

**MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

August 8, 2013

Minutes

The External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College held a meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2013 at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, 2nd Floor, Seminar Room A, Houston, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandie Mullins, *Committee Chair*
Yolanda Navarro Flores, *Committee Member*
Neeta Sane, *Committee Member*
Carroll G. Robinson, *Alternate Committee Member*
Bruce A. Austin
Leila Feldman
Herlinda Garcia
Eva Loredo

ADMINISTRATION

Renee Byas, Acting Chancellor
Destinee Waiters, Acting General Counsel
Shantay Grays, Executive Officer to the Chancellor
William Carter, Vice Chancellor, Information Technology
Charles Cook, Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Diana Pino, Vice Chancellor, Student Success
Warren Hurd for Margaret Ford Fisher, President, Northeast College
Fena Garza, President, Southwest College
William Harmon, President, Central College
Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College
Irene Porcarello, President, Southeast College
Mike Edwards for Betty Young, President, Coleman College
Remmele Young, Executive Director, Government Relations & Sustainability
Janet May, Chief Human Resources Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Jarvis Hollingsworth, System Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani
Todd Bisch, President, Faculty Senate
Ava Cosey, President, COPA
Nef Partida, Locke Lord
Other administrators, citizens and representatives from the news media

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mullins, Chair called the meeting to order at 3:53 p.m. and declared the Committee convened to consider matters pertaining to Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

HCC VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE RESOLUTION

Motion – Mr. Robinson moved and Ms. Mullins seconded.

Mr. Robinson apprised that he initiated the idea of pursuing the opportunity of hosting a Vice Presidential Debate in either 2016 or 2020 because he is unaware of an instance where a Vice Presidential Debate has been held at a community college.

Ms. Mullins informed that she supports the effort but recommended exploring the options regarding the expense.

(Ms. Loredo stepped out at 3:54 p.m.)

Ms. Mullins inquired if a Board committee would be set up to move the efforts forward. Mr. Robinson apprised that his thought would be that upon approval, the item would be moved forward by administration.

(Mr. Austin stepped out at 3:55 p.m.)

Mrs. Renee Byas noted that she has discussed the possibilities with the Vice Presidential Debate office and informed that they will provide information regarding the logistics requirements.

(Mr. Austin returned at 3:56 p.m.)

Mr. Hollingsworth apprised that the Office of Government Relations advised if the administration wanted to restrict itself to just the Vice Presidential Debate.

Amended Motion - Mr. Robinson moved the adoption of the resolution with the removal of the word “vice” throughout the document. Ms. Mullins seconded.

(Mrs. Garcia stepped out at 4:00 p.m.)

Vote – The motion passed with a vote of 2-0.

(Ms. Loredo returned at 4:00 p.m.)

83rd LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Mr. Remmele Young noted that Mr. Nef Partida with Locke Lord was present to provide an overview of the special session for the 83rd Legislative.

Ms. Mullins inquired if there were any emergency issues addressed in the special session regarding education. Mr. Partida informed that there were not issues relating to education.

(Mrs. Garcia returned at 4:08 p.m.)

Mr. Young apprised that The Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is scheduled to meet next week and noted that HCC does not have anyone serving on the committee; however, the intention is to have a presence.

Ms. Garcia informed that there has been extreme caution to make certain that political issues relating to election are not disseminated by the college. She referenced political information that was sent to the Board that should not have been disseminated and apprised that corrective action needs to be taken with the individual who allowed the information to go to the Board Services Office.

Mrs. Byas noted that the Government Relations Office often sends out information to allow the Board to be informed of issues in the community.

Mr. Austin requested that General Counsel share the policy with the Board regarding the issues of campaigning and that administration and staff is apprised of the information as well.

Mr. Robinson noted that there needs to be some general course that states that there should not be any dissemination of election information.

Mr. Austin informed that he would like Board Counsel to provide an opinion regarding the election information. Mr. Hollingsworth apprised that he would review the information provided by General Counsel and draft something to be disseminated.

(Mrs. Flores and Mrs. Sane joined the meeting at 4:20 p.m.)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Recorded, transcribed and submitted by:
Sharon R. Wright, Manager, Board Services

Minutes Approved: September 19, 2013