

THE BOARD OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 515

Seven Hundred Fourth Regular Meeting January 27, 2009

MINUTES

Mr. Mark Fazzini, Chair convened the 704th Regular Meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 515 at 5:03 pm Tuesday, January 27, 2009 in the Board Room of the College.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Mr. Mark Fazzini, Chair
Dr. Kathleen Doyle, Vice Chair
Ms. Jacqueline Agee, Secretary
Ms. Peg Donohue
Mr. Phil Faso
Ms. Mary Lee Johnson
Ms. Favian Apata, Student Trustee

Board Members Absent

Mr. John Marks

Table Participants Present

Dr. Eric C. Radtke, President
Ms. Deborah Smith Havighorst, Board Recorder
Dr. Linda Uzureau, Vice President, Academic Affairs
Mr. J. Randall Dempsey, Vice President, Business & Information Services
Ms. Terri Winfree, Vice President, Community & Economic Development
Ms. Mary Reaves, Vice President, Student Affairs
Mr. John Flannigan, Faculty Representative
Ms. Susan Braasch, Staff Representative
Mr. Sikod Njem, Student Representative

Table Participants Absent

None

Administrative Staff Members

Ms. Gwen Dean, Mr. Monty Eaton, Ms. Alice Garcia, Ms. Lynita Gebhardt, Ms. Lee Helbert-Gordon, Mr. Chuck Jenrich, Ms. Mary Klinefelter, Mr. Jerry Mackay, Dr. Susan Solberg, Ms. Jennifer Stoner, Ms. Angela Winters-Harmon

Faculty Members Present

Ms. Christine Brooms, Ms. Alanna Cotch, Ms. Jackie Dennis, Ms. Melanie Eddins-Spencer, Mr. Jason Evans, Mr. Brian Garent, Ms. Sally Haywood, Mr. Don Kouba, Ms. Sarena Lee-Schott, Dr. Craig Mulling, Mr. David Naze, Ms. Valerie Nicholson, Mr. Paul Rinaldi, Mr. Andy Schott, Mr. Ed Schwarz, Ms. Terra Stamps, Dr. Maurine Stein, Mr. Chris Ussery, Ms. Patty Valenziano, Mr. Elighie Wilson, Ms. Vivian Zimmerman

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Staff Members Present

Ms. Jan Bonavia, Mr. Michael Moody, Mr. Julius Neveles, Ms. Jill Yott

News Media

None

Other

None

Tenure Recommendation

At Dr. Radtke's request, Dr. Uzureau reviewed the tenure process.

Dr. Uzureau requested Dr. Craig Mulling to highlight the portfolio of Assistant Professor Melanie Eddins-Spencer.

Ms. Johnson moved and Ms. Donohue seconded that the Board of Trustees award a faculty tenure appointment to Assistant Professor Melanie Eddins-Spencer.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

Dr. Uzureau requested Dr. Susan Solberg to highlight the portfolio of Assistant Professor Sarena Lee-Schott.

Dr. Doyle moved and Mr. Faso seconded that the Board of Trustees award a faculty tenure appointment to Assistant Professor Sarena Lee-Schott.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

Dr. Uzureau requested Dr. Susan Solberg to highlight the portfolio of Assistant Professor David Naze.

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Mr. Faso moved and Ms. Donohue seconded that the Board of Trustees award a faculty tenure appointment to Assistant Professor David Naze.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

Dr. Uzureau requested Dr. Craig Mulling to highlight the portfolio of Assistant Professor Andy Schott.

Ms. Agee moved and Ms. Donohue seconded that the Board of Trustees award a faculty tenure appointment to Assistant Professor Andy Schott.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

ORAL/WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Radtke introduced Professor Don Kouba, Professor Paul Rinaldi, and Ms. Jan Bonavia to present to the Board the first work selected for the Board of Trustees Art Collection. The piece, "Untitled," by 2008 Photographer of the Year Krystal King will be displayed prominently in the College.

Dr. Radtke introduced Ms. Valerie Nicholson and Mr. Chris Ussery to discuss the upcoming Jazz Fest on February 20 and other exciting things going on in the music department. Dr. Radtke also thanked Ms. Nicholson and Mr. Ussery for playing at his installation and reception.

