

***League of Women Voters COD
Observers Report***

Board meeting attended: November 17, 2016

Date and Location of meeting: COD, SSC #2200

Meeting started: 6:00

Meeting adjourned: 8:50

League Observer(s): Sue Khalaieff and Paula McGowan

Board Members/Trustees present (P) not present (NP) tardy (T):

___p___Deanne Mazzochi Board Chairman

___p___David Olsen Board Vice Chairman

___p___Frank Napolitano Board Secretary

___p___Charles Bernstein

___np___Erin Birt

___p___Dianne McGuire

___p___Joseph C. Wozniak

___p___Luzelena Escamilla Student Member

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): 25 for 6:00 presentation; about 70, beginning at 7:00

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

http://cod.edu/multimedia_services/botmedia.aspx

Agenda and supplemental materials can be found at

http://www.cod.edu/about/board_of_trustees/pdf/agendas/2016/2016nov16_regular_age.pdf

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1.) Representative from faculty spoke about the role of faculty in speaking up for students in this post-election climate, ensuring that they feel safe.
 - 2.) The president of the Faculty Senate spoke about the pending accreditation (they understand that this is a full accreditation, not just remedying problems that were addressed in the 2015 report) and the positive negotiations that have been going on between the Board and the faculty.
 - 3.) A gentleman from audience spoke very highly about his experience as a student long ago, and how he still views COD in the same positive light for its contributions to the community.
 - 4.) A gentleman from audience had some questions about why the shooting range on campus cannot be opened up to civilians for shooting practice.
- (Comments were very respectful)

PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS (board members, staff, administrators)

- 1.) Presentation: began at 6:00 and featured Lourdes Coss; it was a training session for the Board. The topic was procurement. The speaker gave a lot of information about the different kinds of procurement methods, how they differed, how they insured transparency and legal requirements, and how to ensure solid procurement practices.
- 2.) Chair's Report:
 - a. They continue to make progress on accreditation issues. There is a full understanding by all that this is not just a matter of correcting deficiencies of the past; "everything is on the table", according to Chair Mazzochi. They are feeling pretty confident that they have addressed the issues raised in the 2015 report. Right now, are especially focused on the Auditor General report. Also, still being worked on is the issue of Presidential evaluation.
 - b. Chairwoman Mazzochi congratulated Mr. Napolitano on his recent appointment to a professional association's Public Policy committee.
 - c. Town hall meetings are being held throughout the next month, as an opportunity for Board to communicate with the public. 5 are scheduled, and are all listed on website.
- 3.) Student Trustee Report: Report on a campus-wide student conversation about election aftermath. She reported on a very honest, frank, open dialogue about how students are processing this.
- 4.) President's Report: Lots of initiatives going on.
 - a. Economic Development initiatives with local and county government. Also, business involvement. Many of these involve work force training discussions.
 - b. Other partnerships with COD and high school math programs; COD and its relationship with other community colleges.
 - c. The college has produced transfer agreements with NIU and UIC.
 - d. S-Stem Scholarship: the National Science Foundation has awarded \$650,000 to COD; this is for the creation of a five year scholarship program, and will include scholarships for about 50 students, as well as the creation of several internships.
 - e. Several students presented their (very inspiring) stories.

- f. There was a Veteran's Day celebration at COD that brought community, school and other partners together.
 - g. (There was also a question to the President about the possible pursuit about a program for a BSN program. She indicated that this is something that would be explored after the upcoming accreditation.)
- 5.) Academic Committee: This committee has not met since last meeting, but will meet on November 22.
 - 6.) SLEA report: Suburban Law Enforcement Academy. This report explained the history, function and problems associated with this program that is a part of the Continuing Education division of the College. It is affiliated with the Homeland Security Training Institute, which is also a program at the College. The program has expanded greatly over the years, has a very close relationship with local municipalities, the state and the federal government, and has enjoyed great success. The Board had several questions about the finances of this program, since the cost of tuition is mandated by a state board, and clearly does not cover the entire cost of the program; so COD needs to cover this gap. (Sounds like this is going to be an area of further exploration.)
 - 7.) COD Foundation Report: This was from the Resource Development Office, whose purpose is to bring funds to the college to support students, faculty, staff and community. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of scholarships, as well as the total dollar amount of scholarships. Enhanced transparency is a goal of this office, and they post a lot about scholarships, grants, and donations on their website. Short-term goals: add 10 Board members next year (they currently have 16), and another 10 the following year, engage in more outreach with the community, and (in next 3-5 years) begin a campaign for the endowment fund.

INFORMATION ITEMS

There were questions about item e: construction status overview: the proposed Lambert Avenue bridge and Partnership Hallway. President Rondeau responded to both queries: Lambert Avenue bridge is about safety, access to services, and a psychological blending of the two sides of campus. The hallway project is about improvements to an area which houses the area where transfer students meet with university recruiters and should be a celebration of transfer; therefore, improvements, such as better lighting, permanent furniture, etc. need to be made. (It sounded pretty makeshift, as is.)

CONSENT AGENDA

Items a, h, n and s were removed from the agenda.
The rest of the items were voted on and passed.

Item a: a question about the computer and equipment purchase/replacement. Vote taken after question was answered. Passed.

No discussion on rest of items, but were not passed unanimously.

Item h: passed

Item N: passed

Item S: passed

Tax Levy Resolution: passed

Contract Extension between Board and Faculty Association: passed

Voluntary Retirement Agreement with Joseph Collins: passed

Personnel Action Items: passed

TRUSTEE DISCUSSION

Trustee McGuire shared an article about "what is policy?" from a professional journal, and thought that it was an interesting resource. Trustee Napolitano attended a professional conference in Naperville that addressed (among other items) corporate partnerships and dual credit. Chairwoman Mazzochi extended her thanks to the Faculty Association, the departing leader of that group and Dr. Collins.

Comments/Concerns:

General Features

	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	x		
Were members attentive and prepared?	x		
Were members courteous to each other?	x		
Were members attentive to the publics' comments?	x		And public comments were respectful.
Was the facility adequate?	x		
Could the audience see and hear?	x		
Were visual aids easily visible to the audience	x		
Were the meeting facilities handicapped accessible	x		

FOIA (Complete once, unless information changes.)

Illinois Open Meetings Act requirements

	Yes	No	Comments
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If yes, note where	x		
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	x		
Were background materials made available to the public?	x		
Was there adequate discussion of the issues?	x		
Was there a closed session before, during or after the meeting?			Yes, regular meeting adjourned at 8:50; items for the closed session were dismissal of faculty, collective negotiation, litigation issue and a mandated review of minutes.
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?		x	

Date Submitted: November 17, 2016

By: Sue Khalaieff and Paula McGowan