

FINAL

MINUTES

DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES RETREAT GULF COAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE

September 26, 2009

9:00 a.m.

Workforce Center Board Room

Members Present: Charles S. Isler III (presiding), William C. Cramer, Jr., Karen L. Durden, Dr. Stephen C. Myers, Linda R. Wood, Dr. Jim Kerley, Dr. Steve Nettles (recording).

I. Welcome Chair Isler called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and thanked the trustees for their time and commitment.

II. Retreats Chair Isler suggested the board have two retreats per year with one of them in Gulf or Franklin counties. The next retreat is scheduled for March 19 and 20, 2010, in Franklin County. Mr. Cramer suggested inviting a speaker or legislator to the next retreat and stated that meeting locations needed to include Franklin County, possibly at the courthouse or school board offices.

III. Bylaws and Procedures

a. Committee Structure Chair Isler presented the idea to create four standing committees, i.e. Building Committee, Budget Committee, Legislative Committee, and Appointments Committee, to address issues in those areas. The first three committees will be created immediately. The Appointments Committee will be convened only when needed in the future and will need representation with political insight. The President and Chair should sit on all committees. Mr. Cramer pointed out that it was important to have expertise and good participation on each committee.

b. College Calendar Dr. Kerley reviewed the college calendar of events and asked the trustees to attend as many events as possible.

c. Professional Development Dr. Kerley suggested setting aside funds for the board for professional development and travel and encouraged the trustees to attend the Trustee Annual Meeting at the Florida Association of Community Colleges (FACC) Convention on November 19 in Orlando. Ms. Durden and Mr. Cramer confirmed that the annual FACC meeting is very informative. Dr. Kerley and Chair Isler pointed out that the FACC Trustees Annual Legislative Conference in Tallahassee on February 2, 2010, will need better participation than in previous years. Dr. Kerley stated that we should also have representation at the American Association of Community Colleges Annual Convention in Seattle on April 17-21, 2010. Ms. Durden concurred

that the conference offers many good opportunities. Chair Isler will prepare a request to ask the trustees for approval of a budget line item for travel.

IV. Leadership Development

Chair Isler initiated a discussion on board leadership progression plans. The trustees reviewed other Florida Community College Succession Plans and noted that most of them have approximately a two-year term rotating chairs and vice-chairs. Ms. Durden expressed a preference to have a rotating schedule and have trustees trained and ready to move into leadership positions. A change of leadership should not be difficult. Chair Isler suggested adding the vice chair to the pre-board planning meeting and advertising the meeting. Mr. Cramer pointed out that the trustees need to decide who is best for the chair position and that he himself served as many years as he was asked to. In his opinion, trusteeship is a sacred role and changing over to rotations would produce mediocre leadership due to lack of positional memory. Having a chair with historical perspective is beneficial to the college. In his opinion, we should not pay too much attention to what other colleges are doing, since GCCC is different and better. Ms. Durden clarified that rotation should not be automatic but only for those trustees that are qualified and interested. Ms. Wood stated that one-year terms would be too short; a term should be at least one to five years. Mr. Cramer pointed out that there had not been any discussion about leadership changes prior to Mr. Isler's election replacing him as Chair, and that it is appropriate to groom the vice chair to take over the leadership position.

V. Board Responsibilities

Chair Isler highlighted the American Council on Education list of board responsibilities. Due to the growth of the mission and the practice of Gulf Coast Community College, the responsibilities of GCCC trustees are changing. One responsibility is for the board to evaluate itself. It was decided that at the next retreat assistance would be requested from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). They also provide moderators to assist with board evaluation.

Mr. Cramer expressed that he felt the presidential evaluation was insufficient, since trustees had no opportunity to discuss it before it was presented to the board. This is another topic for discussion with ACCT. Mr. Cramer discussed his FACC paper on trustee responsibilities and pointed out trustees should inform the president about concerns that are brought to their attention. The main focus, however, needs to remain performance of the college as a whole. Trustees are never to solicit inside information from college staff.

VI. President's Responsibilities

Dr. Kerley discussed the responsibilities of the college president.

VII. State College Transition

Dr. Kerley and Chair Isler detailed some of the plans to move to State College designation. Dean of FSU PC and members of our community are still supportive of a move to a State College. Dr. Kerley informed the trustees of the process and pledged to keep them informed as things move along.

VIII. FSU PC

Update on the FSU Blue Ribbon Commission was tabled.

- IX. Advanced Technology Center** Due to time limitations the update on the Chamber/EDA MOU was tabled as well. Dr. Kerley introduced Joe Sorci with Florida Architects, retained to design the Advanced Technology Center (ATC). Mr. Sorci gave a presentation on the progress of the architectural designs for the ATC and provided detailed information on the current programmatic offerings slated for the building. A discussion ensued about various architectural elements including partnership ideas with Chamber/EDA and potential tie-ins with FSU PC.
- X. Adjournment** The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.