



Triton College Board of Trustees
May 17, 2011

Pam McLean Meyerson, Observer

Board members present: Mark Stephens, Chair; Thomas Gary; Irene Moska Del Giudice; Donna Peluso; Elizabeth Potter; Glenn Stam; Diane Viverito; Isaiah Brandon, Student Trustee

Trustees Del Giudice, Potter, Gary and the student trustee were present at the board table at 7:00 p.m., the scheduled starting time. The remaining trustees and administrators entered from the adjoining room at 7:30 and the meeting was called to order.

Citizen Participation: Ken Carwell expressed thanks for Triton's participation in a dual-enrollment program in horticulture with his alternative special education program. Students in his program often have severe disabilities and have been expelled from other schools.

Administrative Report: Several faculty members and students were introduced and honored for their achievements. The Robotics Team from Proviso Math & Science Academy described their program and thanked Triton for its support.

A faculty team described the new programs planned or under consideration for 2011-2013—including programs in hybrid auto tech, sustainable agriculture, digital photography and “beverage management,” among others. Trustee Gary asked several questions about the programs and the process to develop them.

Student Affairs administrators described initiatives in four areas: the “first year experience” (similar to programs for freshman and their parents now commonly offered at 4-year colleges), veterans’ services, psychological counseling, and diversity.

President’s report: President Granados said everyone should celebrate the accomplishments of the graduates this coming Sunday and said she is proud of the faculty and staff.

Chairman’s Report: Chairman Stephens asked Trustee Gary to report on his trip to Springfield for “Lobby Day” in May. Mr. Gary reported that the group’s goal was to maintain the same level of funding for community colleges in this year’s budget as last year’s. That’s what the governor recommended, but the House and the Senate passed budgets with cuts of about 2% and 10%, respectively. The bills have not been reconciled, and they still are hopeful that “flat funding” can be achieved.

Chairman Stephens noted that even with the proposed tuition increase, “we’re cheap,” and he feels comfortable supporting the proposed increases.

Consent Agenda: Chairman Stephens offered the following action items

as a group:

- Transfers totaling about \$179,000 from one budget line item to another.
- Setting a public hearing on the budget for July.
- Authorizing a contract with architects for about \$100,000.
- Renewing a service agreement with a company that tracks job applicants.
- Auctioning two college-owned cars.
- Waiving rental fees for U of I's motorcycle safety program to be held in Triton's parking lot and classrooms.
- Operating summer camp classes in robotics, acting and jewelry making in Franklin Park.
- Approving two instructional contracts for teachers of project management and blueprint reading courses.
- Approving library purchases from various vendors for fiscal year 2012 totalling not more than \$221,000.
- Approving an agreement for nursing students to have clinical experience at Children's Memorial Hospital.
- Approving changes and additions to course offerings as recommended by the Curriculum Committee.
- Approving 4 out-of-radius travel requests for staff and faculty to travel to conferences and events in Milwaukee, Baltimore, Washington and Lake Buena Vista, Florida, at a total cost of about \$11,000.
- Approving the agreement negotiated with the unionized Classified Association, with an average 4.15% salary increase per year over 4 years.
- Approving tuition rates of \$93 per credit hour for the fall of 2011, increasing by \$5 per credit hour in each of the next five years.

Trustee Del Giudice questioned two of the budget transfers and questioned why Triton students would go to Children's Memorial Hospital when there are closer hospitals. A member of the nursing faculty in attendance explained that Children's offers a superior clinical experience for pediatric nursing students.

After this discussion, the action items were approved unanimously except that (1) Trustee Del Giudice voted no on library purchases from one vendor; and (2) on the tuition increases, Trustees Del Giudice and Potter voted no and the student trustee abstained.

Purchasing Schedules: The trustees unanimously and without discussion approved the low qualified bids for a phone system (\$15,000), building renovations (\$1.05 million), and converting lighting on outside signs to LED (\$92,000).

Bills and invoices: Chairman Stephens asked for approval of the month's bills and invoices, not made public, in the amount of about \$1.7 million. Trustee del Giudice questioned one item, voted no on 11 items and abstained on two items; otherwise, they were approved unanimously.

Closed Session: The trustees went into closed session for about 40 minutes.

Human Resources report: Upon the return to open session, Chairman Stephens asked for approval of the Human Resources report, which was not made public. From the discussion it was apparent that the report contained information on proposed raises for administrators. Newly-elected Trustee

Elizabeth Potter suggested that the raises should be 2%, not 5 or 6%, because she did not want to have to raise taxes. Chairman Stephens said, "With all due respect, you need to do your homework. That is so off base it's ridiculous." He pointed out that administrators have not gotten any raises in 3 of the last 7 years, and people would leave if pay levels fell behind. Trustee Potter asked, "How am I going to learn if I don't ask questions?" Stephens said she could call him and ask. Potter asked where the money would be coming from if Triton was not getting as much money from the state. Stephens said the administrators were cutting other expenses, with no effect on students. Vice President Sullivan said that raises for administrators averaged 3.7% over the last 9 years.

Trustee Del Giudice added, "I think some of these raises are really high." Chairman Stephens said, "I mean—honey—I don't want to argue with you, because I want to go home and go to bed." He reiterated that she could call him to ask him about this anytime, and explained that the administrators worked hard and didn't complain when they didn't get raises in other years.

All trustees including Trustee Potter voted to accept the Human Resources report, except that Trustee Del Giudice voted no on two items and abstained on two items. These were identified by number only, so those present at the meeting could not know what she disagreed with.

Note: I have filed a FOIA request for this month's Human Resources Report and bills and invoices.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Note: I received a prompt response to my FOIA request for the May Human Resources Report. It showed proposed salaries for fiscal years 2012 and (in some cases) 2013. It did not show current salaries, but 2010 salaries are posted online. Assuming administrators did not get raises last year (as Chairman Stephens stated), the trustees approved an 11% salary increase for President Granados in each of the next two years, and 5% per year for most of the other top administrators.

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