

**MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

May 16, 2013

Minutes

The External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College held a meeting on Thursday, May 16, 2013 at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, 2nd Floor, Seminar Room A, Houston, Texas.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandie Mullins, *Committee Chair*
Yolanda Navarro Flores, *Committee Member*
Neeta Sane, *Committee Member*
Carroll G. Robinson, Alternate Committee Member
Bruce A. Austin
Leila Feldman
Yolanda Navarro Flores
Herlinda Garcia

ADMINISTRATION

Renee Byas, Acting Chancellor
Art Tyler, Deputy Chancellor/COO
Destinee Waiters, Acting General Counsel
Shantay Grays, Executive Officer to the Chancellor
Charles Cook Vice Chancellor, Instruction
Diana Pino, Vice Chancellor, Student Success
Margaret Ford Fisher, President, Northeast College
Fena Garza, President, Southwest College
William Harmon, President, Central College
Butch Herod for Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College
Mike Edwards for Betty Young, President, Coleman College
Remmele Young, Executive Director, Government Relations & Sustainability
Karen Edwards, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Jarvis Hollingsworth, System Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani
Todd Bisch, President, Faculty Senate
Other administrators, citizens and representatives from the news media

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mullins, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m. and declared the Committee convened to consider matters pertaining to Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ANY OTHER RELATED BOARD ACTION, AS NECESSARY
Motion – Mrs. Sane moved and Ms. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Remmele Young provided an update on the following the legislative:

Senate Bill 1 (Principal Appropriations Bill)/CSS 1 (Decreases HCC funding from the prior biennium amount of \$68.9 million to \$68.4 million)

(Mr. Austin joined the meeting at 3:06 p.m.)

Mr. Robinson inquired of the cost in general operating funding regarding the group health insurance. Dr. Tyler apprised that the amount is approximately \$4 million. He noted that it places a constraint on growth because additional employee benefits would have to be paid by the institution at one hundred percent.

Mr. Robinson inquired if the base is known and inquired of the number of eligible employees. Dr. Tyler informed that approximately eight percent of the 6,000 employees are eligible.

Mr. Robinson recommended that administration verify the number of eligible employees. Mrs. Byas apprised that the anticipated amount has been allocated in the budget for 2013-2014.

House Bill 1025 (Makes adjustments in funding already received)

Dr. Tyler noted that the \$8.1 million has been allocated as the required repayment and informed that it is likely community colleges would have to pay the funding back to the state.

Mr. Robinson inquired if the amount is a part of the general fund balance. Dr. Tyler noted that it is in a separate fund and is not counted as a part of the fund balance.

House Bill 1373 (Hire Local First Legislation)

Mr. Robinson informed that if the target is 2015, there should be an RFQ that will secure a consultant firm that does not have a conflict of interest. He apprised that additional individuals are needed.

Ms. Mullins inquired as to how soon an RFQ could go out. Mr. Anasagasti noted that it could be done expeditiously.

Senate Bill 414 (Relating to authorization of the THECB for certain junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs)

Mr. Young informed that a meeting was held and noted that should the bill pass, the parties will reconvene to review how the process would be implemented. He apprised that the bill was left pending, but it is anticipated that it will move forward.

Mr. Robinson noted that he previously mentioned that the team needs to continue working even during the off season. He noted that the SB 414 expresses the imperativeness of having a team in place at all times.

(Mr. Austin stepped out at 3:24 p.m.)

Mr. Young informed that Senator Rodney Ellis is a major supporter of this bill and assisted in moving the bill forward.

House Bill 5 Relating to Senate Floor Amendment No. 9 (Proposed ISD Legislation)

Mr. Young apprised that the bill allows independent school districts (ISDs) to unilaterally choose the community college with which an ISD would contact when seeking dual credit programs for ISD students.

Mrs. Sane noted that the college is in support of HB 5 without any amendments.

Mr. Robinson informed that he has been highly disappointed in the lobbying efforts. He noted that this is the reason that the selection could not be done by RFP. He noted that the comments are not to knock anyone but to acknowledge that it places the institution in a tough bind. He informed that the team needs to be situated to do certain things even during the off season.

Mr. Robinson apprised that if HCC continues to strategize that students will automatically come to HCC, then the institution will remain a 75,000 enrollment college. He noted that an effort has to be made to attract more students.

(Mr. Robinson stepped out at 3:32 p.m.)

Mrs. Sane inquired if there is a way to have a joint proposition with ISDs that they are not in agreement with the amendment. Mr. Young informed that there is opposition to the amendment. He noted that HB 5 has the possibility of passing regardless of Floor Amendment 9.

(Mr. Robinson returned at 3:33 p.m.)

(Mrs. Flores arrived at 3:35 p.m.)

Mr. Young provided an overview of the following bills:

- HB 972: Concealed Carry on Campuses
- HB 2448: Students Outside a Junior College Service Area to Pay In-district tuition
- HB 2668: Governing Board Meetings Internet/Website Posting Requirement
- HB 3659: Portions of Ft. Bend County Encompassing Houston and Pearland in HCC Service Area
- SB 1812: Community College Statute Agreement Regarding Health Insurance and Retirement Cost
- SB 15: Higher Education Governing Boards Duties and Responsibilities

UPDATE ON STUDENT MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Ms. Mullins apprised that the item will move to the next External Relations Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Recorded, transcribed and submitted by:
Sharon R. Wright, Manager, Board Services

Minutes Approved: June 25, 2013