

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
DISTRICT NO. 537
RICHLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ONE COLLEGE PARK – DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62521**

February 17, 2009

CONVENING OF THE MEETING

Call to Order The regular meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Tuesday, February 17, 2009, in Conference Room A/B of the College by Chairman Bliefnick. Chairman Bliefnick also recited the College Vision, Mission and Core Values.

Roll Call

Members Present: Amy Bliefnick, Bruce Campbell, Carol Chiligris, Dale Colee, Rev. Wayne Dunning, Dr. Larry Osborne, and Randy Prince

Member Absent: None

Also present: Dr. Gayle Saunders, President, Attorney Darrell Woolums, and other staff members

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2009, had been distributed to the Board prior to this meeting.

Osborne moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 2009, as presented. Chiligris seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

APPEARANCE OF CITIZENS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. College Activities Report:
 - Grand Opening of Fairview Park Plaza Center will be held on March 5, 2009, at 10:00 a.m.
 - Conversations on Race will be held on March 5, 2009, at Millikin University at 6:00 p.m.
 - College 101 will be held on March 10, 2009, at 6:30 p.m., in the Shilling Auditorium
 - Community Reception and Board Meeting will be held on March 17, 2009, at 5:00 p.m., in the Lutheran School Association cafeteria

SPECIAL REPORTS

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Delta Alpha Pi – Richland Community College has received a charter for the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society. This is an honor society for students with disabilities. The first induction ceremony was held February 23.

Culinary Arts Ribbon Cutting – The Board members viewed a photo slideshow of the Culinary Arts Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. The successful event was hosted by Chef Klink and the Culinary Arts students.

Board Retreat – The Winter Board Retreat was held on January 30-31. The Board reviewed the results of the 2008 Strategic Planning Priorities and considered the priorities for 2010 and beyond.

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE) Competition – The WYSE competition was held on February 4. Over 200 students from 13 area high schools competed in 7 academic areas to advance to the State Sectionals.

Partners in Education Salute – Partners in Education Salute will be held on March 2 in the Shilling Salons.

Faculty of the Year Ad Hoc Committee – Dale Colee volunteered to serve on the Faculty of the Year Selection Committee. The Committee will meet on March 3 to review nomination and select the Faculty of the Year and Adjunct Faculty of the Year for 2009.

Resignation of Student Trustee – Michele Houston resigned as Student Trustee, effective January 26, because of full-time work commitments.

Strategic Plan Priorities 2009

Teena Zindel-McWilliams, Assistant to the Vice President, Student and Academic Services, presented the Strategic Plan Priorities for 2009 to the Board. The priorities will be adopted at the March 2009 Board meeting.

The priorities connect with the 2008-2011 Strategic Plan goals and objectives.

The themes that emerged from the activities with the Board and other stakeholders included online learning, accelerated programming, and training. The Board encouraged staff to consider the needs of the new students who are coming to Richland because of their change in job status. Other themes include displaced workers, implementation of student success activities, collaborative relations to deploy an internal rapid response system, and 'green' and 'sustainability', both in operations and campus energy efficiency. Operational definitions are included to help understand terms used

throughout the document. The priorities will be viewed by the Vice-Presidents, Deans, and Directors for input. The quarterly report will be made at the June 2009 board meeting.

Student Life Spotlight

Heather Kind-Keppel, Director of Campus Life, presented to the Board an overview of student life activities for the months of January and February.

Campus Life hosted 5 evenings of programming in an effort to reach out to the diverse population, night students, and students with children. Student Program Board has met and has a full agenda of quality programming for students.

January, February, and March programs included culturally and globally relevant events including Chinese New Year, Black History Month, and Women's History Month. Culinary Arts Club and Ceramics Club have been recently approved by the Student Senate.

Student Senate and Student Trustee elections will be held in March 2009. Fourteen teams are registered for the Black History Bowl, sponsored by the Black Student Association. Dr. Chris Merli will host a chess game with students.

College Spotlight

Michelle Stephens, Program Coordinator for Speech and Drama, presented to the board. Michelle shared the progress of and additions to the Speech and Drama program. Photographs from the first production of *The Foreigner* were shown. The production value goals to create competitive productions with area theatres and community colleges were met. The *Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* was produced in Spring 2008. In Fall 2008, *Godspell* was produced using community, Millikin University and Richland actors.

In Real Life [IRL], a play written by Michelle, will be the featured spring production. *In Real Life* incorporates Internet, reality, and character. Each of the three characters has a real Internet presence as well as an onstage presence. One of the elements of *In Real Life* is when the show plays in Decatur in front of a live audience, the webcam will be broadcast live every night of the production. Ten universities across the country have committed to hosting viewing nights. Twenty-four community colleges have been contacted to help garner interest on their campuses.

Michelle was also invited by Brigham Young University to have the play workshopped by the playwriting and dramaturgy departments. Michelle will attend the Mid-America Theatre Conference in March to present a paper, "Media and Internet Integration in Theatre," using *In Real Life*.

