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MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

March 9, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Pruitt, Nicholas Carnevale, Richard Arndt, Ida Hammond, George Fricke, Fred Abbate, J. Stanley Justice, Marilyn Pearson, Ann Pott, and Jack Lampman

MEMBERS ABSENT: E. Harvey Myers and Rosita Saez

ALSO PRESENT: Norma Blake, Esther H. Paist, Michael J. Scheiring, John Thurber, William Seaton, Penelope Brouwer, and Peggy Allan (AFT)

MINUTES

The minutes of the December 8, 2006, meeting were presented by Mrs. Hammond for approval and adoption. Mr. Carnevale made, and Mr. Fricke seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pruitt discussed the Governor's budget message and mentioned that the money to support the John S. Watson Institute and to support enrollment growth was not in the budget allocation for the College. It may be that these items were mistakenly perceived and designated as "legislative initiatives." In the case of the lack of funding for enrollment growth, the perception that this growth is not from New Jersey students, and so not worthy of funding, may also be due to the fact that many of our enrollments are military ones, and seen as out-of-state enrollments. We will continue our advocacy for restoration of funding in both areas. Dr. Pruitt will be making a presentation to the Assembly Committee on Veterans' and Military Affairs, and we have tasked a group here at the College to create materials publicizing our efforts in behalf of the military. We hope to mobilize veterans' groups and active duty military in advocacy of our efforts, as well.

The rest of higher education did receive modest budget increases. However, the negotiated salary increases for union members (still not ratified, but likely to be so), may cause problems, if they are not funded by the state. If the salary increases are not sup-

ported by the state, the increases in the Governor's budget for higher education will offset our having to fund the salary increases ourselves. We were able to get funding for the State Library's Knowledge Initiative, however, and Dr. Pruitt congratulated Norma Blake and her staff for their work on this.

Our work on acquiring Kuser Mansion is ongoing. Dr. Pruitt attended a meeting, arranged by Assembly Majority Leader Bonnie Watson-Coleman, with the State Treasurer, who is in favor of the acquisition. We will need to get a new appraisal, but we are optimistic that this will go forward. The College will also provide office space for the Trenton Public Education Foundation group's executive director. Our doing this fulfills our commitment to support community activities and the public schools.

Rosita Saez has resigned from the Board of Trustees as a consequence of a promotion at Wachovia that will require her to leave the state of New Jersey. Mr. Fricke has been nominated for reappointment, and we are awaiting word from the Governor's Appointments office on the progress of that reappointment.

Mr. Seaton presented a progress report on the development of our Periodic Review Report to Middle States. He circulated a handout that describes the general content of the report. He also described the process for developing the report.

REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Fricke reported on the meeting of the Administration and Finance committee and referred the group to the minutes of that meeting. In discussing the six-month financial results he commented that the difference between this year and last is tied to the timing of the state allocation disbursement. Mr. Fricke also commented that enrollment numbers are very encouraging and better than in the past. Military and continuing education course enrollments are growing, and our banking relationships for investment have also been successful.

Whatever the case may be, we need to diversify our enrollment streams such that we are not overly dependent on any one stream. We are well positioned in the marketplace, despite the increase in competition.

Mr. Fricke presented information on the bid waivers that are being requested at this time. The group discussed the way in which the bid waivers are described and received. An opinion was expressed that we might want to consider placing a cap on the amount any one course-construction consultant or mentor can receive in a given year, and this idea may well be considered in the future. However, it is clear that the process is always informed by the diligent search for truly qualified providers who can meet the needs of the college at the most efficient cost.

Each bid waiver was discussed in turn. A question as to why increasing numbers of print publications are not needed in light of growing enrollments was answered with a statement that much of what we do is now done electronically, thus eliminating the necessity for increased print publishing.

The “addendum bid waiver” request for consulting services to assist in a cultural “re-engineering” of the College was also discussed. Members asked questions about how the consultants would actually be working with the College, and Dr. Pruitt described the various workshops for managers and the recommendations for organizational renewal that have been made by the consultants. Mr. Fricke also expressed his confidence in the consultant group, based on their recent past performance and our resultant desire to expand their charge. This will be an investment in our most important asset: our people. The Board also looked at the data in the bid waiver tracking chart and agreed that most projects have been completed for less than the estimated costs.

CONSIDERATION OF BID WAIVERS

Mr. Fricke presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The “State College Contracts Law,” Chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes requires that any purchase exceeding \$26,200 must be publicly advertised for sealed bids in the local newspapers; and

WHEREAS: Section 5a of the additional article to Chapter 64 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes states that the College may waive the bidding procedures by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the College; and

WHEREAS: The purchasing policies of Thomas Edison State College approved by the Board of Trustees on October 10, 1986, provide for the granting of categorical prior approval and post reporting to the Board of such purchases; and

WHEREAS: Background information on each bid waiver will always be provided in one attached document entitled “Bid Waiver Request”; and

WHEREAS: The College is requesting bid waivers to do the following:

- use the services of mentors and course-construction consultants for the College’s Distance and Independent Adult Learning and Graduate Studies programs at a cost that may exceed the bid threshold of \$26,200;
- publish an Undergraduate Prospectus for 2007-2008 at an approximate cost of \$83,250 for 60,000 pieces;
- publish a Graduate Prospectus for 2007-2008 at an approximate cost of \$38,100 for 15,000 pieces;
- hold an annual Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning at the Doral Forrestal Conference Center in Princeton, New Jersey, at an approximate cost of \$50,000;

in accordance with the explanation and description of each project as set out in the attached “Bid Waiver Request”; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize bid waivers for the College and its affiliate, the New Jersey State Library, to do the following: use the services of mentors and course-construction consultants for the College's Distance and Independent Adult Learning and Graduate Studies programs at a cost that may exceed the bid threshold of \$26,200; publish an Undergraduate Prospectus for 2007-2008 at an approximate cost of \$83,250 for 60,000 pieces; publish a Graduate Prospectus for 2007-2008 at an approximate cost of \$38,100 for 15,000 pieces; purchase WebAdvisor from Datatel at an approximate cost of \$75,000; and hold an annual Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning at the Doral Forrestal Conference Center in Princeton, New Jersey, at an approximate cost of \$50,000.

