

## Board of Trustees Report

Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - Los Angeles City College

The Board's Annual Organizational and Regular meeting was hosted by LACC in their 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Multi-Purpose Conference Room in the Student Union Building. The meeting was called to order by Board President Svonkin. All trustees were present.

Welcoming remarks were given by John al-Amin, the Vice President of Administrative Services at City, in the absence of President Rene Martinez. The Trustees moved immediately thereafter to the election of officers and Trustee Moreno began by nominating current President Svonkin to another term, followed by the nomination of Trustee Eng by Trustee Fong. Both nominees were elected. Mr. Svonkin, obviously overjoyed with his victory, noted that he was "like the sixth or seventh" Board president to be elected to two consecutive terms, in response to Trustee Pearlman who complained that the Board president position had always rotated to other members of the Board. She responded that she had been on the board for 20 years and this was not the practice followed. [This was also a way of reminding those present, albeit somewhat indirectly, that she was now the longest-serving Board member and had never served as Board President.]

Past minutes of regular and special meetings along with closed sessions in late May and June were approved. Two of the District's collective bargaining representatives from the AFT and the SEIU, each congratulated the newly elected officers and the new trustees seated on the dais, offering to work closely with the newly constituted board. There followed announcements from the College Presidents. President Erika Endrijonas of LAVC announced that the college had satisfied the ACCJC and had been removed from sanctions. Bob Sprague, the newly appointed interim president at WLAC, spoke of the ongoing close connections between the college and its neighbor, Culver City, and a successful fireworks show at the college over the weekend of the Fourth.

Only one member of the public sought to address the Board in three minutes or less. Ryan Navarette, a student at LATTC and candidate for the Student Trustee position on the Board, conveyed his frustration with having to run again after irregularities were found in the prior vote in the spring. He ended his remarks with a quote from Caesar Chavez.

There were no reports of standing or special committees since none had been established nor Board members assigned to them. Trustee Svonkin said he would be making those decisions shortly. A commendation for retiring classified employees was approved unanimously, followed by a resolution that would "explore a co-location strategy" for locating One-Stop Centers on LACCD campuses with the City and County of Los Angeles. A resolution to approve the amended Project Labor Agreement (PLA) was deferred until later in the meeting at the request of Trustee Svonkin.

The Chancellor then gave an upbeat report on the past year (his first year as District Chancellor). He was extremely pleased with the additional \$1.4 billion

added to the California Community College budget, the restoration of EOPS categorical funding (given that three of the top five recipients are LACCD colleges), and enhancement of CalGrant B funds. He noted that funding for the baccalaureate degree at West in Dental Technology would be forthcoming as well as additional funds for instructional equipment. The Chancellor then introduced Bob Sprague who was recently appointed Interim President at West LA College, and Kevin Jetter, recently appointed Interim District Counsel after the departure of Camille Goulet, who retreated to a teaching position at LA City College. He spoke of the District commitment to AB 288, legislation that would allow concurrent enrollment between local high schools and LACCD. He ended with strong assurance that the District would meet or exceed its 4.75 % growth target and drew attention to the recently awarded \$20 million Career Pathways grant for the District.

The Board then turned to the consent calendar. Several members asked questions about specific items. Most of these were minor questions of clarification. Trustee Eng asked whether the professional services agreement with Harley Ellis Devereaux, Inc. as Architect of Record (AOR) for the Firestone Education Center design phase was in accordance with the District's 30% rule for including women- and minority-owned businesses. Mr. O'Reilly assured Mr. Eng that this was the case. Trustee Kamlager asked whether Business Services Agreements had been audited for compliance with the 30% rule. Mr. O'Reilly suggested that the Bond program provided substantially more resources to these women- and minority-owned businesses. Some on the Board seemed to favor a further look at this issue. There were also questions on the California Career Pathways grant about the student selection process and the breakdown by college of the 6298 students who would be participating in the five industry sectors : Advanced Manufacturing, Business/Finance, Global Trade/Logistics, IT/Design Media, and Healthcare.

Trustees Moreno and Pearlman both had questions about the creation of two new positions by the Personnel Commission at the request of the Chancellor, and asked for a separate vote. The first position created was for a Vice-Chancellor of Finance and Resource Development, and the second, for a Director of Institutional Advancement. There were some concerns about the salaries and the job duties of each, and the reporting structure/chain of command since the revised organizational chart (passed out only to the Board members) showed one of the existing Vice Chancellors reporting to the new Vice Chancellor of Finance. Both Moreno and Pearlman voted against this item.

At this point, the Board went into public session to consider the amended Project Labor Agreement (PLA). The vote in favor was unanimous and a signing ceremony was held after some short speeches and a series of photos were taken.

The Board then returned to order and resumed with recommendations from the Chancellor. The following were all approved unanimously – approval of the ELAC Mission Statement, the renaming of the Community Workforce Development Center to Administration and Career Advancement building, currently under construction, and finally, the adoption of the 2014-15 Revised Spending Education Protection Plan (EPA). An emergency resolution requiring a super majority vote to design and replace the heating system for the LAVC competition pool at the Aquatic Center did

lead to some longer conversations about warranties and responsible parties for the failed design, since the pool had only been in operation for about five years. The project was out of warranty and so the issue had become a district emergency maintenance issue requiring the super majority vote. The vote to design and replace was approved unanimously but Trustee Pearlman requested that responsibility for the flawed/failed design be investigated. At this point, President Svonkin called for a recess to prepare for the Oath of Office ceremony of the new Trustees - Mike Fong, Sydney Kamlager, Andra Hoffman, and the re-elected Scott Svonkin.

Don Gauthier, DAS President

July 9, 2015