MEETING OF THE LEE COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS
LEE COLLEGE DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 17, 2011

The Board of Regents of the Lee College District met February 17, 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: None

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Regent Judy Jirrels said the invocation and led the pledge to the flag.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board recessed into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss personnel and reconvened into a public meeting at 6:15 p.m.

05.11 DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

Regent Gray made a motion, seconded by Regent Alfaro, THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE MINUTES OF January 20, 2011.

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

Chairman Himsel noted that new photo's of the Regents, President Murphy and an updated group photo of the Board looked nice and thanked Dr. Murphy and staff.

Regent Mark Hall was asked by Chairman Himsel to comment on his recent trip Washington, D.C. to attend the 2011 National Legislative Summit in February. Regent Hall commented about his opportunity in Washington D.C. saying that news on the state and federal levels regarding budgets and funding parallel at this time. “Tremendous uncertainty”, was the sentiment of most discussions. Permanent changes on both state and federal levels appear to be inevitable and overall there was very little encouraging news to report from the Summit meetings. However, Hall indicated the workshops and seminars he participated in were interesting and informative, and was pleased he had the opportunity to attend.

Building and Facilities—Regent Mark Hall reported the committee had not met but updated the board on the status of the McNair project. A new contract with an addendum is near signing and the project would soon be underway once the permit is issued. In the future, contractors will be provided a copy of the contract for the bidding process, informed of assumed risks for general contractors, construction delivery methods, etc., to avoid bids from going stale and causing unnecessary delays in construction start ups.

* Serving on the Building and Facilities Committee are Mark Hall, Chairman, Don Coffey and Keith Coburn*

Policy Committee — Chairman Moore-Fontenot’s committee met and finalized the evaluation process for Dr. Murphy which will occur in March, 2011.

* Serving on the Policy Review Committee are Susan Moore-Fontenot, Chairman, Pete Alfaro and Judy Jirrels*

Audit and Investment Committee — Chairman Wayne Gray reported his committee did not meet.

* Serving on the Audit and Investment Committee are Wayne Gray, Chairman, Pete Alfaro and Ronn Haddox*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Budget Funding:** Dr. Murphy’s informed the Board that he would be in Austin on Friday, providing brief testimony at the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education hearings for community colleges. Approximately 42 community colleges will be represented. His comments, Dr. Murphy said, will be about “the pain” Lee College will continue to experience until resources are provided for improving and allowing growth in numerous disciplines and programs at Lee College. Additionally financial aid, Pell grant reductions at the federal level, and the possible growing pains from an influx of students avoiding higher tuition at universities will be referenced.
Presently, inmate education funding has been zeroed out on the House version of the bill. Dr. Murphy will distribute a brochure produced by Huntsville Campus Lee College (HCLC) highlighting the significant impact on community colleges, state and local economy and the negative effects of inmate recidivism if funding is allowed to be slashed or totally removed. Data on the differences between inmates receiving some level of education or job training vs. those without show that job training reduces recidivism. In addition, significant monetary savings are attributed to work performed by trained and skilled inmates working within the Texas Department of Corrections system while serving their time, provide otherwise out sourced labor is recognized in the brochure.

In other areas, plans to hold a community based forum with representatives from Goose Creek CCISD, the City of Baytown, United Way, and others will participate with Lee College in March, 2011. The purpose of the forum is to offer an opportunity to inform residents of the impact and repercussions to the local economy and community if nothing is done to alter the course of funding levels being discussed in current House and Senate sessions in Austin presently. Dr. Murphy concluded by saying, “very few families will go untouched by the implications”.

**Early Retirement Incentive:** Discussions have continued for ways to reduce the College costs of operation. Dr. Murphy commented that Attorney Rick Peebles assisted in making a few modifications to a program introduced in the recent past for Lee College employees eligible for early retirement. With plans to continue discussion before presenting to the Board in March, Dr. Murphy asked VP Evans to explain the current version of the early retirement incentive.

- 31 eligible for retirement- opportunity for reducing spending in future years
- Employees to receive 75% of their base pay over a 28 month period
- TRS rule of 80 must be met to participate in the plan.
- Requires 15 consecutive work years
- April 1, 2011 sign up date
- 7 day revocation period

Evans summed up saying he thinks this is a financially good plan, resulting in a healthy return on the college investment with use of college reserves, producing a minimum of 50% return and fully paid back in year two.

