

**MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF BLINN COLLEGE**

**Navasota Community Center
The LaSalle Room
101 Stadium Drive
Navasota, Texas 77868**

Retreat, Tuesday, April 5, 2016, at 5:45 p.m.

The Board of Trustees convened at 5:45 p.m. at the Navasota Community Center, with the following members present: Mr. David Sommer, President, presiding; Mr. Douglas R. Borchardt, Vice President; Mr. Atwood Kenjura, Secretary; Mrs. Stacy Aschenbeck (joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.); Ms. Nancy Berry; Mrs. Theodora "Teddy" V. Boehm; Ms. Ann Horton; Mr. Charles R. Moser; and Mr. Richard Powell.

Board members not present: None

ITEM 1. DINNER WAS SERVED AT 5:45

ITEM 2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President Sommer. President Sommer reviewed the agenda for the evening.

ITEM 3. DISCUSSION OF ATHLETIC, LEGISLATIVE, FINANCIAL (2016-17 TUITION), PLANNING, AND MANAGEMENT TOPICS

Dr. Dennis Crowson, Vice President of Student Services, gave an overview of the Blinn College Athletics program. He introduced Mr. Scott Schumacher, Athletic Director/Head Men's Basketball Coach, and Mr. Keith Thomas, Head Football Coach. Dr. Crowson reviewed the breakdown of Athletic Scholarships. He also gave a breakdown of athletics-related expenses for 2015-2016, which total \$3,215,870 and revenues for 2015-2016, which total \$4,039,258. Dr. Crowson reviewed the average GPA and transfer rates of student athletes, which is higher than the average of other on-campus housing students. He discussed the pros of having athletes on campus. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He responded to questions from the Board.

Dr. Crowson reviewed a proposed red-shirt/walk-on program, as well as a plan for implementation and timeline. He stated this would be a pipeline for continued enrollment. The potential revenue from the program and associated expenses were also discussed. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*). He responded to questions from the Board.

Mr. Mel Waxler, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, and Dr. Steve Johnson, Sr. Vice President/COO, Texas Association of Community Colleges, reviewed preparation for the 85th Legislative Session. Mr. Waxler reviewed his philosophy and message in addressing the members of the Texas Legislature. He presented an overview of his strategy for the interim and an outline of planned activities leading up to the 85th Session. Dr. Johnson gave an overview of Texas Association of Community Colleges and Community College Association of Texas Trustees. He reviewed a summary of the 84th Legislative Session and then discussed the following potential areas of policy consideration for the 85th Legislature:

- Tuition/Student Affordability/Debt
- Property Tax Appraisal Reform/Caps
- Nursing Shortage

- Undocumented Student Tuition
- Campus Carry
- Dual Credit

The impending state budget constraints and economy issues facing the 85th Legislature were reviewed. Dr. Johnson explained a comparison of the Texas Association of Community Colleges and The Higher Education Coordinating Board State Appropriation's recommendations for 2018-2019. The Board's role in and the critical nature of Trustee advocacy was shared with the Board. (A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

Ms. Kelli Shomaker, CFO/Sr. Vice President Finance and Administrative Services, informed the Board that a recommendation regarding 2016-17 tuition and fees will be presented at the April 19, 2016, Board meeting. She reviewed the 3-tier tuition rate structure which was adopted last year. She proposed discussion of the elimination of in-service area tuition rates and the rationale for it. The Board was shown how Blinn ranks in and out-of-district tuition and fees related to other Texas Community Colleges. Ms. Shomaker gave an overview of some possible tuition scenarios for FY17. The Board discussed the history of and concerns with the in-service area tuition. Additional discussion took place regarding the impact on the various students if the in-service area tuition category is eliminated. Ms. Shomaker responded to questions from the Board regarding the differential tuition rate for in-district and out-of-district students. She reviewed the rationale behind the differential and discussed with them factors to consider, as referenced in Texas Education Code 130.002 when setting the various tuition rates, including the property taxes paid by in-district residents. Dr. Hensley, District President/CEO, and Ms. Shomaker will further refine recommendations regarding tuition and fees. (A copy of the Tuition and Fees report and service area map are attached and made a part of these *Minutes*).

The follow-up and debrief from the February 23, 2016, was delayed until the next retreat.

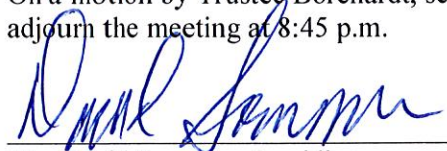
ITEM 4. NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING REMARKS

The next retreat will likely be June 7, 2016.

Mr. Sommer thanked everyone for their time and work putting the meeting together.

ITEM 5. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Trustee Borchardt, seconded by Trustee Aschenbeck, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.



Mr. David Sommer, Presiding
President



Mr. Atwood C. Kenjura
Secretary