

THE BOARD OF ILLINOIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT NO. 515

SPECIAL MEETING

January 25, 2006

MINUTES

Ms. Mary Lee Johnson, Chair, convened the Special Meeting of the Board of Illinois Community College District No. 515 at 5:02 p.m., Wednesday, January 25, 2006 in the Board Room of the College.

ROLL CALL:

Board Members Present

Ms. Mary Lee Johnson, Chair
Ms. Janice Pearson, Vice Chair
Mr. Michael Camilli
Ms. Peg Donohue
Mr. Mark Fazzini
Ms. Yolanda Beamon, Student Trustee

Board Members Absent

Ms. Kathleen Doyle, Secretary
Mr. John Marks

Table Participants Present

Dr. Paul J. McCarthy, President
Mr. Michael Monaghan, ICCTA Executive Director

SECRETARY PRO TEM

Ms. Johnson asked if Mr. Fazzini would act as Secretary Pro Tem for the meeting since Ms. Doyle was absent.

Mr. Camilli moved and Ms. Pearson seconded that Mr. Fazzini be appointed Secretary Pro Tem.

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

Mr. Camilli	Aye
Ms. Donohue	Aye
Mr. Fazzini	Aye
Ms. Johnson	Aye
Ms. Pearson	Aye
Ms. Beamon	Aye

The vote being five (5) Ayes, no (0) Nays, and one (1) Advisory, the motion carried.

ORAL/WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

INTRODUCTIONS/RECOGNITIONS

There were none.

DISCUSSION OF BOARD LIAISON COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Ms. Johnson turned the meeting over to Ms. Pearson to Chair for the introduction of ICCTA Executive Director, Michael Monaghan, and discussion of the single item on the agenda.

Mr. Monaghan introduced himself and gave the Board a description of his time with the Illinois Community College Trustees Association. He further went on to inform the Board of the styles of community college governance at the 39 community college boards throughout Illinois. Mr. Monaghan advised that approximately half of the community college boards use some variation of committee structure and the other half do not use committees at all. Of the boards that use committees, they have an average of three and five committees. Many boards have just two committees; the most common committee found is a Finance Committee; and the second most common is a Personnel/Human Resources Committee. Some board committees chose to meet just prior to a scheduled regular board meeting to handle their work.

Ms. Pearson then led a discussion of the proposal the Board had discussed at a prior workshop of creating a trustee liaison responsibility to various departments at the college, as many municipalities currently do for their governing boards. Mr. Monaghan advised that he researched issues for the discussion of committees and liaison responsibilities prior to this meeting. He spoke with several attorneys, including a retired Illinois Attorney General lawyer to further his knowledge with some of the issues in discussion. He additionally spoke with a representative from the Illinois Mayors & Managers Association and a current lawyer representing another community college board. In all his research, Mr. Monaghan advised he could find nothing that would prevent the Board from moving forward with any of the ideas presented tonight. He stated this was breaking new ground because he had not been able to find another community college board that had created a liaison position as proposed. Mr. Monaghan stated that as to the idea of titling the proposed concept as a committee liaison of one person, he advised he could find no reference to a committee that consisted of one person in state statutes. He felt it might be better not to utilize the term "committee" in what the Board was considering.

Mr. Fazzini stated a more appropriate term for what is being proposed may be just having a motion to assign board members as a liaison to the various departments.

Ms. Pearson advised that the creation of a trustee liaison would improve communications between the Board and the college administration. It also would get trustees more involved with their responsibilities as a trustee rather than coming for one meeting a month to vote on issues in their packets.

Mr. Fazzini stated that the Board had discussed previously that the liaison would be able to make sure that materials were prepared and complete to go to the Board, make sure Board policy was adhered to and be able to bring information back to the Board from the interaction with staff on more important issues.

Ms. Donohue had concerns that utilizing a liaison approach might prevent her from talking to various department heads. She stated that she wants to be able to probe and ask questions of any department she might have question for. Mr. Camilli responded to her that she is always entitled to ask questions of any staff. Mr. Fazzini said that the liaison trustee would do much the same thing as Ms. Donohue says she wants to be able to do. Ms. Donohue further stated she didn't want to become involved in day-to-day

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operations or go to a department's staff meetings.

Ms. Johnson expressed concern with the concept and was more supportive of creating a traditional committee structure.

Dr. McCarthy stated if the liaison position was to be used as a communication device to get more information it would be okay, but worried about the trustee liaison holding back something that the administration wanted to come to the Board. Mr. Camilli stated that should not be a problem in what is being proposed.

Mr. Camilli stated that a traditional committee structure would put much more work on staff with the creation of more meetings and agenda. He further said that a trustee not wanting to have the added responsibility of being a liaison trustee could just say they didn't want to do it.

Ms. Beamon stated the trustee liaison could be seen as a bridge between the Board and the administration. She further advised that with this process, it could help keep a Vice President from being embarrassed in public due to lack of information that a trustee might question them on.

Mr. Fazzini stated that there were pros and cons with each of the approaches discussed; Mr. Monaghan agreed. Mr. Monaghan further recommended the Board should speak with its legal counsel on the best way to proceed.

Ms. Pearson is to seek input from college counsel on the trustee liaison concept.

Mr. Fazzini advised that the item should still be on the agenda for the next regular board meeting on January 31st. Ms. Johnson said she wasn't sure that the Board could be prepared to make a decision on this matter next week. Mr. Fazzini stated that if it is on the agenda, the Board will have the ability to move forward if they felt it is appropriate.

Mr. Monaghan stated the trustee liaison is new territory for a community college board. If the Board decides to move forward with the concept, he would like to monitor the concept if to see how effective it turns out to be and for potential interest by other boards.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Pearson moved and Mr. Camilli seconded that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting. All members present voted Aye, and the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Mary Lee Johnson, Chair

Mark Fazzini, Secretary Pro Tem
