

MINUTES  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
of McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of McHenry County College was held on Thursday, April 1, 2010, in the Board Room, Room A217, in Building A on the Campus. Chair Lowe called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. When Secretary Kurtz called the roll, the following were present:

Ms. Walters  
Ms. Kurtz  
Ms. Miller  
Ms. Larson  
Mr. Sheriff  
Dr. DeWitt  
Mr. Lowe

Mr. Parrish was absent at roll call and arrived at 6:34 p.m. Attorney Camille Cribaro was present as legal counsel.

THREE-YEAR FINANCIAL PLAN

Mr. Wilske spoke about the State of Illinois budget, the decline in State funding, and explained changes made to the Three-Year Financial Plan presented to the Board at the February 22, 2010 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Ms. Miller stated that she would like to see budget cuts before tuition is increased. Dr. DeWitt stated that the Board's job is to create a sustainable plan, which would include cost reduction and tuition increases.

He suggested the possibility of a special scholarship or tuition waiver for students identified in need. Ms. Larson spoke about affordability and the importance of maintaining College facilities and programs.

Mr. Sheriff related the results of a student survey he conducted, asking 127 students for their opinions of the tuition increase. The students were separated into three categories: those who paid their own tuition, those funded by the Promise and other grant payments, and those whose parents paid their tuition.

Overall results yielded 101 students in favor of the increase and 26 students against the increase. Mr. Sheriff added that several smaller tuition increases would be preferred over one large increase.

Ms. Kurtz asked Mr. Wilske to speak about the level of reserve funding. Mr. Wilske surveyed colleges in the Illinois system and received responses varying from 0% to 70% in terms of annual operating expenses, with 25% as the average balance maintained. He stressed the importance of maintaining the

balance to handle unexpected costs. Ms. Miller asked for a temporary hold on the tuition increase. Ms. Kurtz stated her opinion that those who use the College should shoulder more of the burden than taxpayers, adding that she would also like to see cost savings. Ms. Larson spoke about cost reductions. Mr. Lowe emphasized that expenses could only be reduced on the discretionary portion of the budget. Mr. Sheriff stated his opinion that the figures from the worst possible scenario could be used, and recommended going with the \$2.00 tuition increase. Ms. Walters commented that if tuition is not raised, a large influx of students could be probable; she then spoke about the loss of real estate tax funding and determining where cost reductions can be effected. Mr. Parrish asked for cost reduction measures and inquired about variable tuition.

Dr. Plinske pointed out two significant cost-saving measures: 1) the ending of the University Center lease which saved \$400,000.00 annually, and 2) the decision not to build a gravel parking lot, which saved between \$250,000.00 and \$500,000.00. She added that the staff is trying to be innovative, using area high school space for College classes, and pledging to continue to increase revenue without putting additional burden on College staff. A discussion of variable tuition ended this portion of the meeting.

#### CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, Chair Lowe adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

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Patricia Kriegermeier, Recording Secretary

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Donna Kurtz, Board Secretary