CONSENT ITEMS

Dr. Doyle moved and Mr. Faso seconded that the Board of Trustees approve the following items of consent:

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Minutes

That the Board of Trustees approve the Minutes of the 703rd Regular Meeting of December 15, 2008; the Minutes of the Board Retreat of January 13, 2009; and the Minutes of the Executive Session of January 13, 2009; as presented.

Retirement of Mr. Donald W. Kouba, Professor of Photographic Studies

That the Board of Trustees accept the retirement of Mr. Donald W. Kouba, Professor of Photographic Studies, effective July 31, 2010.

Bills Payable – FY2009

That the Board of Trustees approve the FY2009 List of Bills Payable for January, as indicated in the enclosure.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS

Increase of Treasurer's Bond

Mr. Dempsey explained that the College currently has two active bonds, one of which is up for renewal on January 29, 2009. He solicited a quote from the other bond issuer which was quite a bit less than the existing one. Mr. Dempsey recommended that the College cancel one bond and increase the other so that there is only one bond for \$3,600,000 which satisfies the requirement of the statute.

Mr. Faso moved and Ms. Donohue seconded that the Board of Trustees approve an increase in the Treasurer's Bond issued by the Massachusetts Bay Insurance Company on behalf of Mr. J. Randall Dempsey, treasurer of Prairie State College, from \$500,000 to \$3,600,000 effective January 29, 2009.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

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Cancellation of Treasurer's Bond

Ms. Johnson moved and Dr. Doyle seconded that the Board of Trustees approve cancellation of the Treasurer's Bond in the amount of \$3,100,000 issued by the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company on behalf of Mr. J. Randall Dempsey, treasurer of Prairie State College, effective January 29, 2009.

Ms. Donohue complimented Mr. Dempsey on finding a lower fee for the bond.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

Bid Recommendation – 2009 Summer Schedule

Mr. Faso commented that he was surprised there were only two bids for this job. Ms. Jennifer Stoner noted that bid requests were sent to all of the College's regular suppliers and an advertisement was placed in the Southtown Star.

Mr. Faso moved and Ms. Johnson seconded that the Board of Trustees award the bid for the 2009 Summer Schedule to the lowest responsible bidder, Blue Island Newspaper Printing, Inc., in the amount of \$13,900 for the base. It is further recommended to award to the same vendor the additional 4 pages in the amount of \$1,200 and additional copies in the amount of \$110 per thousand, as needed.

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Mr. Faso	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being six (6) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

REPORTS

President's Report

Dr. Radtke said it has been a busy month since the last Board meeting. The College began a new semester, the country inaugurated a new president and the state started the process of impeaching a governor; all of these things have had some impact on the College.

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The College is still waiting for clarification from the state on funding and budgets, given the lack of focus and leadership in the governor's office. There were a lot of discussions at the President's Council last week, and there is a lot of uncertainty about how things will transpire. At the same time, on the national level there is a lot of attention on the stimulus package and activity that is going on relative to the economy. A house bill has been produced and Dr. Radtke is still going through all of the details to try to better understand what is possible for entities like Prairie State. The College is watching closely and waiting to take advantage of what may come its way.

Dr. Radtke directed the Board to a letter in their handouts from the Del Galdo Law Group referencing in detail the differentiation of how the College is billed for the firm's services. He is happy to answer or seek the answer for any further questions about the firm's billing.

President's Cabinet Monthly Reports

Dr. Uzureau, Mr. Dempsey, Ms. Winfree and Ms. Reaves are available for any questions on their monthly reports.

Ms. Donohue congratulated Vice President Winfree on her recent appointment for three more years as a Board member with the Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce. This kind of visibility is always great for the College. Mr. Fazzini continued that it is critical to remain involved with the community during these difficult economic times.

ISAC Audit Report

Ms. Reaves reviewed the report from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) audit on Monday, September 15, 2008.

FY2008 Annual Financial Report and Audit – Draft

Dr. Radtke told the Board that this is preliminary to the final FY2008 Annual Financial Report and Audit which will be presented at the February meeting.

Mr. Dempsey explained that the numbers in this report look a bit different than in years past. Upon first glance, the report looks as though the College has lost money, but in fact, money is being accounted for differently than in the past. The College had been depreciating its assets incorrectly for a number of years. Mr. Dempsey has corrected the depreciation method and is happy to offer any further explanation if necessary.

