

**DELTA COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DINNER MEETING
August 10, 2010
Delta College Main Campus Room N 7**

Board Present: K. Ellison, R. Emrich, K. Higgs, K. Houston-Philpot, J. MacKenzie, E. Selby, R. Stafford, D. Wacksman

Board Absent: K. Lawrence-Webster

Others Present: J. Goodnow, B. Baker, P. Clark, L. Govitz, P. Graves, T. Grunow, S. Hartshorn, A. Hill, G. Hoffman-Johnson, L. Holoman, T. Kubatzke, T. Lane, D. Lutz, J. Miller, S. Montesi, M. Mosqueda, L. Myles-Sanders, G. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, J. Stahl, A. Ursuy, B. Webb

Press Present: J. Hall, WSGW (arrived 6:45 p.m.)

Chairperson Kim Houston-Philpot called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. She introduced the topic: "Policy Governance: Follow On to June 2010 Special Board Meeting (with Dr. Donald Burns)," and recalled the Board's prior meetings with Dr. Bumphus and Dr. Spilde on the topic of policy governance. Responding to a question from Dr. Emrich, she said that the goal is not to fundamentally change what the Board does, but to improve it.

Moving to the last four of the ten principles of trusteeship discussed with Dr. Burns, she stated the principle, "Boards address the means used by staff to achieve the ends by defining as policy the boundaries beyond which staff must not go. The definitions comprise the Executive Limitations policies," and asked for comment on three questions: 1. Does this principle make sense? 2. How are we doing? and 3. How could we improve? After some discussion the Chair stated the consensus that we look internally for what we have already (President's job description and evaluation, Senate ethical principles) and look to external benchmarks in what other colleges have done.

On the eighth principle, "Boards are responsible for designing their own job responsibilities and standards for board practice, defined in the Governance Process policies," Dr. Emrich said the Bylaws call for annual review and Earl Selby suggested, "give it a year. There is nothing like experience." Dr. Goodnow called the first section of the Senate Handbook to the Board's attention, particularly the section on governance; Scanlon Romer said that a committee to review that policy, including Board member Bob Stafford, has been appointed. Dr. Goodnow also pointed out the Board policy decisions project of Leslie Myles-Sanders and Andrea Ursuy which involves compiling all board actions (from a historical perspective) and identifying those that are not included in the current Senate Policy Handbook. She said more information will be coming to the Board soon.

The ninth principle states that “Boards define relationships with management that are empowering, responsible, and clear. The relationships are stated in Board-CEO Relationship policies.” Dr. Goodnow noted the Operating Parameters and Mr. Selby referred to the President’s contract. There was extensive discussion in which Board members Selby, Stafford, Emrich, Houston-Philpot, Wacksman supported sending complaints and questions to the President and contacting staff through or with her. Timing of responses and the extent of time invested in them were discussed. Mr. Selby expressed satisfaction with the President has judgment and there is no need to set parameters that box her in; Ms. Houston-Philpot said there needs to be a conversation with give and take, respect and trust. Ms. Lutz said staff could be confused and time wasted if 9 Board members were contacting staff directly, asking for action or information. Ms. Houston-Philpot reminded Board members of Dr. Lane’s caution that the Board “should not get down in the weeds.”

Mr. MacKenzie and Dr. Emrich pointed out the difficulty of responding to anonymous letters; Dr. Goodnow, Ms. Wacksman and Mr. Stafford said that the claims should at least be investigated. Mr. Higgs brought up a letter of two months ago, and Dr. Goodnow reminded him that she had responded and that the matter is confidential. Mr. Selby said it is important to the institution that communication be professional, respectful and confidential until the President has time to investigate both sides of the story; it is not fair to the College, the staff or the community to put allegations out in the media without prior investigation, and information entrusted to Board members in confidence needs to be held in confidence. Ms. Houston-Philpot identified this as an example of what should not occur.

The tenth policy principle states that “Institutional performance is monitored rigorously against policy criteria. The third job responsibility of the Board is to assure executive and institutional performance through monitoring progress toward Ends and adherence to Limitations.” Dr. Emrich suggested that the President’s goals are institutional goals and evaluation of the President addresses this principle. Ms. Houston-Philpot would distinguish the President’s performance from institutional performance. Mr. Selby said that this principle represents a paradigm shift. He felt it is too big and means too many different things to do haphazardly, or to load it all onto the President. Dr. Goodnow agreed. She said that monitoring reports would address this principle, whereas the President’s goals tend to be at the 30,000 foot level; the Board identifies what results it wants to see, and the President and staff figure out how to get there. As examples: regarding community partnerships, where does the Board see the greatest need? Regarding student success, what does the Board see that Delta should do to meet President Obama’s goal to double graduation rates?

Board chair Houston-Philpot returned the discussion to the third item on the dinner meeting agenda, Board desired next steps. She reminded them of the Board self evaluation process they have chosen and said it will be coming to them electronically from the Institutional Research office. The Board consensus in June was to organize meetings with community “owners; she asked the Board to think about the different

constituencies such as education, government, and business. Dr. Goodnow will have monitoring information to share with the Board.

There being no further business, the dinner meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary