

Chicago State University Board of Trustees Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2007

Academic Library Auditorium

8:40 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.

Board Members Present

Chairman Rev. Richard Tolliver, Ph.D.

Trustee Betsy Hill

Trustee Rev. Leon Finney, Ph.D.

Trustee Peggy A. Montes

Trustee Jim Reynolds

Trustee Juwaun Sutton, Student Trustee

Others Present

President Elnora D. Daniel

Dr. Phillip Beverly, History and Political Science

Ms. Diane Conatser, CEO, Technology

Attorney Mark Dunn, Board Legal Counsel

Lacker Frances, Student

Mr. Frank Gardner, Community Resident

Dr. Beverly John, Interim Vice President

Dr. Dean Justmann, Senior Executive Director for Budget

Inacon McClory, Student

Dr. Yan Searcy, Professor and Faculty Senate

Ms. Nancy Hall Walker, Vice President for Labor and Legal Affairs

Dr. Sandra Westbrooks, Interim Provost

Dr. Erma Brooks Williams, Senior Executive Director for Board and Governmental Affairs

Roll Call/Verification of Meeting Notice

Chairman Rev. Dr. Richard T. Tolliver convened the Committee of the Whole Meeting . Dr. Erma Brooks Williams verified that the meeting notice had been posted as mandated by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Others Present

The September 21, 2007 Board minutes were unanimously approved.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

Information Items

Finance, Facilities and Administration

Dr. Alan Robertson provided written financial reports, along with the variance analysis for his report. Trustee Finney asked if operational issues were being addressed appropriately given expenditures are lower. Further, Trustee Finney queried as to why Ghana's expenditures were lower? Dr. Robertson responded because the funds were start-up dollars. Also, he expressed concerns related to student default rates as noted in a recent Wall Street Journal article. Dr. Robertson also noted that the Business Enterprise Program for females and minorities are less because the University received its state appropriations late in August as opposed to July 2007. Trustee Finney also raised concerns related to facility challenges when he observed a reduction in maintenance, especially when there are maintenance issues that need to be addressed in Robinson University Center where Continuing Education and the Child Care Center are housed. Mr. Arthur Stiers, facility manager, responded that there were on-going maintenance issues in Robinson. He informed the trustees that \$13 million will be spent to renovate Robinson. Thus, these issues will be addressed. During the renovation phase, Child Care will be relocated to Dickens Center and Continuing Education to Douglas Hall. However, the University is awaiting a capital budget from the Illinois General Assembly before renovation takes place.

Enrollment Management Report

Dr. Beverly M. John provided a power point presentation on the contextualization of enrollment trends from a national, state, and local perspective. *Trustees requested initiatives that are in place to assist our population of students. They also requested longitudinal enrollment data from 1996 to 2007, given enrollment has declined by 2600 students from 1996 to 2007. Trustee Finney noted that enrollment declined as follows:*

<u>Enrollment</u>	<u>Year</u>
• 9462	1996
• 8792	1997
• 8416	1998
• 7580	1999
• 6810	2007

Trustees also directed Dr. John to examine and contact peer institutions that have higher graduation rates to determine why they are successful at addressing the needs of similar populations. The University should not be compared to the lowest performing institutions of higher learning. These data are needed so that trustees can make appropriate policy decisions.

President Daniel commented that the enrollment data from ten years were not totally accurate.

Trustee Finney also commented that he is concerned about 97 percent of the university budget is allocated to personnel, while 3 percent is allocated for programming and the dollars that the University is losing because of the 2,600 decline in enrollment. During his visits with college deans, each dean expressed concerns about not having sufficient operating budgets to address critical needs of the colleges. Also, Trustee Finney expressed concerns related to the gradual increase in admissions requirements for the University, going from an ACT of 16 to 18 and the impact that this policy is having on enrollment. Trustee Reynolds also noted that CSU's graduation rate for first time full-time freshmen is 2.5 percent. The mission should be to improve the graduation rate. Thus, *he asked that the institution set goals as to what the graduation rates should be. The goal is to make the institution the "best university."*

President Daniel commented that a report has been submitted to IBHE on retention and graduation initiatives. A new assessment center will be implemented in order to address these issues.

Academic and Student Affairs

Interim Provost Sandra Westbrooks provided an update on accreditations. She informed trustees that Occupational Therapy received a 10 year accreditation. For the College of Pharmacy, 84 students are being considered for admission for 2008. Six hundred PCAT scores have been received. Library Sciences has pre-candidacy status. The Department of Music is on course for accreditation in 2008.

Action Items

Trustee Hill moved to recommend to the full Board tenure for Dr. Adeji Leslie Ajaye in the Department of Health Studies.

Trustee Hill recommended Emeritus Status for Drs. Howard Silver and Marian Wilson Comer.

Public Policy Institute, Westside Campus Study, Library, and the Foundation updates will be placed on the meeting agendas for the next committee meeting.

Technology Report

Ms. Conatser provided a brief report.

Resource Planning and Risk Management Report

Trustee Reynolds recommended to the full board the approval of the FY 2008 Operating Budget.

Trustee Finney requested that the student concern letters be included in the minutes as attachments.

Public and Employees Comments

Professor Phillip Beverly, Department of History, Philosophy and Political Science, questioned whether the University is managing its resources effectively. He also noted that there is a lack of communication. Specifically, he commented on the lack of communication relative to the appointment of a new Provost. Also, Dr. Beverly informed the Trustees that the Library now charges academic units a \$500 fee for the use of the facility.

Dr. Yan Searcy, president of the Faculty Senate, shared the concerns of 200 faculty. Faculty are concerned that the audit findings have damaged the university's image and have affected the morale of faculty.

Lacker Frances, student, informed the Trustees that she tried to meet with the President three times to no avail. She also noted her concerns relative to the lack of computers, the bookstore being housed in two separate locations and the overall image that these concerns have on the University.

Inacon McClory, student, commented that the University had prepared her for competition in the global economy. Her experience has been a good one. Other students who praised the University for their overall positive experiences included Dione Johnson, Okane Okeeke, Tiffany Johnson, and Jerome Jackson.

Frank Gardner, community leader, voiced his concerns relative to the 15 percent graduation rate and the University adding programs at the expense of other programs and questioned if the University is spreading itself too thin.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

I am a junior at Chicago State University. I am a African American Studies Major. My mother was also a student of Chicago State university, she received her Master's Degree in Early Childhood Development. I am very upset and concerned about the lack of leadership, lack of quality educational service, lack of access to resources, lack of classes offered to students, and other various problems. I am attending CSU to advance and further my education. I plan on becoming financially fit through my educational training and preparation so I can assist in the progress and upliftment of my family, my African American community and various other African American communities, if possible. I am a aspiring Criminal Federal judge, Entrepreneur and business woman. How can I make all of these great accomplishments without a quality education and quality technology ?. How can I compete with the elite, if I am not receiving a grade A quality education and grade A resource ?

I take my future very seriously and I also take the fate of my people (Africans) very seriously. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to see that the African and African American communities are not in control of their politics, are a minority factor in politics, and are in a very sad "state". I am one of those people that believes in not just verbalizing my stance but, also putting action with it.

If the children are the future, then they need to be receiving the proper access, tools, motivation, advertising, preparation, and assistance towards the educational sector of their lives. If I and various other students are to become the "movers and shakers" of this society, then Chicago State University needs to step up their game, stop being so

cheap when money is available, use the proper, most advanced technology and tools. If Chicago State University does not prepare it's students to "be" the elite, then we cannot compete against correctly or become the elite.

One of the various issues that I have at Chicago State University is that it has various computer labs that are in working order, but are not utilized and are off limits to the students who need them. The students, including myself, majority of the time have a lack of computers availability problem, especially during Reports time, midterm time, and Finals time. Many of the students ~~that~~^{sw} depend on the Computer labs because they may not have a computer, Internet, or Printer at home. For the University to actually have these computer resources, but not use them and inconvenience their students/ customers is very redundant.

Another problem that I have with Chicago State Universities structure is the lack of guidance and assistance for the various departments and students. For example, using my own personal experience, the resources for the African American Studies Department are very poor and virtually non-existent. I run into problems and issues even when I try to simply register for my classes, so I can advance towards finishing my Bachelor's Degree, go to Law School, Become a Lawyer, and then a Criminal Federal Judge. I can only, presently find 2 classes out of the 5 classes that I am trying to register for this semester. The other 3 classes that I need are not offered. This situation really saddens and irritates me. I am agitated because my classes being scarce is hindering me from progressing towards my degree and my future.

I hope that my children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, will not have to deal with these various negative issues that influence their educational preparation and progression.

Sincerely yours,

Ashina Hicks

Date: November 29, 2007

Renee Brown
2651 E. 74th St.
Chicago, IL 60649

Dr. Erma Brooks-Williams
9501 S. King Drive
Administration Building Rm. 300
Chicago, IL 60628

Dear Dr. Brooks-Williams:

My name is Renee Brown. I am a senior in the Liberal Arts Program at Chicago State University. I am writing you today to address some concerns about my experience at Chicago State, and the direction in which it is going.

Since I began my studies here in the fall of 2006, I have noticed some serious deficiencies in the decision-making process of the President of the University. I have witnessed the construction of the New Academic Library, the Convocation center, and will witness the construction of the new statue on 95th St. and St. Lawrence. I have also heard of plans to form a campus on the west side of Chicago. While these operations are certainly exciting, they are not appropriate given the conditions of the already existing facilities on campus.

1. The plumbing is faulty; there are several toilets all over campus that do not work, and have not worked since I began here last fall.
2. There is rarely paper towel available in the restrooms.
3. There are several unsightly water damages and holes in walls all over campus.
4. Several classrooms do not have sufficient lighting, clocks, or garbage cans.

This year, the bus terminal was moved from 95th St./St. Lawrence to the Cottage Grove location to make room for a new statue. In effect, students taking the bus will have to make a considerably longer journey to their classes during Chicago's brutally cold winters and often brutally hot summers. Furthermore, the new bus terminal is located in

a dangerous, crime-ridden neighborhood, putting Chicago State University students' safety at risk. Decisions such as these make President Daniels' concern for the student body appear questionable.

Additionally, I have had several problems with the level of customer service and professionalism in the administrative sections of Chicago State. On many occasions, I have received extremely slow service or no response at all to urgent issues from the offices of the Bursar, Financial Aid, Admissions, and the Cashier. Furthermore, visiting these offices proves to be a nuisance in general due to the rudeness and overall unprofessional demeanor of the staff. At an accredited four-year university, I expect superior customer service; Chicago State University rarely delivers it.

I have otherwise had an excellent academic experience, with due credit to my dedicated professors and motivating classmates. I believe that Chicago State University has excellent potential, and that under better leadership, it could achieve the status and superiority that it deserves. Please ensure that all board members see this letter.

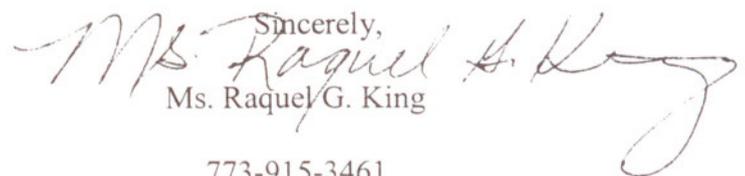
Best Regards,

Renee Brown

11-26-07

To The Board of Trustees:

My name is Raquel King and this is my first and maybe my last semester here at Chicago State University. The professionalism displayed this semester has been horrible as far as I am concern. I graduated from Kennedy King College in May of 2006 and received better professionalism from them than I have from this University. I am a psychology major and am very disappointed for several reasons. To start my transcripts has been lost twice. One was mailed and the other was hand delivered. My next concern is why does the board meetings take place during class hours and students have no way of knowing that these meetings even take place? I had the pleasure of attending the last meeting and was quite offended when I found out that I was not counted in those who graduate do to being a transfer student. The system in the financial aid office is horrible, as far as refunds checks are concerned. Last but not least is the parking. How/why parking is 4.00 and not included in tuition? I really don't know what the qualifications of being president of this university are, however I think that there has to be someone more competent than the present one. I really hope that my concerns are not push under a rug because it determines my future education whether here or elsewhere.

Sincerely,

Ms. Raquel G. King

773-915-3461

11/27/07

To Whom it may Concern,

I am a two time graduate of Chicago State Univ. and I'm very distressed to hear that my daughter who attends CSU is not receiving the same quality service that I received there.

The lack of access to a state of the art computer lab, which is at CSU, is totally unacceptable. Why should she and her peers have to be so inconvenienced with the labs being in existence for the very purpose of affording her access to quality technology?

Someone is not on top of their job. The president of CSU should see to this matter and other concerns too! Such as library books not put on shelves but housed in boxes. That too is outrageous. The CSU President should do her job by overseeing the workings

of the various departments at CSU
or relieve herself and allow someone
else to do it.

Sincerely Yours,

Ms. P. Holt