If all employees eligible take the plan, it would result in a savings of $700,000 annually. Many positions will not be refilled, therefore there is a possibility of an even greater return on investment.

The proposal could result in the loss of some outstanding employees. Unfortunately, in the public sector more stringent rules are applied than in the private sector.

Sixteen faculty and 15 staff and administrators are eligible for the plan. If approved the savings would be reallocated with emphasis on expanded learning opportunity.

*Discussion ensued*
**Early College High School (ECHS):** Having met with Superintendent Toby York of GCCISD and presently no equitable solutions regarding the physical and financial challenges ECHS program is facing have been reached. Various options will continue to be discussed with respect to both GCCISD and LC governing body’s wishes.

**INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

**Financial Services Report – Vice President of Finance -Steve Evans**

VP Evans informed the board that the Foreign Trade Zone Agreement that Lee College has with ExxonMobil Corporation has this year resulted in the largest check ever presented to the College. Budgeted for $600,000, LC received a payment of $1,500,000.

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

Dr. Kemper introduced Dr. Estelle Sit, the new Dean of Academic Studies and Dr. Jeffrey Thies, the new Dean of Applied Sciences.

Dr. Kemper reported that SACS liaison Dr. Rosemary Coffman has convened monthly meetings since August of last year and now will begin meeting weekly. A fully completed and reviewed draft of the report will be complete by the end of April with September 15, 2011 the date scheduled to go live on line and ready to access.

A handout was distributed for the review of the board indicated the areas of reviewed data and with update.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Personnel

**06.11 a. CONSIDERATION OF RESIGNATION**

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board accept the resignation of Recruiter 1, of Student Affairs Department, Natiesha Walker, effective January 17, 2011.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.
07.11  b. CONSIDERATION TO HIRE FULL TIME COUNSELOR

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board award a contract to Frederick "Bo" Aguilar for the position of Counselor.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

B. New Business

08.11 CONSIDERATION OF RENTAL USE OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER – SPACE CENTER INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL CONCERT

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the use of the Performing Arts Center by Space Center Intermediate School (Clear Creek ISD) for a special concert on May 20, 2011, in recognition of the Sudler Cup Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. The organization would be charged $750 for support costs with fees for the rental space being waived since it is a public school.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

09.11 CONSIDERATION OF RENTAL USE OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER – CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S JOB CORPS OF GREATER BAYTOWN

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the use of the Performing Arts Center by Christian Women’s Job Corps of Greater Baytown on September 24, 2011. The organization would be charged $750 for support costs with fees for the rental space being waived.
Regent Hall made a motion, seconded by Regent Jirrels, THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATION’S RECOMMENDATION.

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

**10.11 CONSIDERATION OF RENTAL USE OF PERFORMING ARTS CENTER-BY THE FOUNDATION FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (CHOICE MUSIC EVENTS)**

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the use of the Performing Arts Center by The Foundation for Music Education (Choice Music Events) on April 30, 2011, for an adjudicated music festival (Space City showcase of Music) for Texas students, elementary through high school for a total of $2,500.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

**11.11 CONSIDERATION OF BLACKBOARD, INC. (WEBCT) LICENSE AND SUPPORT CONTRACT**

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the Blackboard WebCT Software License and Support Contract with Blackboard, Inc. in the amount of $44,000. Last year the renewal was $40,801. The amount reflects a 7% increase over 2010.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.

**12.11 CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF COLLEGE CALENDAR**

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board approve the 2011–2013 calendar.

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

The motion passed without a dissenting vote.
CONSIDERATION OF AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF
ENERGY MANAGEMENT NOTE

Dr. Murphy recommended that the Board authorize Vice President Evans to negotiate the
interest rate on the existing energy management note with Bank of America and to further
grant VP Evans the authority to enter into a new note agreement on behalf of the district at
such time as the District can obtain interest rate savings of at least $500,000 over the life of
the loan without extending the original maturity date.

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

None

D. Adjournment

Chairman Hensel declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Chairman, Board of Regents

Secretary, Board of Regents