

Chicago State University
Board of Trustees
Legislative and Human Resources Committee Meeting Minutes
Academic Library – Auditorium, Room 415
September 21, 2012
11:20 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Anthony L. Young, Chairman
Trustee Michael Curtin
Trustee James T. Joyce
Trustee Gary L. Rozier
Trustee Stephanie Sanchez, Student Representative

Board Members Not Present

Trustee Zaldwaynaka “Z” Scott
Trustee Lisa Morrison Butler

Others Present

Dr. Wayne Watson, President of Chicago State University
Mr. Patrick Cage, Esq., General Counsel for Labor and Legal Affairs
Ms. Sonya Clayton-Pedersen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Farah C. Muscadin, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Board of Trustees and Governmental Affairs
Ms. Nicole Janes-Crawford, Esq., Assistant to Richard Boykins, Federal Relations
Mr. Glenn Meeks, Vice President of Finance and Administration
Ms. Bonnie Phillips, Assistant to the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs

1. Call to Order

Trustee Young called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was verified and roll call was taken.

3. Verification of Meeting Notice

The meeting notice was posted as mandated by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

4. Action Items

a. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Young moved to approve the previous meeting minutes. Trustee Joyce seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 5
Nays: 0

5. Information Items

a. Legislative Update

Ms. Farah C. Muscadin, Esq. introduced herself as the new Director of Intergovernmental Affairs (IGA) and stated that she is pleased to join the staff at Chicago State University (CSU). Ms. Muscadin stated that IGA has a three-prong approach to legislative affairs outreach: state, federal and local.

With respect to state outreach, Ms. Muscadin informed the Board that she is developing a plan to restore supplemental appropriation funding during the fall veto session of the State Legislature. IGA is working

with both the House and Senate to restore the funding, which includes \$500,000 from the general operating budget and \$307,000 from the Department of Pharmacy.

Trustee Young asked why did CSU receive funding cuts more than any other institution last State budget cycle.

Ms. Muscadin responded that she was not the Director of IGA at that time.

Chairman Rozier asked if we are looking at other opportunities to access those funds.

Ms. Muscadin responded that yes, CSU is looking at other opportunities to access those funds.

Ms. Muscadin stated that IGA is closely following the pension debate, which had a special session on August 17, 2012. The primary focus is that the normal cost shift in pensions occurs in phases. It is estimated that CSU would incur an increase in pension obligations according to the proposed pension changes.

Ms. Muscadin stated that she will meet with state legislators to give them a clear perspective of CSU's legislative agenda. For example, CSU is advocating for increases in the State's Monetary Award Program (MAP). The MAP deadline was moved up to March 13, 2012, which negatively impacted many CSU students.

With respect to local outreach, Ms. Muscadin informed the Board that she is working with local aldermen regarding the CSU Metra stop. Ms. Muscadin is also hoping to meet with Mayor Emmanuel and his Deputy Chief of Staff Beth Swanson.

With respect to federal outreach, Ms. Muscadin stated that IGA has several priorities, but the primary priority is to receive funding for the Metra stop. This partnership will help CSU and the community. The IGA Office is working collaboratively with the federal lobbyists to make this happen.

Chairman Rozier asked if CSU's main focus should be getting Metra to recognize the Metra stop and then to focus on funding.

Ms. Muscadin responded that from her understanding it has been one comprehensive plan.

With respect to the federal agenda, one issue that has negatively impacted CSU students is the reduction of PELL Grants down to 12 semesters from 18 semesters. CSU is working with federal lobbyists to change the reduction and to explore Title 3 grants.

Chairman Rozier asked if the federal government is considering grandfathering in students with respect to reducing the PELL Grant allowance down to 12 semesters.

President Watson responded that CSU and a number of university presidents are approaching U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan regarding this issue with the PELL Grants.

Ms. Nicole Janes-Crawford informed the Board of the federal update and noted that Mr. Richard Boykin and staff have reached out to Congressman Rush who will lead the effort on the CSU Metra stop. She also stated that Congressman Danny Davis and Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. have also offered their support. Congressman Rush has reached out to Chairman Larry Huggins of the Metra Board who reported that Metra has made a federal grant request for the CSU Metra stop renovation project.

Ms. Nicole Janes-Crawford stated that Mr. Richard Boykins has scheduled a meeting with President Watson and Mary Daniels from Senator Kirk's Office regarding Entrepreneurial Idol 2013. Additionally, Mr. Boykins has met with Ms. Muscadin and Dr. Moses to establish CSU's federal priorities. Mr. Boykins and staff will continue to identify federal dollars for CSU and will continue to implement the strategic plan. Additionally, they are planning a briefing with federal elected officials and their staff to visit the CSU campus and learn more about CSU's federal priorities.

No additional comments from the public or employees.

6. Adjournment

Trustee Young moved to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Rozier seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.