

**DELTA COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DINNER MEETING
December 16, 2008**

Board Present: R. Emrich, K. Higgs, K. Houston-Philpot, T. Lane, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, E. Selby, R. Stafford, D. Wacksman

Board Absent: None

Others Present: J. Goodnow, D. Lutz, L. Myles-Sanders, B. Baker, M. Cooper, C. Drouse, L. Govitz, P. Graves, D. Halog, T. Kubatzke, R. McCracken, J. Mahoney, J. Miller, S. Montesi, M. Mosqueda, V. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, K. Randolph, P. Seidel, T. Stitt, D. Urbaniak, A. Ursuy, S. Whitney, K. Wilson, K. Wolf,

Press Present: P. Brandt, J. Hall

Chairperson Earl Selby called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Trevor Kubatzke introduced the topic of Financial Aid by recognizing David Urbaniak and the Financial Aid staff for their good work in processing substantially more financial aid applications at a time when staff was short two people, the former Director and a support staff person. David Urbaniak began his presentation by noting that he is a 1988 Delta College graduate, and by introducing current student, Ryan McCracken.

D. Urbaniak described the increase in financial aid applications, from a total of 16,081 in 2005-2006 to a total of 17,477 as of December 2008, with two more semesters to go. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) requests standard information but Delta staff meet with students and their parents and work to consider any special circumstances. Although students should apply at least three weeks prior to the payment deadline for a semester, staff try to help those who apply late.

The application process has moved from paper to 99% on-line as of 2008-2009. Awards are based on cost of attendance, minus expected family contribution. Cost of attendance includes direct costs such as tuition, fees, and books for full time Fall and Winter attendance, plus indirect costs such as cost of living, transportation, and so on. Awards increased from \$11.9 million in 2005-2006 to \$16.5 million in 2007-2008.

Staff works with students to help them avoid taking on more debt than is necessary. Federal Stafford loans awarded have increased from \$4.2 million in 2005-2006 to \$6.3 million in 2007-2008. The college works to provide students with as many choices of banks as possible for alternative loans despite the number of banks which are withdrawing from offering these loans. Nine banks were identified in 2006-2007, only four in 2007-2008, but the number was back up to six in 2008-2009. The Financial Aid office manages and/or participates in 20 different programs including Michigan Rehabilitation Services and Michigan Works.

Ryan McCracken spoke about his initial unsuccessful attempt at college, his return and how following probation and appeal he has become successful in a three plus one program with Northwood University. He feels that the probation and appeal process has made him a better student, and in response to questions from Earl Selby, he said the process makes you think about yourself and about school differently. Dee Dee Wacksman asked about interest rates on loans; the current rate is approximately six per cent. Kim Houston-Philpot asked whether a majority of students receive financial aid: sixty to seventy percent receive aid in some form. Unlike some schools, Delta does not automatically include loans in aid packages, but discusses loans with students first. Jean Goodnow pointed out the low loan default rate of Delta students.

Pat Graves, Judy Miller and Ginny Przygocki described the Federal Perkins program and recent changes. Perkins has been in existence since the 1963 Vocational Education Act. It provides some funding for career programs in high schools and career centers, Tech Prep which is a transitional program between high school and college, and college career programs. This year Delta received \$721,015 for career programs, \$160,424 for Tech Prep, and \$7,543 in Fast Track dollars for faculty professional development. Over three thousand Delta students annually received the benefits of Perkins funding in 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Eligibility rules have changed significantly this year. Whereas in the past a large proportion of students served were academically challenged, the focus now is on students with disabilities, Pell grant recipients, and students enrolled in career programs that are non-traditional for their gender. The goal is to prepare students for high skill, high wage or high demand jobs that will lead to self-sufficiency, defined as a wage earner for a family of four who earns \$40 thousand or more. Indicators tracked focus on technical skill attainment and student retention or transfer. Examples of Perkins investments are Sim Man, the Nursing simulation lab, and mobile refrigeration and architectural technology equipment.

Responding to a question from Dr. Emrich, the dollars allocated for advisory committees support staffing. Mr. Selby asked about Delta's being third in Michigan in the number of articulations, and pointed out that the other two colleges, Oakland Community College and Grand Rapids, are both larger. Collaboration with the Nickless Clinic, the redesign of the Skilled Trades program and the regular review and assessment through advisory committees and the regular Program Review of Occupational Education (PROE) were cited as examples of continuous improvement.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary