

**DELTA COLLEGE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
DINNER MEETING  
February 10, 2009  
Delta College Main Campus, Room N 7**

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

**Board Absent:** E. Selby

**Others Present:** J. Goodnow, D. Lutz, L. Myles-Sanders, E. Beckman, S. Bernthal, P. Clark, C. Drouse, S. Goddard, L. Govitz, T. Grunow, D. Halog, J. Knochel, J. Mallak, J. Miller, M. Moore, C. Morley, C. Peck, L. Ramseyer, K. Randolph, D. Redman, D. Salinas, P. Seidel, C. Starkey, A. Ursuy, N. Vader-McCormick, S. VanderLaan, K. Wilson

**Press Present:** P. Brandt

Chairperson K. Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Chairperson K. Houston-Philpot introduced Karen Randolph, chairperson of the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC). She explained that FEC normally meets with the Board each year at this time.

Karen Randolph introduced Crystal Starkey, who described the Writing Center which faculty have created as the "Writing Center Café" in S-132, the student lounge area in the S Building. There is a description of the Writing Center in the most recent issue of Career Focus, titled "How to Write Right." The purpose is to help students, not as editors but as partners who help students improve their writing skills.

Although faculty from the English Division initiated the Center, students participating come from all areas of the college, not just from English classes. The work usually begins about the third week of classes. Faculty Crystal Starkey, Karen Randolph and Jeff VandeZande are assisted by student consultants who have completed a one credit hour course of training. Costs are very low; approximately \$2500 for 500 individual sessions.

There are plans to add "community Fridays" for community members, and an on-line writing center pilot led by Nadine Nader-Davis will run this semester. Dr. Emrich inquired whether non-current students might participate, and Crystal Starkey indicated that they would not turn anyone away but that an effective system for tracking student participation still needs to be developed. Bob Stafford asked whether the student consultants are Delta employees, and Crystal responded that they include work study, volunteer, co-op and experiential learning referral students.

Nancy Vader-McCormick and Sharon Bernthal described service learning at Delta College, a three-part experiential learning process based on (1) a bona fide community need (2) linked to an academic course with specific outcomes and objectives (3) in which following the service learning activity the student is called on to reflect, generally in writing.

A Dateline Delta film clip described the service learning activity, in which hands on, real world experience is linked to course outcomes. Nancy Vader-McCormick called attention to research conducted by Alexander Astin indicating that students involved in service learning tend to be more engaged, to be more likely to continue their education, to earn higher grades, and to have a greater appreciation for diversity. She cited the Alternative Spring Break activity of last year in which students traveled to Lake Charles, Louisiana to help repair damage from Hurricane Katrina. She said that approximately 75 faculty currently incorporate service learning into about 112 courses, involving some 3,000 students and generating more than \$8 million in value to the community.

Sharon Bernthal described the Tombstone Project, which started with a poster she saw while crossing the bridge in Saginaw. She saw a former student pictured, with the question, "Have you seen \_\_\_\_\_? If so, call Crime Stoppers." And she realized that this student probably had been the victim of domestic violence. This project erects "tombstones" in the Delta Courtyard representing people, mostly women, who have been killed in domestic violence incidents.

The service learning part of the project starts with a writing project, followed by work at a local shelter, and then reflective notes which might be a letter to an anonymous shelter guest or a letter to the editor of a newspaper. A panel discussion on campus is then held, followed by final reflections in which the student reviews all steps of the process and consults outside resources in order to write a final paper. J. MacKenzie asked about the impact of reductions on services of the Bay City YWCA, and K. Houston-Philpot inquired about service learning processes, expressing the opinion that this is a powerful contribution to Delta's regional community, crossing boundaries. Dee Dee Wacksman commented on the oral history project being conducted by Laura Dull's history class, and Bob Stafford commented on work at the Midland shelter.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary