MEMBERS PRESENT  R. Emrich, K. Higgs, K. Houston-Philpot, T. Lane, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, R. Stafford, E. Wacksman

MEMBERS ABSENT  R. E. Selby


PRESS PRESENT  P. Brandt (Bay City Times), J. Hall (WSGW), Octavian Cantilli (Bay City Times), A. Niedzwiecki (Delta Collegiate), M. Tobias (Delta Collegiate)

CALL TO ORDER  Board Chair K. Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS  Board Chair K. Houston-Philpot called for comments from the public.

Bay County resident, Harlan Vermilya, said that the purpose of his lawsuit against the Board of Trustees is not to “throw stones” at Delta College. He said that his daughters went to school at Delta College and got a great education. Mr. Vermilya added that it is “important for all of us to step up to the plate and do what’s responsible.”

K. Higgs asked to add an item to the agenda to discuss freezing tuition and fees for next year as recommended by Governor Granholm. R. Emrich said that it would be appropriate to have that discussion during “trustee comments.”

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES  Board Chair K. Houston-Philpot called for additions or corrections to the minutes of the Board Dinner Meeting and Regular Meeting of January 13, 2009 or the Board Special Meeting of January 26, 2009. T. Lane made a motion to accept the minutes. K. Higgs seconded the motion. The January 13 Dinner Meeting Minutes were accepted as submitted. The January 13 Regular Meeting Minutes and the January 26 Special Meeting Minutes were accepted as corrected with a vote of 7 in favor, 1 opposed.

TREASURER’S REPORT  D. Lutz informed the Board that at the end of January, the College is seeing record high enrollment for the winter semester. As a result, revenue from tuition and fees is higher than budgeted. She added our investment income is lower than budgeted. There are no other major variances to report at this time. R. Stafford made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. K. Lawrence-Webster seconded the motion. The Treasurer’s Report was accepted as submitted.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE  It is the recommendation of the Nominating Committee to confirm the election of the Secretary to the Board (Leslie Myles-Sanders) and the Treasurer to the Board (Debra Lutz). K. Lawrence-Webster supported the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the March 2009 Regular Meeting.
Dr. Goodnow reported the following contributions for January 2009: the Foundation received $83,579.00; Delta Public Broadcasting received $75,430.00; for a monthly combined total of $159,009.00.

- Winter semester began on Saturday, January 10. Student count day was January 21. 11,021 students are enrolled this semester. 4,157 are enrolled in 12 or more credits. 6,864 have registered for 11 credits or less.

- On January 30 – 31, 2009, Board Chair, Kimberly Houston-Philpot, Trustee, Earl Selby, and I attended the MCCA Winter Board of Directors Meeting. The meeting was hosted by Henry Ford Community College.

- Delta College has been named to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes institutions of higher education that support exemplary, innovative, and effective community service programs. Launched in 2006, the Honor Roll’s Presidential Award is the highest federal recognition an institution can receive for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. We are one of only 3 community colleges in Michigan to be named to the Honor Roll this year.

- Dow Corning is hosting a reception that will honor Trustee Dr. Thomas H. Lane for his recent inauguration as President of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Congratulations to Dr. Lane on this great accomplishment!

Board Chair, K. Houston-Philpot said that she will be making one change to the Board Committee Appointments for 2009-10. Trustee Jack MacKenzie will be the Bay County representative on the Bylaws Committee.

Board Chair Houston-Philpot asked the Bylaws Committee to review the language in the bylaws regarding when subcommittees are appointed and the length of time that each committee serves.

E. Wacksman asked about the recent increase in dual enrolled students. T. Kubatzke said that the College is making a concentrated effort to reach out to area high school students and give them opportunities to attend Delta College. J. Goodnow added that there has been a significant amount of work done to implement a career ladder program for high school students pursuing health careers as well.

K. Higgs made a motion to freeze tuition and fees for the 09-10 academic year with support from R. Emrich. R. Stafford stated that although this proposal sounds great, he has some concerns about jumping into a decision like this. There are still several unknowns related to our budget process. For example we don’t know about State funding for next year yet. In addition, home costs are going down in our area which creates the potential for a radical change in our tax base. D. Lutz added that is it estimated that we will take a cut of approximately $230,000 in property tax revenue. R. Stafford said that we should trust in the College’s Budget process. It would be presumptuous to make a decision regarding tuition and fees without a thorough evaluation of all components of the budget.

Approved by the Board of Trustees at the March 2009 Regular Meeting.
R. Emrich made a substitute motion that the Board of Trustees express its grave concern and cognizance of the Governor’s request concerning tuition and fees. In addition, this concern should be conveyed to the Budget Cabinet as they formulate their plan for the next year. The Board of Trustees will wait to make a decision regarding tuition and fees until the Trustees have heard the Budget Cabinet’s recommendations. R. Stafford seconded the motion. Motion passed with a voted of 7 in favor, 1 against.

K. Higgs voiced his concerns regarding the President’s Compensation and recent comments in the newspaper regarding comparison information. K. Houston-Philpot said that the Board recognizes that Trustee Higgs has concerns but said that now is not the appropriate time to voice them. The President’s compensation package has already been approved for 08-09.

R. Stafford said that he had the opportunity to attend President Goodnow’s Winter All-College Address and recommended that all Trustees put the event on their calendars next year.

ADJOURNMENT

R. Emrich made a motion to adjourn the meeting with support from K. Lawrence-Webster. There being no further business, Board Chair Houston-Philpot adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Recording Secretary