STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20, 2010
2:00 PM

Colorado Community College System
Lowry Campus, Conference Center
1061 Akron Way, Bldg. 697, Room 100C

I. CALL TO ORDER
   A. Pledge of Allegiance
   B. Roll Call

Members Present: Bernadette Marquez – Chair, Tamra Ward – Vice Chair (via phone), Wanda Cousar (via phone), Maury Dobbie, Barbara McKellar, Meg Porfido, Dr. John Trefny, Ledy Garcia-Eckstein, Dr. Todd Bergren – State Faculty Advisory Council Representative, and Mandy Beatty – State Student Advisory Council Representative.

Members Absent: Patty Erjavec

II. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

   A. Roles and Responsibilities of the Board

Bernie Marquez opened the meeting referencing information from ACCT’s Guide to Trustee Roles and Responsibilities, specifically noting that “effective boards consist of people who come together to form a cohesive group to articulate and represent the public interest, establish a climate for learning and monitor the effectiveness of the institution”. She mentioned the four points of effective boards – “integrate multiple perspectives into board decision-making; establish and abide by rules for conducting board business; speak with one voice and support the decision of the board, once it is made; and recognize that power rests with the board, not individual trustees”. She concluded her overview, noting that “governing boards establish policies that provide direction and guidance to the president and staff of the College” (System). Bernie asked for input from the members of the board regarding her referenced information. The members of the board were in agreement with the information presented.
Bernie opened the meeting for a broader discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the board. Discussion ensued relative to, but not limited to, how often to revisit and reassess goals; the president’s evaluation process; advocacy for the community colleges; the role board members play in their respective communities; the need for more supporting/background information on consent/action items that come before the board; and the understanding that the board is governed by State Statute.

**B. Strategic Top Priorities**

Bernie reviewed the top seven key areas identified from the strategic planning document introduced at the December board meeting. Dr. McCallin addressed the board, providing an overview of the key areas identified and noting that though tuition was not identified as a top priority by the college presidents it was identified as a top priority by staff and board members. Discussion ensued relative to all seven key areas with focused discussion on the areas of Student Success – (1) The demands of Colorado business and communities shall be met through the development of a high skilled work force and (2) Colorado students shall have seamless opportunities to transition from high school into college and from two-year institutions into four-year institutions.

Regarding the development of a high skilled work force, it was noted that not only do the colleges need to provide new programs to address the needs of high demand, high wage industries but the student success rate needs to be looked at – specifically, are students actually being placed in the workforce upon completion of their degree/certificate programs. It was also noted that in addition to increasing the number of resident transfers to Colorado public four-year institutions, there needs to be a focus on concurrent enrollment with the high schools.

The members of the board also focused their discussion on the areas of remediation and retention.

Bernie concluded the discussion asking that the members of the board each rank the seven key areas and email their rankings to her and Dr. McCallin. From those rankings, the top three key areas will be identified.

**C. Alternative Revenue Issues: Tuition Policy and Foundation**

Dr. McCallin discussed a proposal that is being circulated among the public higher education institutions. The proposal would provide tuition setting authority to the higher education governing boards. The authority would be limited and would be to offset the loss of state funding and unfunded
enrollment. This proposal would take the authority from the elected official level where it resides today to the governing board level. Discussion ensued.

Barbara McKellar made the motion to allow Dr. McCallin to work on behalf of the board to give authority to the board regarding the setting of tuition. Maury Dobbie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OTHER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO THE BOARD

John Trefny would like to have a discussion at a future meeting relative to the proprietary postsecondary institutions and how the community colleges can work within that arena.

Ledy Garcia-Eckstein would like to have a discussion at a future meeting relative to professor salaries – full time versus part-time.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to bring before the Board, Barbara McKellar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30pm. Ledy Garcia-Eckstein seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.