

## **2019 Community College Board of Trustees** **Candidate Question List**

### ONLINE RETENTION

Online classes have some of the lowest completion rates of any classes offered by community colleges, but they are close to if not the largest share of all community classes taken by students in the state of Iowa.

- What do you think the district / community college should do to improve the completion rates of these courses?

### CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT

Since the concurrent enrollment program was originally set up by the state of Iowa, funding has been allocated to K12 districts to cover the full cost of tuition for courses at the community colleges taken by high school students. Now, according to the Iowa Department of Education, concurrent enrollment funding is the largest state aid program for high school students taking community college classes. It should also be noted, concurrent enrollment and online enrollment combined account for at least half of all credit hours taken by students at most if not all of Iowa's community colleges.

- What percentage of tuition should the district / community college charge K12 districts for concurrent enrollment classes?
- Many community college faculty have expressed concern about placing high school students in college courses – content may not be age appropriate, students may not be prepared, etc.
  - What requirements do you think the districts and colleges should set for placing high school students in college courses with older students?

### COMPENSATION

Compared to their peers in neighboring states, Iowa community college faculty are among the lowest paid. For several years, the state of Iowa recognized this discrepancy and allocated money to the community colleges earmarked specifically for faculty salaries and restricted districts / community colleges from counting this money in their settlement packages with faculty associations.

- What do you think the district / community college should be doing to see that high quality faculty are attracted and retained?

## HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION (HLC)

Recently the HLC began enforcing new minimum graduate level requirements for faculty working at the institutions it accredits. This has forced many faculty to either stop teaching classes where they do not meet the new minimum graduate level requirements or go back to school to complete the graduate coursework necessary to continue. This change has also made it more difficult for the district / community college to find faculty who meet these qualifications.

- What do you think the district / community college should do to assist faculty in meeting these new requirements?
- Even though the Iowa Department of Education wrote guidelines for graduate requirements, some administrators have been very strict in their interpretation of these rules while others have had a much looser standard. For example: in math, some administrators accept graduate coursework in math education while others do not. As a consequence these standards are not being evenly applied around the state.
  - How do you think disputes over whether or not faculty meet these standards should be settled?

## CHAPTER 20

Now that the state of Iowa has changed Chapter 20

- How do you think the district should interact with its faculty association?
- What are your opinions about moving those elements of the contract deemed “permissive” or “forbidden” to board policy or the employee handbook?