

Chicago State University
Special Board of Trustees Meeting
Full Board Meeting Minutes
Academic Library – Auditorium, Room 415
April 7, 2017
9:07 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Marshall Hatch, Sr., Chairman
Trustee Horace Smith, Vice Chairman
Trustee Kambium Buckner, Secretary
Trustee Nicholas A. Gowen
Trustee Tiffany R. Harper
Trustee Nikki Zollar
Trustee Paris Griffin, Student Representative

Others Present

Interim President Cecil B. Lucy
Dr. Angela Henderson, Provost and Senior Vice President
Mr. Patrick Cage, Esq., General Counsel for Labor and Legal Affairs
Ms. Bonnie Phillips, Office of Board of Trustees

1. Call to Order

Chairman Hatch 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.

Chairman Hatch announced that Mr. Paul G. Vallas had resigned as member of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees. Mr. Vallas sent a letter of resignation to the Governor's Office on April 3, 2017. He thanked Mr. Vallas for his service and contribution as a member of the board.

4. Interim President Remarks

Mr. Lucy stated that as a country we find ourselves at war in Syria, in a divided country, state, city and unfortunately a divided Chicago State University. He stated that the university has to move forward in a unified front, which is in total alignment with the community. Mr. Lucy reported on actions the university took during the fiscal exigency period, which included laying off employees. He stated we must change the perception and negative narrative regarding CSU.

Chairman Hatch stated public comment would be moved to the beginning of the meeting and acknowledged a letter from members of CSU Alumni Affairs thanking the board for making that change.

5. Other Matters

a. Public and Employee Comments

Trustee Hatch stated public comments would be limited to two minutes. Trustee Hatch asked Ms. Phillips to call those who signed up for public comment.

Michael Sukowski, Director for Research and Excellence stated he is proud that the Center for Teaching Research & Excellence has been working with other university and college to offer opportunity for faculty. He thanked the board for their commitment and stated that as staff we want to do everything we can to keep CSU thriving in the community.

Dr. Laurie Walter, announce she is retiring and stated if the board names a new interim president today, the faculty ask that it is someone they can work with and respect. Dr. Walter reported on enrollment numbers from the current and previous years. She expressed concern about falling enrollment numbers.

Ms. Betty Milsap stated she represents the community and youth of Chicago. She asked for the spirit of excellence and integrity in the room. Ms. Milsap stated funding raising is crucial and needs to be addressed.

Dr. William Rayovich stated the faculty cares about this institution and the decision the Board of Trustees makes today will impact the CSU community especially the students.

Ms. Cynthia Powell stated she is a member of the Chicago State University Coalition (CSUC) and the Chicago State University Community Caucus Advisory Council (CSUCAC). Speaking on behalf of Dr. Carmen Palmer, Co-chair of both the CSUC and CSUCAC she asked the Board to reinstate Dr. Thomas Calhoun as President of CSU. She read from two documents the CSUC sent to the CSU Board of Trustees on 9/16/2016 and to Governor Rauner on 9/21/2016, which stated the justifications for having Dr. Calhoun reinstated.

Mr. Gideon Charles stated he is an alumnus of Chicago State University. He expressed his disenchantment with the former administration and asked the Board to purge the former administration. He stated the university need to hire employees that are concern and care about university.

Student Government Association President Darren Martin stated the students have diverse opinions on the leadership of the university. He stated students are tired of the back and forth and supports what is in the best interest of the university. Mr. Martin stated students want to make sure graduation is secure.

Mr. Michael Johnson stated he drove 3 ½ hours to show his support for Mr. Paul Vallas at this meeting. Mr. Johnson gave an overview of his work experience and his relationship with CSU. He stated he grew up in Chicago and cares about CSU.

Mr. Frank Horton stated Paul Vallas should not be hired at CSU and reported on various newspaper articles and other items regarding Mr. Vallas fitness to be hired at CSU. He also admonished some board members for not buying ticket to his organization, which he stated supplies scholarship to CSU students, singling out Board members who bought tickets and those who did not. A robust discussion ensued. Trustee Gowen stated that he and his family donate multiple of thousands of dollar to various organization and plans to donate to CSU.

Chairman Hatch acknowledged "Mama T" who was in the audience. He asked everyone to conduct himself or herself cordially and intelligently and to let the speaker speak. Chairman Hatch stated there is a process that needs to be followed.

Dr. Phillip Beverly stated it has been a remarkable 79 day since the new trustees have been on the Board. He stated the faculty are the keepers of institutional knowledge and they remain committed to be in service to the university and the board. Dr. Beverly stated that we cannot

continue to have interim and ad hoc positions. He thanked the Board for making the hard choices. Dr. Beverly stated it is okay that there is some decent at a university.

6. Recess into Executive Session pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Smith moved to recess into Executive Session. Trustee Buckner seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

7. Reconvene into Open Session

Chairman Hatch stated that there was action taken in executive session that required action in open session.

1. **Action Items**

- a. **Approval of The Appointment of a New Interim President Resolution.**

Trustee Nicholas Gowen presented the resolution.

Trustee Gowen moved to approve The Appointment of a New Interim President Resolution. Trustee Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows.

Ayes 7

Nays 1 (Trustee Zollar)

- b. **Approval of the Appointment of a Temporary Chief Administrative Officer Resolution.**

Trustee Nicholas Gowen presented the resolution.

Trustee Gowen moved to approve the Appointment of a Temporary Chief Administrative Officer Resolution. Trustee Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows.

Ayes 7

Nays 0

Abstain 1 (Trustee Zollar)

Dr. Rachel Lindsey named Interim President and Mr. Paul Vallas named Temporary Chief Administrative Officer pending contract negotiations.

Chairman Hatch thanked Mr. Lucy for his service and his leadership in troubled times.

Chairman Hatch stated we are proud of the 242 graduated in the previous semester and as of today, 652 students have applied to graduate in Spring 2017. He stated we will work with faculty and students to ensure we have a great commencement. He stated one in every six African Americans graduates in the state will be alumni of CSU. Chairman Hatch stated we will graduate over 800 students this school year. He expressed concern regarding the 2% and 11% graduation rate numbers that are reported when for the second year we graduate over 800 students.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.