

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

**February 13, 2015**

**Minutes**

The External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College held a meeting on Friday, February 13, 2015, at the HCC Administration Building, Second Floor Auditorium, 3100 Main, Houston, Texas.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Sandie Mullins, *Chair*  
Eva Loreda, *Committee Member*  
Carroll G. Robinson, *Committee Member*  
David B. Wilson, *Alternate Committee Member*  
Zeph Capo  
Robert Glaser  
Adriana Tamez

**ADMINISTRATION**

Cesar Maldonado, Chancellor  
Shantay Grays, Chief of Staff  
E. Ashley Smith, Acting General Counsel  
Kimberly Beatty, Vice Chancellor, Instructions and Chief Academic Officer  
William Carter, Vice Chancellor, Information Technology  
Diana Pino, Vice Chancellor, Student Services  
Teri Zamora, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Planning  
Margaret Ford Fisher, President, Northeast College  
Fena Garza, President, Southwest College  
William Harmon, President, Central College  
Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College  
Irene Porcarello, President, Southeast College  
Janet May, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Remmele Young, Associate Vice Chancellor, Governmental and External Relations

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Derrick Mitchell, Board Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani  
Other administrators, citizens and representatives from the news media

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Carroll G. Robinson, Acting Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:38 p.m. and declared the Board convened to consider matters pertaining to Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

*(The following Trustees were present: Capo, Glaser, Loreda, Robinson, and Wilson)*

**HCC 2016 APPLICATION TO THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

Motion – Ms. Loredo moved and Mr. Wilson seconded.

Dr. Cesar Maldonado informed that Mr. Chase Untermeyer was present to provide an update on the status of the application for Presidential Debate.

*(Ms. Mullins joined the meeting at 2:44 p.m.)*

Mr. Untermeyer provided an update to include the meetings held, site visit and logistic requirements for possibly hosting the presidential or vice presidential debate for 2016. He informed that if the application submission, which is due by March 31, 2015, is authorized that a non-refundable fee of \$8,000 is due at the time of application. Mr. Untermeyer apprised that the host institution would be required to provide half of the fee (approximately \$1 million) up front upon approval of the application.

Mr. Untermeyer noted that when a campus is selected to host a debate, the campus responsibility is to carry out the will of the Commission and the Secret Service. He informed the cost of hosting would be higher than the amount estimated. Mr. Untermeyer apprised that additional expenses would not be known until additional site visits are made by the Committee. He noted that the announcement would be made within a year of the event.

Mr. Untermeyer informed that the amount of private fund raising money that will be required would be in the single digit millions. He apprised that the idea of possibility hosting the presidential debate would spark enthusiasm. He noted that the process is non-partisan and informed that volunteerism is encouraged.

Mr. Robinson expressed appreciation to Dr. Maldonado for picking up the ball and completing due diligence. He apprised that he expressed to the Chancellor to not go forth if there is a possibility of not raising the funds.

Mr. Wilson noted that he would like to see the initiative explored further.

Ms. Loredo informed that it is exciting and she would like to see it move forward.

Mr. Glaser apprised that it is an exciting opportunity. He inquired if funds would need to be raised in addition to the \$1.9 million. Mr. Untermeyer noted that the first \$1 million would need to be raised after the technical team visits and the additional funds would be due prior to the event. He informed that there would be a need for additional funding to cover the cost of reconfiguration of the hall for the debate, trailers, extra power, etc.

Ms. Mullins apprised that the idea is good; however, the return on investment is scary but noted that it is possible to raise the funds. She informed that the timing is right. Ms. Mullins apprised that she would not want to infringe on the Foundation or take away from their mission.

Mr. Robinson recommended approving with periodic updates. He noted that there are individuals who have the ability to assist with the fundraising side. He informed that his thought was that everything would be handled through the Foundation.

Mr. Capo apprised that his thought was that it would go through the Foundation and if the effort does not proceed, the funds would go to the Foundation.

