

FINAL

MINUTES

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

June 13, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Workforce Center Board Room

Members Present: William C. Cramer, Jr. (presiding), Charles S. Isler III, Denise D. Butler, Karen L. Durden, Dan A. Estes, Dr. Stephen C. Meyers, William C. Sumner, Linda R. Wood, Dr. Jim Kerley, Dr. Steve Nettles (recording).

Call to Order: After a brief discussion of current economic issues, Dr. Kerley called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and thanked the trustees for their time and commitment.

**Presidential
Topics:**

President's Update and Annual Accomplishments

Dr. Kerley thanked the board members for their support over the past two years and pointed out how much had been accomplished in that time. He discussed the general status of the college system and pointed out that Gulf Coast Community College is financially sound and doing much better than many other colleges. Even after the budgets cuts, the college has 14% in reserve. Dr. Kerley discussed the college's Strategic Plan and the responsibility of the board in the oversight of daily operations and pointed out the importance of the college's visibility in the community.

Several board members expressed concern over the increased level of change and mentioned the college might be focused on too many different efforts. Dr. Kerley pointed out changes are implemented within the scope of the Strategic Plan, which is the main focus. Several suggestions for improvement were made, e.g., presenting changes differently, involving the Gulf-Franklin campus more, increasing trustee involvement in events and discussions, and sending out more communication regarding events or changes at the different campuses.

The trustees expressed willingness to assist more with recruitment and retention in Gulf/Franklin. Mrs. Durden suggested asking trustees individually for a commitment to certain events.

Budget Update Presentation and Discussion

A discussion was held regarding reduction strategies.

**SACS
Accreditation**

Dr. Nettles provided an update of the SACS Accreditation timeline and process and pointed out that the Quality Enhancement Plan will have a strong focus on critical academic thinking and invited the trustees to be involved in the committee process.

Advanced Technology Center

Dr. Kerley gave a presentation and update about the Advanced Technology Center (ATC). Mr. Isler posed the question why the Bay County Chamber alone would be given office space and would not have to pay rent. Dr. Kerley explained they are donating the proceeds from the sale of their down-town offices (\$1 million dollar value); they will help attract new business and industry, which will lead to new programs; and it will serve as a 'good faith' gesture to the local business community. National models show that this new model of bringing Chambers, EDAs and colleges together will have a regional impact and help advance businesses.

Mr. Cramer pointed out that a part of the college's legislative mandate is to establish economic partnerships in the community, like the GCCC/EOC building. The construction of Bay County's new airport will also aid in diversifying the local economy by increasing industrial and high-tech opportunities.

Mr. Isler requested an economic analysis to justify a partnership with the Chamber.

Mr. Cramer suggested allowing Gulf/Franklin and the Beach Chambers of Commerce use of space in the ATC building and offering them to take part in certain programs.

Dr. Myers suggested mentioning in the MOU that rent was prepaid by the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. The trustees agreed that coming up with a series of talking points on critical issues would help create a common voice.

Critical Board Topics

Legislative Affairs: an advisory board for the community college system was never initiated.

Northwest Florida State College: Dr. Richburg and State Representative Ray Sansom are being prosecuted. This has initiated discussions over limiting board control over hiring and paying college presidents. Mr. Cramer pointed out that the GCCC Board and President have always worked in tandem and that a situation like this could not happen at our institution.

FSU-PC: Dr. Kerley and Dr. Bishop met with Dr. George DePuy to discuss the current situation and will work with Board members and other stakeholders to investigate potential strategies.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Secretary

Chairman