

D R A F T

**DELTA COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DINNER MEETING
May 12, 2009
Delta College Main Campus N 7**

Board Present: R. Emrich, K. Houston-Philpot, T. Lane, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, E. Selby, R. Stafford, D. Wacksman

Board Absent: K. Higgs

Others Present: J. Goodnow, D. Lutz, L. Myles-Sanders, B. Baker, P. Clark, C. Drouse, S. Goddard, L. Govitz, M. Frost, J. Gleason, P. Graves, T. Grunow, S. Hartshorn, D. Harris, E. Heil, J. Knochel, T. Kubatzke, M. Looby, J. Miller, C. Morley, M. Mosqueda, K. Nichols, L. Ramseyer, K. Randolph, D. Redman, S. Romer, P. Seidel, A. Sinclair, T. Stitt, A. Ursuy, J. VandeZande, B. Webb, K. Wilson, M. Wiltse, M. Wood

Press Present: Patty Brandt, Bay City Times

Chairperson K. Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Karen Wilson introduced Mary Beth Looby, Katrina Nichols, and Mike Wood, and gave an overview of the recent history of developmental education at Delta College. In 2004 the decision was made to enforce prerequisites, and in 2006 Mary Beth Looby was asked to lead the team whose work led to development of Action Plans as part of the AQIP accreditation process in 2007, 2008, and again in 2009.

Mary Beth Looby reminded everyone that developmental education has been around for many years, referring to students at Harvard in the 17th century who could not speak Latin and needed tutors. ACT's 2007 Rigor at Risk Report showed that 75% of the high school students tested as part of the class of 2006 needed to take at least one developmental class, and 19% needed developmental coursework in all subjects (reading, math, English, science).

Robert McCabe's 2003 book, Yes We Can! reported that nearly half of entering community college students are academically underprepared, 33% of the students are deficient in all basic areas, 33% in two of the three basic areas, and 33% in only one area. Although 80% of new jobs will require some postsecondary education, only 42% of today's students leave high school with the necessary skills to begin college-level work. Each year one million students—one in four—who enter higher education are underprepared.

The developmental education team has completed National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) Certification Training, and their goal is that at completion of the 2009/2010 AQIP Action Project, the success rate for developmental education students at Delta will be equal to or better than the NADE national averages. NADE does not count students who withdraw, but the Delta team feels that we need to look into reasons why students withdraw.

Mr. Selby asked what the benefits of NADE certification are, and team members responded that it provides awareness of programs that work and of national success benchmarks. Dr.

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Lane, Karen Lawrence-Webster and Dr. Emrich asked about ways in which Delta plans to work with local school districts. Mike Wood described the reports that Dr. Goodnow gives to local superintendants and principals when she meets with them, and Dr. Goodnow identified some of the challenges. Dr. Lane said that K-12 faculty are skilled professionals who deal with challenges we cannot imagine, encouraging the College to continue to work toward greater collaboration. Ms. Lawrence-Webster said she would welcome further reports in the future.

Debra Lutz presented the recommendation of the Budget Cabinet and President that 2009-2010 tuition and fees be frozen at 2008-2009 levels. She thanked members of the Cabinet and provided both a historical and current context, comparing current levels with history and with those of other colleges and universities. Delta is one of only ten colleges that qualified for the Michigan tuition tax credit last year. For the same 30 credits Delta's tuition was \$2,667 compared with an average of \$8,754 at four year colleges and universities.

Dr. Emrich noted the greater dependence of universities on tuition and state aid, and Ms. Lutz pointed out that Delta has lost the same proportion of state aid as have the universities, while property tax revenues have not made up the difference. Mr. Selby said that the public needs to know how Delta's tuition rates compare with those of others. Kim Houston-Philpot pointed out that the ground is shifting for everyone, and colleges and universities across the country are under considerable pressure. Ms Lutz closed by noting that the zero increase in tuition and fees is built into the 2009-2010 budget model, and that she foresees more difficult challenges in future budgets.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary