



*Office of the President*  
*(609) 984-1105*  
*Fax: (609) 989-9321*  
*gpruitt@tesc.edu*

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

### **THOMAS EDISON STATE COLLEGE**

**July 17, 2006**

**MEMBERS PRESENT** Ida Hammond, Chair; Marilyn Pearson, Vice-Chair;  
**TELEPHONICALLY:** Richard Arndt; George Fricke; J. Stanley Justice; Jack Lampman, Student.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Fred Abbate; George A. Pruitt, President

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Nicholas Carnevale; Rosita Saez; E. Harvey Myers

**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; Linda Vasbinder, Confidential Assistant to the President; Norma Blake, New Jersey State Librarian; Philip Sanders, Bursar; Ann Klopp, Union Representative.

Chairman Ida Hammond, who noted that the date, time, and location for the meeting had been published in accordance with New Jersey law, officially called the public meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President reported that the state budget was finally approved on July 8, 2006, after an unprecedented shut-down in state government. While the College remained open during the closure, the State Library did not. We have been advised by state officials that public employees, including those at the State Library, would not lose any compensation as a result of the state closure.

The results of the approved budget were mixed for the College. The good news is that approximately half of the proposed cuts were restored. This restoration includes the \$314,000 line item for the Watson Institute as well as the \$300,000 base adjustment that had been misclassified as a "legislative initiative." Of great importance is the fact that the state restored funding to cover its fringe benefit obligations for the College's staff. We are also pleased that the State Library was flat funded and received no cuts in state support. The down side of this budget is that the College lost the equivalent of \$1.7 million in state support as follows: (1) approximately \$500,000 cut in direct operating aid; (2) no funding for the salary program, which was approximately \$900,000; and (3) HINT funding of \$250,000 was not approved. In addition, the \$6 million renewal of the State Library Knowledge initiative was not in the budget.

There were also two significant "language provisions," contained in the budget act. First, there was a cap on undergraduate in-state tuition and fee increases of 8 percent. Second, there was a prohibition against any appropriation restored to colleges (above the Governor's original recommendation) being used to support managerial salaries or additional administrative positions. The President further reported that due to the restorations and appropriations in the approved budget, he was planning to recommend that the tuition increase be reduced from the 10 percent originally proposed to the current 8 percent, regardless of the tuition cap. The President reiterated the College's recommendation to the Board, as endorsed by the Finance Committee, that tuition and fees be increased by 8 percent.

The President further reported that mandated salary increases for college employees covered by bargaining units would be approximately 8 percent. Accordingly, the President reported his intention of awarding managerial salary increases of 4 percent, effective July 1, 2006. The President indicated that this action did not violate the provisions of the budget act.

#### **REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Fricke recapped the information on the May 22, 2006, Committee meeting formerly presented at the June 9, 2006, Board of Trustees meeting, stating that the Administration and Finance Committee had discussed the options available regarding tuition and fees for FY 2007. Given the state budget situation, Mr. Fricke reported that the Administration and Finance Committee was now recommending that an 8-percent fee increase for FY 2007 be made effective August 1, 2006.

Mr. Fricke presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS: The "Higher Education Restructuring Act of 1994," Chapter 48 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes requires the governing boards of public institutions to conduct public hearings prior to the date of the adoption of a tuition or fee schedule; and**

**WHEREAS:** The Administration and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees held a public hearing at Thomas Edison State College on June 26, 2006; and

**WHEREAS:** The Administration and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees has recommended the approval of the proposed tuition and fee changes to be effective August 1, 2006, as indicated on the schedule provided; and

**WHEREAS:** The action herein taken is pursuant to a recommendation by the President; now, therefore, be it

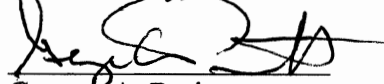
**RESOLVED:** That the Board of Trustees of Thomas Edison State College does hereby approve the proposed schedule of tuition and fees as recommended and incorporated herein by reference, effective August 1, 2006.

George Fricke moved, and Dick Arndt seconded, a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

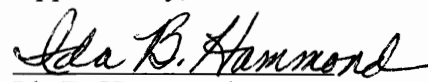
There being no further business, George Fricke moved, and Fred Abbate seconded, a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Submitted by,



George A. Pruitt  
Secretary of the Board

Approved by,



Ida B. Hammond  
Chairperson