A dinner event with the Culinary Arts Institute followed by the production will be presented on March 28.

REPORT OF ICCTA

Carol Chiligris, Bruce Campbell, and Randy Prince attended the 2009 ACCT Community College National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, on February 8-11, 2009. Community college trustees and leaders joined together to lobby on education, job training and economic development policy issues in Congress. Carol Chiligris reported that the Summit was worthwhile to all those in attendance, and the large presence of community colleges show that they care and are willing to spend money to travel to DC to get the message heard.

First-time attendee Bruce Campbell commented that the Summit was an 'eye-opening' experience. It was the hope that the message was received that in perilous economic times, the community colleges become all the more important in terms of retraining. So many people are losing their jobs and positions, and the effort that community colleges can make to help them achieve a new beginning in their lives and a different livelihood than they had previously must be supported.

Randy Prince further commented that community colleges are starting to come of age and people are not seeing them as junior colleges but as the front line in recovery time. There were excellent speakers at the conference; an economist explained how he thought the stimulus package was going to affect the economy and what was going on in the economy and why.

The next ICCTA meeting will be in Oak Brook, Illinois, on March 13-14, 2009.

AGREEMENTS/CONTRACTS AUTHORIZED BY PRESIDENT SAUNDERS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2009

During the month of January, Dr. Saunders signed seven (7) documents that are listed in the Board Book: Amendment to the FY09 Perkins Postsecondary Grant Agreement with the Illinois Community College Board on January 9; FY09 Program Innovation Grant Agreement with the Illinois Community College Board on January 9; Affiliation Agreements between Richland Community College and St. Mary's Hospital on January 20; FY09 Career and Technical Education Leadership Grant Agreement with the Illinois Community College Board on January 21; Continuing and Professional Education Division request for an event sponsored by the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce on January 21; Observation Agreement between Richland Community College and Dr. Morissette on January 22; and Cooperative Agreement between Central Christian Church and Richland Community College on January 29.

CONSENT AGENDA

Purchase Recommendations and Bids

A recommendation to purchase a Mobile BioFuels Laboratory from Hampden Engineering Corporation, East Longmeadow, Massachusetts, for \$156,076 was presented to the Board.

Campbell moved to approve the consent agenda item as presented. Osborne seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Reaffirmation of Values and Tenets of Community College Trusteeship

A recommendation to reaffirm the Values and Tenets of Community College Trusteeship, Policy 1.19.1, was presented to the Board.

The Values and Tenets of Community College Trusteeship are statements of ethical principles that not only govern the way Board members may behave but also the manner in which they think about and view higher education. The Tenets are more than a guideline or a procedure for doing something. They require a way of thinking that has a profound impact on the future of Richland Community College.

Prince moved to reaffirm the Values and Tenets of Community College Trusteeship, Policy 1.19.1, as presented. Osborne seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

Foundation Report

Wegi Stewart, Executive Director of the Foundation and Development, reported to the Board.

The Foundation's quarterly meeting was held on January 22, 2009. The annual golf outing is scheduled May 8 at Hickory Point Golf Course. The proceeds will benefit the Center for Sustainability and Innovation. Missy Chiligris is chairing the golf committee.

226 students were awarded scholarships for spring 2009 totaling over \$215,000. Kathy Carter, Director of Scholarship and Alumni Development, hosted the Macon County Lady Landowners for lunch. The Culinary Arts Institute provided dessert for the group.

The American Legion steak dinner was held on February 7. The event is held twice each year and over \$11,000 has been raised for the Legion scholarship fund through the Foundation.

A bequest has been received from the trust of Walter and Alice Scherer. That bequest will continue to support the scholarship that the Scherers established in 1991 for Richland Community College students.

The Investing in our Future Major Gifts Campaign will hold a celebration of gifts received on April 29, 2009. The event will bring the community up to date on the campaign's progress.

The Bill Eichenauer Memorial Scholarship dinner will be held on April 18, 2009. Limited seating will be available. The Culinary Arts Institute will prepare the food.

The Foundation Executive Committee will approve a slate of officers to be presented at its April board meeting. Joan Avis will become emeritus this year after 6 years of service.

The Foundation has an endowed fund from Mrs. Albert, the earnings of which can be used to help Richland staff complete a Bachelor's degree. In addition, another part of Mrs. Albert's money was set aside to support professional faculty development. Afterwards, Bob and Phyllis Schwant added funds to the endowment.

Construction Report

Greg Florian, Vice President of Finance and Administration, updated the Board on the current construction projects.

The flooring in the Fitness Center has been completely installed. Flooring replacement is virtually complete in the first and second floor hallways and the north wing. The Culinary Arts kitchen renovation is complete. The audio-visual equipment will be installed during FY10. The Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program project is being sent to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Homer Chastain & Associates are working with a landscape designer for plant selection and design.

The interior walls and duct work have been installed in the Center for Sustainability and Innovation. The siding and roof work on the rotunda area will be completed shortly. A request to begin the funding process for the equipment will be brought to the Board soon.