Dr. Maldonado noted that upon approval by the Board, he would immediately reach out to a consultant.

Mr. Glaser inquired of the action recommended. Dr. Maldonado informed that the approval would include the application and fee as well as engaging consultants to assist in the process.

Mr. Robinson inquired if the consultants were above the signature authority would it come before the Board for approval. Dr. Maldonado apprised that the approval over \$75,000 would be brought before the Board.

Vote – The motion passed with a vote of 4-0.

*(Dr. Tamez joined the meeting at 3:07 p.m.)*

#### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Remmele Young provided a legislative update to include the following.

- Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) 5-Point Plan
- State Revenue Projection/LBB Recommendations
- Hire Local First
- Baccalaureate Degree Expansion
- Property Tax Reform
- Workforce and Skills Alignment
- Measuring and Funding Student Success
- College Readiness
- Transfer Articulation
- Texans in Community Colleges
- State Revenue Projections

Mr. Capo inquired that if Community Colleges are receiving 10% then where is the remaining 90%. Mr. Young noted that the remaining goes to four-year institutions.

Ms. Mullins inquired if HCC is assisting in defining articulation as it means many different things. Mr. Young informed that in the context it is referencing articulation such as moving students from HCC to the University of Houston. He apprised that the hope is to enhance or improve the articulation agreement process.

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Ms. Mullins noted that legislators need to know that a transfer is only a piece of the articulation. She informed that articulation is defined in many different ways. Dr. Maldonado apprised that credit is received for certificate as it relates to momentum points. He noted that there is a conversation engaged regarding the completer and informed that the effort is to clarify the transition of students into the workforce and/or the academic area.

Mr. Robinson apprised that there should be a follow-up with the Greater Houston Partnership regarding the Hire Local First.

Mr. Wilson inquired as to when the advisory committee recommendation regarding procurement procedures will be provided to the Board. Dr. Maldonado noted that the committee recommendations should be coming before the Board in April 2015.

*(Mr. Robinson stepped out at 3:25 p.m.)*

Mr. Young informed that the hope is to get others to sign on with the Baccalaureate Degree expansion.

Mr. Wilson apprised that letters were received on the federal level to support the effort.

Ms. Loreda noted that there should be an effort to make it possible to work together with four-year institutions.

Mr. Young presented key dates and events as follows:

- Key Dates and Events
  - Community College Day – February 2, 2015
  - Deadline for filing bills – March 13, 2015
  - Gulf Coast Colleges' Members reception in Austin
  - 2015 National Legislative Summit/Congressional Member reception and Capitol Hill visits
  - Regular Session ends – June 1, 2015
  - Last day governor can sign/veto bills during regular session – June 21, 2015

Mr. Capo informed that he had the pleasure of escorting the Northeast College Student Government Association through meetings in Austin and noted that it was a highlight of the visit.

Ms. Mullins referenced the Property Tax Reform and inquired of the purpose. She inquired if the college is requesting houses to be overvalued. Mr. Capo apprised that is the opposite of what was discussed. He noted that there is a discrepancy in comparison to how homes are appraised versus commercial property.

Ms. Mullins inquired who is carrying the bill. She requested to understand the effort. Dr. Maldonado noted that dialogue is engaged with the legislators regarding the bill.

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Mr. Wilson informed that there is a reason the tax for commercial property is different.

Mr. Robinson apprised that the effort is to get a final balance between commercial and residential valuations.

Mr. Glaser apprised that the valuations have become skewed between residential and commercial properties and noted that businesses should pay the fair value on their property, which is not being done.

Ms. Loredo inquired of the number of individuals on the legislative team. Mr. Young informed that there are five members on the state team and only he and the Chancellor on the federal level.

Mr. Robinson apprised that he supports reviewing the options of engaging a federal team in the future. He recommended that the federal team focus on agencies as opposed to Capitol Hill.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business coming before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

*Minutes recorded, transcribed & submitted by:*  
Sharon Wright, Manager, Board Services

Minutes Approved as Submitted: April 16, 2015