

Official Proceedings of the
Alpena Community College Board of Trustees Huron Shores Campus Site Visit
June 13, 2012, 8:30 a.m.
Huron Shores Campus, 5800 Skeel Avenue, Oscoda, MI 48750

The Alpena Community College Board of Trustees gathered at the Huron Shores Campus, 5800 Skeel Avenue in Oscoda, on Wednesday, June 13, 2012, for a site visit. No meeting was convened, no deliberations took place, and no votes were taken.

Present: John Briggs, Teresa Duncan, Marc Ferguson, Joe Gentry II, Lisa Hilberg, Florence Stibitz, and Thomas Townsend.

Absent: none.

The trustees gathered at 8:30 a.m. for refreshments and to meet faculty, staff, and students.

At 9:00 a.m. the trustees toured the building.

At approximately 10:10 a.m. the board conducted a question and answer session with community members, students, instructors, staff, and students. Comments from the Q&A session are summarized as follows.

- Instructors need more technology for classrooms and also for use at off-campus sites. More equipment like projectors, Elmos, and smart carts are needed. Internet access in the classrooms is also needed.
- The airport facility houses a number of businesses which employ approximately 1,400 workers; businesses need more skilled workers in certain areas such as CAD and CAM. Oscoda High School is losing their metal shop classes, so the high schoolers won't be able to get the experience they need to fill the high-paying skilled labor jobs. There are lots of buildings available at the airport facility. It was suggested that ACC officials could tour the airport facilities and meet with all the employers at one time to gauge their training needs and discuss how ACC could help meet their needs.
- The airport/base is a tremendous field biology resource; it contains a variety of habitats, and could host a variety of biology courses. Instructors could use more pieces of field equipment to be better able to conduct those courses; the courses could also be promoted better.
- HUSH faculty have begun to engage the students at Oscoda High School, working to increase dual enrollment and make contacts with the students. This is possible because of the presence of three full-time faculty at the HUSH campus.

- Employers in Oscoda and at the airport have asked what support is available. They need safety training, shop skills, etc. When ACC meets with airport officials and employers, everyone should discuss what training the employers and employees need.
- We need to be “state-of-the-art” in technology; we need projectors more than smart carts or laptops because there are a lot of faculty who travel and have need of projectors. Technology which facilitates hands-on interactive coursework is needed to help students learn.
- Strategically, we need to look long term for changes, but we also need some short-term “quick hits” to address simple needs.
- It would be wonderful if there was wi-fi for the entire building. Use electronics to support interactive teaching/learning.
- Buildings on the airport property are inexpensive to rent; it would be good to have a welding, auto body, or other occupational/technical lab in Oscoda for students.
- HUSH students pay the technology fee and the facilities fee, but they don’t have access to tutoring or the computer lab during the summer. Summer classes are accelerated, but there are no tutoring services during the summer.
- Programs often have specific courses needed for graduation, but they aren’t offered at the HUSH campus, which forces students to drive a lot to take courses at the Alpena Campus. Can ACC rotate needed courses to HUSH periodically?
- Trustee Briggs reiterated ACC’s commitment to the HUSH campus and said that while some changes have been made, the College needs to step up its efforts and enhance the learning community. The Board is impressed with the enthusiasm shown at the meeting and wants it to grow.
- The College is working hard to bring bachelor degrees through the Madeline Briggs University Center.
- There’s a direct positive correlation between education and quality of life; the Board appreciates the efforts of the faculty, staff, and students.
- An instructor expressed gratitude that the Alpena Campus employees did not treat the HUSH Campus staff as second-class citizens.
- Students pointed out that a Death and Dying course was offered at HUSH in previous years but was not currently offered; several students expressed interest in the class and asked that it be offered Spring Semester.

The Q&A session ended at 11:15 a.m. and the site visit was concluded.

Jay Walterreit
Secretary of the Board of Trustees