students had not returned their Intent to Return forms for next school year. He said they could be waiting to learn the outcome of the pending legislation. He noted that if Intent forms were not due until later it prevents the school from letting new people who have been waiting have the available slots. Dr. McFaddin said he thinks the legislative issues is giving parents cause to reconsider Model and the cost. Mr. Davis said some parents choose to move on due to the ongoing turmoil regarding Model. Ms. Jones said parents have asked why tuition deposits are due earlier. Ms. Dedic agree saying they have asked to wait until after legislation is approved. Mr. Williamson said it had been important to proceed as normal so parents would know Model will continue. Dr. McFaddin said it might help to offer a discount on the deposit for families with multiple children in the school. Mr. Williamson

said that could be possible. The point was to receive enough of a commitment to ensure that students would be returning for planning and budgeting purposes.

Mr. Williamson asked if there was anything Model could do to attract more and/or different groups of students. The only negative cited was facilities. Dr. McFaddin said replacement would constitute a capital project for the University. The last ECU facilities plan noted that Model and the Donovan Annex had outlived their functional usefulness.

Selling the existing programming was discussed. Model provides broadcasting, theater, orchestra, and other new offerings. K-12 offerings are above other schools. And, Model has been working to tell the story of what is offered through its world-class education. Dr. McFaddin said Model branding is strong. Mr. Williamson said a new 2020-21 program will allow some seniors to spend half of their day with ECU students, and they can graduate with 12 credits.

Mr. White said ECU and Madison County are still perceived to be part of the eastern region of Kentucky, with central Kentucky and UK being better. Mr. Martin said that needs to change because it is not true. He said Madison County is one of the top five in growth in the state. Dr. McFaddin agreed that with the name of the University it is intrinsically tied to the region, even though the location is central Kentucky.

Mr. Williamson said the good news is that Model does not need an enrollment of 2,000 students. We need to stabilize 700 students and grow to a student enrollment of 1,000.

Mr. Williamson posed a question: Would lowering tuition for K-3 students, which represents younger parents who may struggle more to pay tuition, improve enrollment?

Ms. Tye asked if we are marketing to ECU employees. Mr. David expounded upon that to suggest a Model ambassador program where Model parents are employed. The consensus was that more should be done to pursue contact with HR offices, especially where current Model parents are employed. Mr. David said it might be better to consider other surrounding counties besides Fayette. Dr. McFaddin said the lines between Madison and Fayette County are fading. It is an easier drive to bring students here than from many areas of Lexington and the cost is less. Ms. Puckett suggested a referral incentive.

Mr. Williamson reviewed the current Model View Book and Course Guide. They reflect student experiences, academic value, a comprehensive program and engagement.

VII. How can Model Lab expand opportunities for students to develop applied academic experiences in the workplace through internships and mentorships? Christopher Budano

Dr. Budano reported that, effective with the 2019-20 school year, all seniors were required to spend 20 hours with a mentor as part of their senior project work. He said it had been beneficial for some students and support from the ECU and broader Richmond community had been encouraging. However, there were some issues with finding an appropriate mentor for each student, building a mentor network, complying with requirements of the host sites (HIPPA, vaccinations, training, safety, etc.), and availability limitations. Mr. Davis said the time mentors were available seemed to be times when students are not available. Mr. Martin said he mentored two students and it had been a great experience, but that it is hard for the students to complete the hours with their other commitments. Dr. Budano said this is the first year of the program and it was a learning process. Mr. Martin said one-on-one time to speak with the mentor might be better than just time spent sitting in a class. Summer options were suggested as a future possibility. Miss Upchurch said 20 hours is so much with regular school work, finding colleges, senior year and senior project. She suggested lowering the number of required hours.

Dr. McFaddin asked what the learning outcomes were for the program. Dr. Budano referred to the Model Core. Students gain experience engaging with a knowledgeable individual and learn how to apply their learning. Students present and defend their project before a three-person panel.

In summarizing the feedback received, Mr. Williamson listed that the time should be meaningful, students should be given some time before the course, and the mentoring time should be spread out.

Mr. Williamson also said students from other schools had contacted ECU professors about mentorships and been sent away due to lack of time or quality of the project. He said it was important for ECU's recruitment to accept and encourage such students.

VIII. What opportunities are there for Model Lab to increase collaboration with the larger ECU community? Kim Puckett

Ms. Puckett reviewed current collaboration initiatives including:

- College of Education – clinical hours, observation, practicums, student teachers, speech therapy practicums, faculty hiring committees, publications and presentations;

- College of Health Sciences – occupational therapy and nursing practicum experiences, enrichment leadership for extended learning;
- College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences – psychology testing and practicum
- Athletics – Enrichment opportunity for extended learning

Mr. Williamson said Model is also involved in three joint appointments with the College of Letters, Arts and Social Sciences. He said this question could be continued for next meeting. How can we serve the larger community? He said that it is essential that we share Model's story.

Mr. Williamson asked committee members if the feedback is helpful. He encouraged them to share what Model insiders might not know or see, and to be Model ambassadors. He thanked them for their support and service.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Model Laboratory School Advisory Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the Model Library.

X. Adjourn

The meeting concluded at 6:10 p.m.

John Williamson
Dean of K-12 Programs/ Model Laboratory School Superintendent