NIMS Report

Mr. Dempsey informed the Board that he and Mr. Norman Martin are working to bring the College up to date with the U.S. Department of Education's requirements for NIMS compliance. Mr. Martin has met all of the "trainer requirements," and the goal is to satisfy all requirements by April.

Dual Credit Report

Dr. Radtke explained that dual credit was approved by ICCB, IBHE, the legislature and the governor for funding for FY 2009 and then was vetoed in late summer. Dr. Uzureau expressed the College's disappointment in the "de-funding" of dual credit. Dual credit was limited to high school seniors for this year.

Dr. Doyle noted that the College had 400 students enrolled in dual credit last year and asked how many were enrolled this year. Ms. Mary Klinefelter said the College had 100 students in the Fall and would have Spring numbers by the end of the term.

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Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Dempsey said that the College has been careful with expenditures. There have been various reductions including cutting back on capital purchases, not filling some open positions, and restricting travel. Fortunately, revenues are where they typically are at end of December, so the College remains cautiously optimistic.

ITEMS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Board Policy A-5, Board Member Conflict of Interest and Impropriety

Mr. Fazzini noted that this was an item that was discussed at the last board meeting. Action was taken by the board to put it on the January agenda.

Dr. Doyle stated that she wanted this item on the January agenda because the Board changed Policy G-27 which previously said that no family member of the Board of Trustees could be employed by the College. This was taken out of Policy G-27 because it was stated that this point was in Policy A-5. Later, members of the Board found out this point was not included in Policy A-5. Dr. Doyle believes the Board should be held to the same high standards as the President and Vice Presidents because in Policy G-27 it states that no family members of the President or Vice Presidents can be employed at Prairie State. Dr. Doyle feels that in light of the things that have happened, the Board should move to have that piece included in Policy A-5.

Mr. Fazzini clarified that it was pulled out of that policy reference because that was the employees' policy. Mr. Fazzini said that at that time it was noted that the ethics policy generally covered the Board members, but that it was not stated that the same provisions in the revised G-27 were in A-5. He further noted that it was the Administration that brought forward the change; it was not an action of the Board.

Mr. Faso asked for clarification as to who was covered under the current policy.

Dr. Doyle and Mr. Fazzini both stated the policy specifically refers to the President and the Vice Presidents.

Ms. Johnson added business acquaintances of Board members to the list of those she felt should not be hired.

Dr. Doyle said that in light of the report from the Higher Learning Commission, she feels that since the Board is trying to move forward with integrity, the Board needs to have that as an integral part of the Board's policy.

Ms. Donohue asked Dr. Doyle if she wanted to add a clause about relatives in Policy A-5.

Dr. Doyle said it should read that, "The Board of Trustees shall not employ any person on a full time basis who is an immediate relative of any Board member." Dr. Doyle said the statement went on to define what an immediate relative is.

Ms. Agee asked Dr. Doyle if this applied to faculty and she said it only applied to the Board, the President, and the Vice Presidents.

Ms. Johnson noted that adding a few words to enhance what is already written would strengthen the policy and she would advocate for doing so.

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Mr. Faso said he looked up policies of other colleges online and was unable to find another school with the particular language Ms. Johnson and Dr. Doyle were talking about. He felt the other schools' policies looked like Prairie State's current policies.

Mr. Fazzini noted that the President made the decision about the staff; the Board did not make the decision to hold the President and Vice Presidents to that standard. Dr. Gary Davis spoke to the Board at the Board retreat about John A. Logan College which has a very strict hiring policy. He also said that he could not find another community college that restricted the Board members. The policies he found spoke to the Board not influencing hiring decisions. The accreditation reports spoke to that as well in those terms, which is in fact covered under the Board's policy. The accreditation report did not speak to the issue being raised at the Board meeting with regard to relatives being hired.

Ms. Johnson added that the Board has just come out of a retreat where it was brought to the Board's attention that they must avoid the perception of impropriety. The change that Dr. Doyle is asking for is merely a sentence which says the Board is committed to not hire its family members.

Mr. Fazzini asked if someone would put the request into the form of a motion.

