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MINUTES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE

September 10, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: J. Stanley Justice, Chair; Eric Lear, Vice-Chair; George Pruitt; Fred Abbate; Richard Arndt; Ida Hammond; E. Harvey Myers; Stacy Slomko, Student; and Debra Schmelzer, Student.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Marilyn Pearson and Gualberto Medina

ALSO PRESENT: William Seaton, Vice President and Provost; Michael Scheiring, Vice President and Treasurer; Penelope Brouwer, Vice President for Planning and Research; John Thurber, Vice President for Public Affairs; Mary Ellen Caro, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Learner Services; Norma Blake, New Jersey State Librarian; Ann Marie Senior, Director/Office of Institutional Research; Jane Letts-Parvesse, Auditor; Terri Tallon-Hammill; Linda Vasbinder, and Karen Bittner.

Reverend Justice officially called the public meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., followed by a statement of public notice pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act NJSA 10:4-6 to 10:4-21.

SWEARING IN OF STUDENT TRUSTEE

Reverend Justice presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS: New Jersey state law and the Bylaws of Thomas Edison State College provide for student representation on the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS: Said Bylaws specify criteria for the selection of student trustees; and

WHEREAS: The President of the College has certified that Debra E. Schmelzer meets the criteria; and

WHEREAS: The President of the College does hereby nominate Debra E. Schmelzer as a student trustee alternate in accordance with the procedures of the Board; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby elect Debra E. Schmelzer as student trustee alternate effective September 10, 2010, for a term of one year, followed thereby as student trustee for a period of one year, which shall conclude at the annual meeting of the Board to be held in June 2012.

Ms. Hammond made, and Mr. Abbate seconded a motion to accept the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Schmelzer read the oath of office and was congratulated and welcomed by the group.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 4, 2010 meeting were presented by Reverend Justice for approval and adoption.

Mr. Arndt made, and Mr. Abbate seconded a motion to accept the minutes with a correction to the Honorary Degree Recipient resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF FY 2010 AUDIT REPORT

Dr. Pruitt pointed out that today's report and action is preliminary in that the Administration and Finance committee will consider the audit in detail at its November meeting. The audit will be brought back for approval to the full Board at the December 2010 meeting. He also pointed out that the audit report affirms the College's excellent financial position. Auditor Jane Letts-Parvesse presented a report using the draft financial statement. She noted that all significant policies are disclosed in the audit and that no difficulties were encountered in performing the audit.

Ms. Hammond made, and Mr. Abbate seconded a motion to accept the audit. The motion carried unanimously.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Pruitt greeted the group. Barbara Kleva, the former deputy attorney general, who joined Thomas Edison State College recently as general counsel was introduced. Dr. Pruitt noted that Barbara's knowledge and experience will be an asset to the College.

In other remarks, Dr. Pruitt reported that the Governor's budget was passed and signed inclusive of Thomas Edison State College, although we lost \$3.5 million of appropriations. The College's surplus for FY 2010 is a bit misleading. Dr. Pruitt reported that he petitioned the Treasurer to return the money that had been cut, and to transfer the leases of our buildings to the College for full administration of the facilities.

In addition, Dr. Pruitt discussed the last minute passing of the pension reform bill. The bill prohibits pension contributions to individuals earning over \$140,000 annually. All 12 senior public universities are discussing a resolution to the bill. A proposal to remedy this action will be brought back to the Board for consideration.

Norma Blake informed the Board of a \$7.5 million grant obtained from stimulus money, including a match made by the Gates Foundation. This recent award to the library is for the purpose of increasing broadband capabilities. The grants come at a time when the demand for high-speed Internet access is growing faster than our libraries can provide.

Dr. Pruitt discussed refreshment of the Strategic Vision Plan. He requested that each Board member review the revision as it appears in the Annual Report for discussion at the December 2010 meeting. Although the College is managing its fiscal issues, Dr. Pruitt expressed that the plan is achievable.

Aside from the Annual Report, Dr. Pruitt also informed the Board that the Governor will be nominating J. Stanley Justice and Fred Abbate for reappointment to the College's Board of Trustees. Dr. Pruitt indicated that he is very pleased with the Governor's appointments. Additionally, Dr. Pruitt spoke briefly about the work of the Governor's Task Force. He indicated that members of the group have been charged with a lot of work. A completion date of December 1, 2010, is expected. Mr. Arndt expressed appreciation for Dr. Pruitt's leadership throughout the merger event. Similar comments were shared collectively by members of the Board.

Dr. Pruitt introduced Dr. Senior's presentation on year-end enrollment numbers. Following the presentation, Dr. Pruitt summarized that our traditional student and contract populations are still growing, providing indication that the College continues to be an affordable institution.

CONSIDERATION OF BID WAIVER

Dr. Pruitt gave explanation regarding a universal approach to collecting data relative to enrollment, retention, and attrition. He expressed the need to develop a normative pattern for assessing the kind of experiences our students have and the quality of our programs, without excessively surveying our students. Ms. Hammond remarked that this was a good idea and requested to see the report when finalized.

Reverend Justice 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 \$30,100 must be publicly advertised for sealed bids in the local newspapers; and
- WHEREAS:** Section 5A of the additional article to Chapter 64 of 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:** The Colleges seeks to engage a consulting firm to do a comprehensive review of the College's current quality assurance - vital signs efforts; and
- WHEREAS:** This study should result in deliverables provided for cyclical data collection, analysis and communication that supports the formation of institutional evidence based on metrics and definable outcomes, at a cost not to exceed \$250,000; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby enable the College to secure consulting services to complete this competitive review of quality assurance - vital signs efforts.