BLDD has obtained the services of a new consultant for the wind turbine project. A recommendation to increase BLDD's services will be brought to the board in March. It is anticipated that bids will be received in March with board approval at the March board meeting.

The protection, health, and safety projects are on hold until State funding is received.

Sustainability Report

Doug Brauer, Vice President, Economic Development and Innovative Workforce Solutions, reported to the Board on sustainability and innovation on campus.

New "Green" classes will be offered at the Richland Community College Fairview Park Plaza Center.

An Innovation curriculum is being developed. The mobile biofuels laboratory will be purchased to education students and communities on biofuels. The laboratory is expected to be operational by May 2009.

The Solar and Geothermal programs are being developed. Classes are planned in the Center for Sustainability and Innovation beginning in July. The Nuclear Energy and Wind Energy programs will be initiated during the fall semester.

NEW BUSINESS

Recommendations for Tenure

Dr. Saunders recommended to the Board that the following resolutions granting tenure to nine full-time faculty members be adopted: Resolution No. 09-6 granting tenure to Brett Willits, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-7 granting tenure to Karen Vercellino, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-8 granting tenure to Leo Suhre, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-9 granting tenure to Michelle Stephens, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-10 granting tenure to Sara Richardson, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-11 granting tenure to Carol Myers, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-12 granting tenure to Peter Mortensen, Instructor; Resolution No. 09-13 granting tenure to Jean Litchfield, Assistant Professor; and Resolution No. 09-14 granting tenure to Mary Blankenship, Associate Professor.

Prince moved to approve tenure resolutions 09-6 through 09-14, as presented. Chiligiris seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

Recommendation for Approval of Fees for FY10

A recommendation to approve an increase in fees for the 2009-2010 academic year was presented to the Board. The proposed increases will become effective with the summer 2009 term.

Campbell moved to approve the increases for the proposed fees, effective summer 2009, as presented. Prince seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

Recommendation for Approval of Tuition Rates for Fiscal Year 2010

A recommendation to approve the proposed tuition rate of \$78.50 per credit hour, effective Summer Term 2009, was presented to the Board.

As part of the College's ongoing financial analysis and projections, staff reviewed other community college tuition rates, proposed State funding allocations, and the statutory criteria for eligibility to receive Equalization Grant funding. At this time, the College is proposing a tuition increase of \$9.00 from \$69.50 to \$78.50 per credit hour. The standard fee of \$4.50 will remain the same. This rate will become effective Summer Term 2009.

Campbell moved to approve the in-district tuition rate of \$78.50 per credit hour, in-state out-of-district tuition rate of \$308.03 per credit hour, out-of-state tuition rate of \$423.36 per credit hour, and the charge-back rate of \$239.03 per credit hour, effective Summer Term 2009, as presented. Chiligiris seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

BOARD POLICIES, PROPOSALS, AND CHANGES

College Mission and Purpose – Policy 1.18 – Second Reading/Adoption

The College Mission and Purpose Policy 1.18 is presented for a second reading and adoption. No changes have been made since the first reading.

Prince moved to adopt the College Mission and Purpose – Policy 1.18, as presented. Osborne seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

Constitution Requirement – Policy 4.6.9.1 – First Reading/Deletion

The Constitution Requirement Policy 4.6.9.1 is presented for a first reading and deletion. The policy is being deleted to conform to the Administrative Rules of the Illinois Community College Board, and no additional readings are required.

Chiligiris moved to delete the Constitution Requirement – Policy 4.6.9.1, as presented. Prince seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

General Policies – Sections 5.1 – 5.15 – First Reading

Sections 5.1 – 5.15 is presented for a first reading. Sections 5.14 and 5.15 are new policies.

Sections 5.1 through 5.15 has been reviewed and revised by the Finance and Administration staff and reviewed by the Board of Trustees and President's Cabinet. The Policy and Communications Committee and the Institutional Effectiveness Group have considered the updates. No action is recommended at this time.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bills Payable

The January 2009 Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement were presented to and discussed with the Board.

A list of bills for payment and ratification in the amount of \$1,637,175.36 for January 2009 was distributed to the Board prior to the meeting.

Colee moved to approve the bills for payment and ratification as presented and to approve the Financial Statement to be filed for audit. Campbell seconded. Roll call vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Campbell moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of discussing individual employments, as specified in Section 2 (c) (1); for discussion of pending or probable litigation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (11), for discussion of purchase or lease of real property, as specified in Section 2 (c) (5); for collective negotiating matters, as specified in Section 2 (c) (2); and for self-evaluation, as specified in Section 2 (c) (16) of the Open Meetings Act. Prince seconded. Voice vote being all ayes, Chairman Bliefnick declared the motion carried.

Meeting convened into closed session at 6:53 p.m.

Meeting reconvened into open session at 7:56 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chiligiris moved and Prince seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Bruce Campbell, Secretary