Dr. Doyle moved and Ms. Donohue seconded that the Board of Trustees approve to add to Policy A-5 a section that was stricken from Policy G-27: "The Board of Trustees shall not employ any person on a full-time basis who is an immediate relative of the President, member of the President's Cabinet or of any Board member. An immediate relative is defined as a father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, son, daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, or grandchildren. This prohibition shall not apply to part-time employees, adjunct faculty members, or independent contractors. In the event of a violation of this policy, it is expected that either the Board member or the employee shall resign immediately."

Upon the call of roll, the vote was as follows:

Ms. Agee	Nay
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Dr. Doyle	Aye
Mr. Faso	Nay
Mr. Fazzini	Nay
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Apata	Aye

The vote being three (3) Ayes, three (3) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion failed.

Schedule for Future Board/College Events

Ms. Donohue pointed out that Jazz Fest on February 20, 2009 was left off of the calendar. Mr. Fazzini pointed out the ACCT National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC from February 8-11, 2009. Dr. Radtke, Ms. Donohue, Ms. Apata, and Vice Presidents Uzureau and Reaves will be attending the conference and meeting with our legislators while in Washington.

ICCTA/ACCT Report

Ms. Johnson underscored how important it is to bring concise printed information, such as the article at the table about the Prairie State Service Day Project, to the Legislative Summit to share with our legislators.

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Dr. Radtke added that although he did not refer to it in his report, he thought it was important to mention how successful the Service Day Project for PADS and Respond Now was. The response from not only the Prairie State community but the community-at-large was tremendous.

Ms. Donohue said that she works at Respond Now once a week and was amazed at the size of donation that was made and the staff and clients of Respond Now was very thankful for all of the College's efforts.

Ms. Donohue also said that ICCTA will be meeting in Washington.

Prairie State College Foundation Report

Ms. Donohue reported that the anonymous family who donated \$10,000 at the end of last year made an additional donation of \$13,500 to assist Prairie State College student scholarships. This family insists on not receiving any public recognition, but the Foundation sends letters of thanks from each of the recipients. The family appreciates and encourages these letters.

The Foundation is grateful for the payroll deduction authorizations made by College employees, as a result of the appeal at the January Convocation.

Ms. Donohue also asked everyone to save the date for the Foundation's Annual Scholarship Golf Classic which will be held on Monday, June 1 at Idlewild Country Club.

Table Participant Comments

Mr. Flannigan expressed thanks to Board for their approval of tenure for the four faculty members presented tonight. He added that what they bring to the College is incalculable and what they give to their students is even greater.

Mr. Sikod Njem introduced himself as the representative for student government who will be attending some Board meetings in Justin Doup's place. Mr. Njem said the Student Government Association has a number of events coming up including plans for Black History Month. They are also working on project for a large clock in the Atrium to help students get to their classes on time. He also spoke about the upcoming basketball game between Prairie State College and Moraine Valley Community College and invited everyone to come and cheer on the Pioneers.

Ms. Johnson shared that she felt this was a wonderful night and loves the photograph for the Board of Trustees Art Collection. She congratulated Prairie State College.

Ms. Donohue took a moment to remind everyone how wonderful Jazz Fest is and encourage everyone to come. She said that Val Nicholson is a treasure to the community.

Ms. Agee welcomed Mr. Njem to the Board meeting.

Ms. Apata is excited for the Spring semester and looking forward to the challenge of being enrolled in 15 hours. She told the Board that the Black Student Union is having a fashion show, "Fade to Black" on January 31 and would like everyone to support it. Ms. Apata went to the Student Advisory Committee meeting in Springfield and is looking forward to Lobby Day.

Mr. Fazzini asked Dr. Radtke what the status of credit hours was and Dr. Uzureau responded that the Tenth Day Report will be out next week and on the next Board agenda.

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Dr. Doyle mentioned an article about how well prepared students are who are going to the University of Illinois from community colleges. These students could not get in to the U of I before attending a community college and then were able to because of their work at community colleges.

Dr. Radtke added that the College is still collecting information regarding the veterans reintegration program to try to get a sense of how many and who the College may be able to assist through this program.

Dr. Radtke also said he was disappointed to receive Don Kouba's retirement letter. He has done a tremendous job with our photography program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Donohue moved and Mr. Faso seconded that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye, and the meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Mark Fazzini, Chair

Jacqueline Agee, Secretary
