Online enrollment grows again, GCC trustees learn

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BATAVIA — More and more students are interested in taking an online, Genesee Community College class between the fall and spring semesters, GCC’s Board of Trustees learned at the monthly meeting on Jan. 12.

Enrollment for “Winterim” — which ran 12 online courses from Dec. 15, 2014, to Jan. 9 — doubled, according to the report given by Dr. Virginia Taylor, vice president of Enrollment and Student Services.

Last year, Winterim had 121 enrolled students, while this year 222 students attended, including 70 students with undeclared majors or who are “non-matriculating.” This could mean students who are enrolled at another college or university and home for the holidays, or any student looking to earn three credits during the month-long break between the traditional fall and spring semesters.

Each Winterim course covers the same material as the full semester course but in an accelerated format.

“We are delighted that an increasing number of students are discovering the value of our online courses and degrees, and we are happy to be delivering more course options and opportunities for them,” Taylor said.

She added that GCC’s late start courses, which begin in February with the 12-week session, are another area of potential enrollment growth.

“The Enrollment Action team meets every week and with the new data provided by GSI (Genesee Strategic Intelligence) it is possible we could still add six or seven sections of courses to our late start,12-week session.”

In other matters, the Board of Trustees:

— Approved of the sabbatical leave requested by Michelle Abdella, associate professor of mathematics, to study the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) used to instruct mathematics in elementary schools, specifically John Kennedy Intermediate School in Batavia.

She may also study surrounding schools in Buffalo and Rochester to investigate diverse socioeconomic student populations.

Adbella, a Batavia resident, will study each grade level from kindergarten through sixth grade to discover if students are more prepared for middle and high school mathematics with the CCSS, and also how elementary school teachers are CCSS trained. Her research and findings will be reported to the trustees in about a year, and will enable Abdella’s development of a potential new GCC course,
Math for Elementary Teachers.