Dr. Abbate made, and Ms. Hammond seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY REGULATIONS

New Jersey State Librarian, Norma Blake, provided details regarding the need to readopt library regulations. She explained that current regulations had been reviewed with the library community resulting in a unified determination that the rules should be readopted with amendments.

Reverend Justice presented the following resolution:

- WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees holds the College and its affiliate, the New Jersey State Library, pursuant to P.L. 2001, c.137, in trust for the public, representing the public interest in governance, policies and development of the College and Library; and
- WHEREAS:** The Board of Trustees has the authority over all matters concerning the supervision and operations of the College and the New Jersey State Library; and

WHEREAS: Changes to the Regulations have been proposed and public comment has been received and assessed in accord with N.J.A.C. 1:30-1 et seq.; and

WHEREAS: It is now time to readopt with amendments the Library Regulations 15:21 State Aid and Grants, and 15:22 Library Network Services during, FY 2011; and

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees concurs with the proposed readoption and amendments as they will be presented to the Office of Administrative Law; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby readopt the Library Regulations as incorporated herein by reference.

Ms. Hammond made, and Mr. Arndt seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Dr. Abbate presented the report of the Academic Affairs Committee by introducing the accelerated second degree option for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. He outlined student eligibility for entrance into the program as well as the requirements for taking the nursing examination. Mr. Seaton added that this program allows students who have already earned a bachelor's degree to move into a new career field.

Dr. 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 curriculum and academic policies of the College; and

WHEREAS: The Academic Council has reviewed and approved the Accelerated Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing option as presented; and

WHEREAS: The President has reviewed and concurred with the recommendation as presented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the Accelerated Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing option as presented and incorporated herein by reference.

Dr. Abbate made, and Ms. Hammond seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREE

Dr. Abbate introduced the resolution for degree candidates. Mr. Seaton pointed out that this is the largest group of graduates the Board has approved. Dr. Pruitt added that we have outgrown the War memorial and introduced the idea of having two commencements a year.

Dr. Abbate presented the following resolution:

The Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the awarding of the appropriate degrees to those September 10, 2010, candidates cited 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.

Dr. Abbate made, and Ms. Hammond seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL ACTIONS

Dr. Pruitt talked about several new appointments and added that many were due to the creation of substantially different jobs, not necessarily new hires.

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. Arndt made, and Mr. Lear seconded a motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Pruitt talked about several changes in the structure and fiscal management of higher education and amendments to various parts of the statutory law based on the Lesinak Bill. As such, changes to our bylaws and committee structure must be implemented. A copy of the current bylaws noting areas of revision was distributed to each Board member. Recommended changes to the bylaws will be presented at the December 2010 meeting for final approval. In addition, a list of committees and committee members as outlined by the new statute was distributed to Board members for review.

The Nominating Committee met on August 23, 2010, to discuss recommendations for the FY 2011 Board chair and vice chair. The Committee presented their recommendations to the Board by recommending Reverend J. Stanley Justice and Eric Lear as chair and vice chair, respectively.

Dr. Abbate made, and Ms. Hammond seconded a motion to reelect Reverend Justice and Mr. Lear to their current chair positions. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Arndt made, and Ms. Hammond seconded, a motion to adopt a resolution to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Reverend Justice introduced a resolution to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the annual evaluation of the President.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-13 and 10:4-12 that the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College hold a closed session at 12:00 noon or immediately following the public meeting of September 10, 2010, for the purpose of discussing the annual evaluation of the President.

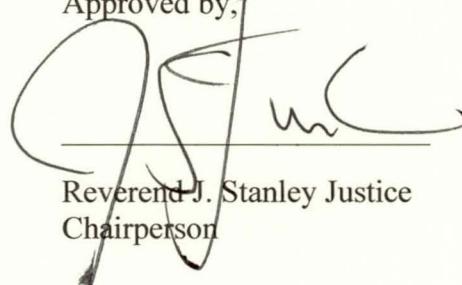
It is expected that the discussion undertaken in closed session will not be made public due to the confidentiality of this matter.

Submitted by,



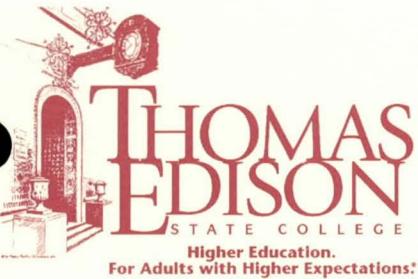
George A. Pruitt
Secretary of the Board

Approved by,



Reverend J. Stanley Justice
Chairperson

Democrat
Party



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A RESOLUTION
BY THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF
THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY

September 10, 2010

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

WHEREAS: The Academic Council has reviewed and approved the Accelerated Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing option as presented; and

WHEREAS: The President has reviewed and concurred with the recommendation as presented; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the Accelerated Second Degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing option as presented and incorporated herein by reference.

Approved: September 10, 2010

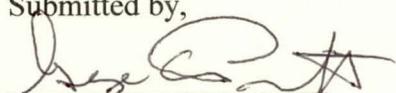

Dr. George A. Pruitt, President, Thomas Edison State College

Mr. Medina made, and Mr. Abbate seconded, the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

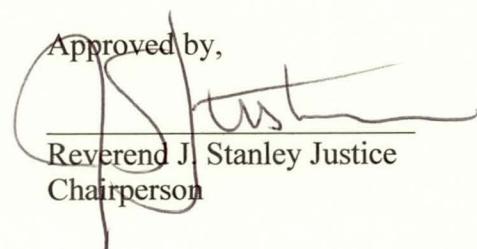
Mr. Abbate made, and Mr. Arndt seconded, the motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by,



George A. Pruitt
Secretary of the Board

Approved by,



Reverend J. Stanley Justice
Chairperson