Mr. Fricke moved, and Ms. Pearson seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF ADDENDUM BID WAIVER

Mr. Fricke presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The "State College Contracts Law," Chapter 64 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes requires that any purchase exceeding \$26,200 must be publicly advertised for sealed bids in the local newspapers; and

WHEREAS: Section 5a of the additional article to Chapter 64 Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes states that the College may waive the bidding procedures by resolution of the Board of Trustees of the College; and

WHEREAS: The purchasing policies of Thomas Edison State College approved by the Board of Trustees on October 10, 1986, provide for the granting of categorical prior approval and post reporting to the Board of such purchases; and

WHEREAS: Background information on each bid waiver will always be provided in an attached document entitled "Bid Waiver Request"; and

WHEREAS: The College is requesting a bid waiver to use the consulting services of Keeling & Associates, LLC, to assist in the ongoing effort to build a managerial and organizational culture that is aligned with both the goals of the Strategic Vision Plan and the College's fundamental goals for enrollment growth and increased competitiveness at a cost of approximately \$235,000 in accordance with the explanation and description of each project as set out in the attached "Bid Waiver Request"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees does hereby authorize a bid waiver for the College to do the following: use the consulting services of Keeling & Associates, LLC, to assist in the ongoing effort to build a managerial and organizational culture that is aligned with both the goals of the Strategic Vision Plan and the College's fundamental goals for enrollment growth and increased competitiveness at a cost of approximately \$235,000.

Mr. Fricke moved, and Mr. Abbate seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Mr. Abbate presented information on the meeting of the Academic Affairs committee. He described the rationale for merging the School of Arts and Sciences and the Heavin School into one school. Dr. Pruitt explained that Dean Lois Richardson's having taken a new position at another college provided us with the opportunity to fold the two schools together and achieve greater efficiencies and increase alignment. If the proposed resolution is passed, the new name of the school will be the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL TO MERGE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES AND HEAVIN SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES INTO ONE SCHOOL, THE HEAVIN SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Mr. Abbate presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College has the authority and the responsibility to determine the educational curricula and academic policies of the College; and

WHEREAS: The Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees has reviewed and concurred with the recommendation to merge the School of Arts and Sciences and the Heavin School of Social and Behavioral Sciences into one School, the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences as presented; and

WHEREAS: The President of the College recommends the proposal as presented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the recommendation to merge the School of Arts and Sciences and the Heavin School of Behavioral Sciences into one School, the Heavin School of Arts and Sciences as presented and incorporated herein by reference.

Mr. Abbate moved, and Reverend Justice seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Pruitt mentioned a future proposal, which will be brought to the Board in June, to create yet another College school. One of our John S. Watson Institute partners, the Urban Mayors' Association, has asked for academic assistance in building the capacity of mayoral and other city staff members by providing them with course and degree program offerings tailored to the work they do. There is a demand in the community for this, and, therefore, we would like to create an academic component (the John S. Watson School for Public Service) that would make use of our existing courses and programs, as

well as new ones, to build appropriate degree programs. In a related development, Dr. Pruitt attended a meeting with Senator Menendez to discuss getting a federal grant (a "compassion grant") through the Faith Based Initiative grants to fund such community activities. The senator, who approached the College for this, wants to take this on as a major "political" activity while the College heads up the intellectual work. We are also in conversation with the Governor's staff about this. We don't anticipate any complaints from other higher education institutions in New Jersey regarding our setting up a school with this mission, given their greater interest in scholarly research rather than practitioner-based activity in the urban arena.

CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE

Mr. Seaton presented information on the nature of our most recent graduating class relative to the types of degrees students have completed and the length of time they took to complete degree work. The large numbers of military students have had an effect on both of these areas: there are more Applied Science and Technology graduates, and the time to completion is slightly longer since military students come to us with fewer credits in transfer. Mr. Seaton presented the following resolution:

The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the awarding of the appropriate degrees to those March 9, 2007, candidates indicated on the lists provided and incorporated herein by reference.

The action herein taken is pursuant to a certification by the President that the aforementioned candidates have satisfied all relevant degree requirements as recommended by the Academic Council and as established by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Pearson moved, and Mr. Carnevale seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried with Mr. Lampman abstaining (he is listed on the roster of graduates).

CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT RENEWALS

Dr. Pruitt presented a resolution for contract renewals as follows:

The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the contract recommendations as indicated on the lists provided and incorporated herein by reference.

The action taken herein is pursuant to an evaluation of each employee's work performance and the recommendation of the President.

Mr. Abbate moved, and Mr. Fricke seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. Pruitt presented the following resolution:

The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve all appointments as indicated on the lists provided and incorporated herein by reference.

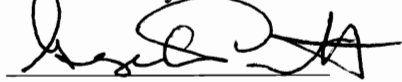
The action herein taken is pursuant to a recommendation by the President of the College.

Mr. Fricke moved, and Reverend Justice seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

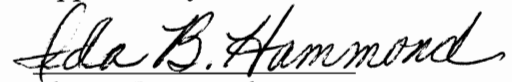
There being no further business, Mr. Fricke made, and Mr. Arndt seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Submitted by,



George A. Pruitt
Secretary of the Board

Approved by,



Ida B. Hammond
Chairperson