MEETING OF THE LEE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT
JANUARY 20, 2011

The Board of Regents of the Lee College District met January 20, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the John B. Tucker Lecture Hall. Chairman Himsel called the meeting to order stating that the meeting was duly posted and a quorum was present.

PRESENT: Mr. Mark Himsel, Chairman, Mr. Mark Hall, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Judy Jirrels, Secretary; Mr. Pete Alfaro, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Ronn Haddox; Dr. Keith Coburn; Ms. Susan Moore-Fontenot and Mr. Wayne Gray.

Attorney Rick Peebles

Dr. Mike Murphy, President

ABSENT: Mr. Don Coffey

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Regent Susan Moore-Fontenot said the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

01.11 DISPOSITION OF MINUTES


The motion passed without a dissenting vote.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairman Himesel called for committee chair reports.

Building and Facilities - Regent Mark Hall had no report.
Serving on the Building and Facilities Committee are Mark Hall, Chairman, Don Coffey and Keith Coburn

Policy Committee – The committee met once during the month and also communicated a second time via a conference call. Chairman Moore-Fontenot presented individual folders to Board members at the meeting of January 20th. Regents were asked to review the summary of revisions for the Presidents evaluation, noting that the color coding of items in the documents reflect changes from the original documents. January 31, 2011 is the deadline for Regents to provide feedback to the chairman.
Serving on the Policy Review Committee are Susan Moore-Fontenot, Chairman, Pete Alfaro and Judy Jirrels

Audit and Investment Committee – Chairman Wayne Gray reported that his committee met the week of the Board meeting. At the present time, the charge of the committee is to search for feasible means to save money for the College. Chairman Gray’s committee recommended the Board place an action item on the February Board of Regents agenda to authorize VP of Finance Steve Evans to initiate refinancing a $10 million note currently with Bank of America. The approval of the agenda item would allow Evans to act hastily the moment the market presents the desired plateau for refinancing at a lower rate, producing a significant savings over the life of the note for the College.

VP Evans commented the $10 million note is the energy management note by which the LC Energy Management Program is financed. Currently the note is at 5% for 20 years.

Regent Gray acknowledged to Board Chairman Himesel that the committee would have enough time to submit a proposal of scenarios for the Board to consider when they reconvene on February 17, 2011.
Serving on the Audit and Investment Committee are Wayne Gray, Chairman, Pete Alfaro and Ronn Haddox

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Murphy's report consisted of the following:

- Spring Professional Development Day- Approximately 250 faculty, staff and administrators assembled for opening ceremonies in the Performing Arts Center for the January 11, 2011 Professional Development Day.

The key note speaker was Dr. Kay McClenney, Director of the Community College
Survey of Student Engagement with the University of Texas. Dr. Murphy commended LC instructors Sharon Lockett and Evans Richards for their well presented, well attended workshops featuring methods of engaging students in active learning.

- Spring Enrollment – just under 6,000, not including enrollment figures from the Huntsville campus, reflecting a 5% increase from last spring, actual enrollment numbers is determined on the 12th day of classes.
- Early Retirement Incentive- Dr. Murphy met with the Benefits Committee and Steve Evans during the month and plans to meet again. Attorney Rick Peebles is reviewing the last retirement incentive program. Recommendations will be prepared and presented at the February meeting if it appears to be a feasible option.
- Early College High School (ECHS) – Goose Creek Consolidated ISD (GCCISD) Superintendent Toby York and Dr. Murphy continue to confer on options for ECHS on a regular basis. Lee College and the school district face financial challenges that could necessitate a delay in making the decisions of future ECHS campus based vs. high school based programs. That determination remains undecided. Dr. Murphy was pleased to report that of the 107 students beginning the program in the fall, all 107 students returned for the spring semester. Also, 70% of the students taking the college readiness test tested college ready.

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

Financial Services Report – Vice President of Finance -Steve Evans

State news, HB1 has been released in detail, however, Evans noted that it is a preliminary draft and no doubt much discussion and negotiations will take place at the House and Senate levels in Austin. The College will monitor the situation very closely and the campus will be kept informed.

Evans commented that the $7.00 a semester increase did not have an impact at all on registration for the spring semester. One dollar in a tuition increase equates to $140,000.00 in revenue. The fall may result in another increase in tuition and VP Evans does not anticipate a negative impact on enrollment.

Discussion ensued.

Fifth Year Interim Report-SACS – Vice President of Learning –Dr. Cathy Kemper

Dr. Kemper provided a hard copy of a brief summary of the SACS 5th Year Interim Report the evening of the meeting, to the Board of Regents for their review. No presentation was made.
PUBLIC COMMENT

John Britt, Lee College (LC) faculty, History/Honors Coordinator addressed the Board to read a short essay written by a 20 year old LC Honors student for a prestigious transfer scholarship application. The young lady asked that her name not be acknowledged. She will transfer at the end of the semester with 33 hours in the Honors Program, an institutional record. She is in the LC Hall of Fame and has been accepted into the Honors College at the University of Houston.

Mr. Britt acknowledged LC English and Humanities instructor Kathleen Sydnor as the young student’s mentor.

Two students from the Honors Program have been accepted to present their work at the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. With approximately 3,500 submissions, only 250 presentations are allowed to show their work in Ithaca, New York. One student’s essay was written for Jerry Hamby’s 1301 English class, the other essay written for the Drug and Substance Abuse program, Howard Bushart instructor. Additionally, Mr. Britt said that only four December 2010 graduates of the University of Houston were recognized as achieving University honors, two of which were former LC Honors students.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

02.11 CONSIDERATION OF RESIGNATION

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board accept the resignation of faculty member Shirley Dixon, Professional Technology Office Faculty Instructor, effective December 31, 2010.

Regent Coburn made a motion, seconded by Regent Haddox, THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION.

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

B. New Business

03.11 CONSIDERATION OF MICROSOFT CAMPUS AGREEMENT TO DELL CORPORATION
Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the annual Microsoft Campus Agreement software renewal purchase for the sum of $33,549.63 to Dell Corporation. This purchase is made using the State of Texas contract with Dell Corporation.

Regent Coburn made a motion, seconded by Regent Alfaro, THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION.

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

04.11 CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR GC-PIN CONSULTANT

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve a contract with David R. Seitz to serve as the Gulf Coast Petrochemical Information Network (GC-PIN) Consultant, for a salary up to $57,605 over the life of the grant.

Regent Gray made a motion, seconded by Regent Hall, THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION.

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

C. Matters of Concern for Future Agendas

Audit and Investment Committee Chairman Wayne Gray requested consideration for an action item for the February 17, 2011 monthly Board meeting regarding authorizing Vice President Steve Evans to negotiate a lower interest rate on the College’s $10 million energy conservation note and initiate refinancing of the note when conditions are favorable.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Himsel declared the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Chairman, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents