

Chicago State University  
Special Board of Trustees  
Executive Committee Meeting  
150 North Wacker Drive, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
July 25, 2016  
10:00 am. – 1:18 p.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Anthony L. Young, Chairman  
Trustee Michael L. Curtin, Secretary  
Trustee Spencer Leak, Sr.  
Trustee Marshall Hatch, Sr.  
Trustee Nikki Zollar

Board Members Not Present

Trustee James T. Joyce, Vice Chairman  
Trustee Horace Smith  
Trustee Paris Griffin, Student Trustee

Others Present

Mr. Cecil Lucy, Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance  
Dr. Angela Henderson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Ms. Bonnie Phillips, Office of Board of Trustees

1. Call to Order

Trustee Young called the meeting to order.  
He stated that this is a meeting of the executive committee and it is being held in Trustee Zollar's office. In compliance with the open meetings act notices was posted regarding this meeting.

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. Recess into Executive Session Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act

**Trustee Curtin moved to Recess into Executive Session. Trustee Zollar seconded the motion.  
The motion passed as follows:**

**Ayes: 4  
Nays: 0**

5. Reconvene into Open Session

The Board took no action in executive session that required action in open session.

## 6. Other Matters

### a. Public and Employee Comments

One person signed up for public comment Dr. Phillip Beverly.

Dr. Philip Beverly, Faculty Senate President, Professor Political Science. Dr. Beverly stated the following four points:

- The faculty senate sent a letter to the Board requesting that financial exigency be terminated and he is renewing the request to terminate exigency at this meeting.
- There is concern about the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) sanction.
  - Over the absence in planning (internal)
  - How are we going to pivot and message the HLC sanction appropriately so it does not feed into the narrative that we are closing. Because, that continues to be the consistent narrative. (external)
- There is concern about potential audit findings with regard to the office key turn in process and property control issues. Given the number of employees that we had to let go early this year, there have been some problems with these issues. However, we have to be on top of these issues and make sure we are not getting findings that are unnecessary.
- There are enrollment concerns. We have an interim vice president and he is now the fifth vice president for enrollment management that we have had since 2009. We have not had the continuity that we need in enrollment management. There has to be continuity established, because enrollment is our life's blood. The faculty is concerned about faculty involvement in the enrollment management process and this is normally around admission standards. Dr. Bionaz has done some work on looking at our cohorts. We are hammered on our graduation rates nearly every year and there is no reason for us to be hammered on our graduation rate. The department of education formula for calculating that rate does not serve us and it never has. It is not going to serve our population. It is always going to hurt us so, we have to game the system. There are a couple of ways that we can do that, but faculty has to be involved in that discussion.

Dr. Beverly stated that he would introduce himself to our new interim vice president of enrollment, and voice to him that we have to improve enrollment. Better enrollment is going to help our retention. Retention is going to help our graduation rate and that is going to create positive press.

Dr. Bionaz stated that if we can get the enrollment number up to the point, where it is not problematic, we could have a year where we have a 60 percent graduation rate, which is possible. Obviously, it is going to require that we really support the students. We may have to make some hard decisions in terms of admissions. Dr. Bionaz stated that there are many brilliant students who could come to CSU. These students would graduate not in six years, but in four years. However, sometimes life intervenes with our students and we need to support them.

Trustee Leak asked if we are doing the type of job necessary to encourage Chicago Public Schools (CPS) as a feeder into the university and is there something that we are not doing to increase the numbers of CPS students to enroll at CSU. Trustee Curtin asked how involved would the faculty want to be in terms of the actual recruiting process.

Dr. Philip Beverly stated that in order to do this type of outreach there has to be a commitment to rebuilding our enrollment management infrastructure. There has to be relationships with the counselors and principals in the high schools so that we are not a second or third thought when they are talking with their students about going to college. CPS requires all their graduation seniors to apply for college. CSU ends up on many applications as a default. The administration is going to have to make some hard decisions about where we put people and we need \$50,000 a year admission counselors over maybe \$150,000 a year administrators.

Trustee Zollar asked if Dr. Beverly would be interested in doing something like that formally in enrollment management. Trustee Zollar noted that she had the opportunity to meet the president of Howard University recently and they had very similar issues. They do not have the issues anymore because he devised a program or perhaps it was devised somewhere else where they offer the student full tuition reimbursement for anything that the student has not paid. For example, a student gets MAP but has to pay other monies. If the student graduates within six years, the university covers that funding and they have seen a complete turnaround in their numbers.

Dr. Philip Beverly stated that he would have to say no, formally for this reason. There are many talented people who do enrollment management. He stated that a friend who is a vice provost at UIC gave him, the enrollment management bible. There is a book published from a person at the University of Indiana that everybody in the industry uses, it is very complicated, and I am out of my depth here in terms of the technical knowledge. I see what is possible when it works and what we can turn out in four to six years. Dr. Beverly stated that money is so critical. For many of our students life intervenes and it becomes more of a struggle trying to catch up. It is unfair to our students, when at other schools, they have resources to support the students and it would be great if CSU had those kinds of resources.

Dr. Bionaz stated that his wife teaches at DePaul as what would be a lecturer in our system. They have a measurement for what is problematic. They work very closely with the faculty to identify students that may be having problems. He stated that he does not want to have a job in enrollment management, because he prefers to teach. However, he would be happy to put as much time as necessary into doing something like that, because we have to get that information to the faculty. Dr. Bionaz stated that we do not know in our departments who are the first-time full-time freshmen. We cannot put hands on those students right away not unless we make the effort to look at the university information. They are in this cohort and we need to make sure that we have eyes on them.

Trustee Zollar stated that it would be good if we have some type of liaison between faculty and enrollment. Faculty could then support those students that are having a difficult time.

Dr. Bionaz stated yes, when we take students that are not prepared to come to college and they do not make it, we are doing our jobs. We are protecting the academic integrity of the institution. He stated that it is a tough way to do it and it damages us publicly, but you do not get this idea that somehow the academics at CSU are substandard. He stated that students do not pass our classes unless they do the work. Dr. Bionaz reported that the State

of Illinois has made it extremely difficult to get people through teacher preparation programs. That was at one point our bread and butter. Dr. Bionaz stated that we have had just an incredible decrease in the number of people in the college of education and it is really hurting us. What we did best we are not able to do as much because there are fewer students.

Dr. Bionaz stated that one of the things that the State of Illinois did was to recalibrate the test of academic proficiency. Dr. Bionaz gave an overview of the test and reported on how it is affecting students.

A discussion was held concerning the excellent quality education CSU provides and the conditions (infrastructure) of public schools in Chicago.

Trustee Hatch stated that people are being restricted from going into these education programs across the board. The irony is that there are so many uncertified teachers working in the schools in the inner cities. For example, Teach for America.

Dr. Bionaz stated that you also have uncertified teachers working in private schools. There is no requirement that you have state certifications to work in private schools. Dr. Bionaz stated that he will retire in two years; however, he plans to do whatever is needed to help this school flourish.

## 7. Adjournment

**Trustee Curtin moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Zollar seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

The meeting adjourned at 1:18 p.m.