

COD Observers Report

Observers: Julie Nolan and Peggy McGrath

Date of Meeting: 26 August 2010

Board or Commission: COD Board of Trustees

Meeting Started: 7:09 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:53 p.m. to go into closed session

Officials Present: All trustees but student trustee who was absent due to family emergency; College President; 20-22 Administrative staff and faculty

Estimates of public attendance: 9-11, excluding Observers

Presentations: COD received, for the 17th year, the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. The award was presented by Steven Gauthier.

No Student Trustee or College President Reports.

Student-Faculty Association Vice President Ken Gray read a statement regarding involvement of faculty on the Committee on Committees which is the mechanism by which faculty and students get appointed to and have input into college policy and procedures committees. He noted that faculty is eager to be involved and have been willing to serve on the relevant committees.

No comments from District 502 citizens or citizens-at-large.

Consent agenda: covered almost 6 pages of the 8 page annotated agenda and included approvals of minutes, financial statements, several bids, purchase orders, RFPs, renovation and bid change orders. \$2,727,304 was approved in new landscaping bids; an additional nine items for landscaping changes were approved. Additionally, the agenda included the updated COD Campus Master Plan for 2010-2015. There was no discussion and no questions were asked on any of the items; the consent agenda passed unanimously.

New Business: The Annual Energy Report and Energy Master Plan were presented. As a result of a \$1.8 Million investment in energy conserving plans and implementation, the college saved \$1,000,000 in “avoided energy expense”. It was noted that, even with increased square footage, the college was using 22% less energy than in 2006.

The Board approved a FY11 increase of 3% for non-union part-time teaching faculty rates and non-credit, non-classroom oriented assignment rates. No questions, no discussion and passed unanimously.

Under new items, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved authorizing the President to enter into a contract with Michael Walters in the amount of \$149,650 for a public education campaign regarding the November referendum. President Brueder made a presentation and spoke about the need for such a contract.

Announcements: Michael Skar of Naperville will chair the Referendum Committee and Mary Ellen Durbin, formerly Director of People's Resource Center, will serve as one of the co-chairs.

Future Meeting: Next regular board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 23, 2010, 7 p.m., SRC-2052.

Actions or issues relating to League positions and interests: Overall, League interests relate to the public right to know and to transparency. Issues relating to the role of the community college and expenditures of public dollars are not discussed at trustee meetings and almost all items are voted on with no discussion and no dissent. If the trustees do have any questions of the administration, it is difficult to know whether or how these questions are addressed

In some comments at meetings, it seems that the Administrations' preference is for questions to be handled individually, that is, trustees may call or email administrators on a one-to-one basis to have questions answered. The same method seems to apply to faculty-administration communication to the point that, at one meeting, a faculty member stated that the faculty would like face-to-face meetings, rather than having to do everything through email. Regardless, there is an issue with such reliance on this method of communication because the public cannot be privy to such communication and, therefore, has only a limited understanding of the issues and of how decisions are reached.