

WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT #512  
COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE AND MCHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of Wednesday, February 11, 1998

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Board meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District No. 512 was called to order by Chair Kolze on Wednesday, February 11, 1998 at 7:03 p.m. in the Board Room of the Administration Building, 1200 W. Algonquin Road, Palatine, Illinois.

ROLL CALL: Present: Members Barton (via telephone 7:07 p.m.) Gillette, Hess, Howard, Kolze, and Shure; Student Member Prinzivalli (7:09 p.m. arrival)  
Absent: Member Botterman

Also present: Ed Dolan, V.P. Academic Affairs; Bonnie Henry, V.P. Student Affairs; David McShane, V.P. Information Systems; Judy Thorson, V.P. Administrative Services; Steve Catlin; George Evans; Julie Fleenor; Amy Hauenstein; Bill Howard; Alexander Jovanovitch; Thea Keshavarzi; Liz McKay; Sheila Quirk and Laurie Wren - Harper.  
Student: Heather Voegeli.

Guests: Kendra Williams, Daily Herald; Maryanne Giustino, Chicago Tribune; Larry Richardson, A.G. Edwards and Sons, Inc.; Alan Bombick and Michael Lundeen, Legat Architects.

Chair Kolze noted that shortly before the meeting, Board members had the opportunity to see the results of two faculty sabbatical leaves. Faculty members Michael Brown and Jack Tippens displayed and demonstrated their works of art. He added that it was a nice way to present a sabbatical report and expressed appreciation to Professors Brown and Tippens.

NEW BUSINESS

Facilities Referendum

Chair Kolze explained that Vice President Ed Dolan would give a brief overview of the projects identified in the Space Planning study. There will be a discussion regarding the pros and cons of the referendum dates, and he will ask Board members to vote on

the preferred date. Once the date is agreed upon, Dr. Dolan will then discuss the number of projects included and the costs. He added that it is not necessary to make a decision on the scope of the referendum at this meeting.

Vice President Dolan stated that the long-term Space Planning Task Force, chaired by Liz McKay, has done a great deal of work in order to identify needs on the campus. He noted that Dr. McKay and Michael Lundeen of Legat Architects are available to answer any questions.

Dr. Dolan noted that three construction phases were identified by the Space Planning Task Force. The first two phases will be discussed in regard to the referendum.

Phase I is proposed to include:

- construction of a building between Buildings H and D;
- renovation of the east wing of Building D.

Phase II is proposed to include:

- renovation of Building A;
- enhancement of Building C;
- completion of computer lab/classroom area between Buildings C and E;
- addition of the third floor to Building W (occurring during Phase I and/or Phase II).

Dr. Dolan explained that the enhancement of Building C was decided after removing the drawing of the new building adjacent to Building C, which was originally viewed as the new student center/administrative center. This was changed due to cost limitations and further review of functionality. He noted that the yellow colored areas on the drawings represent new construction or expanded buildings.

Dr. Dolan called attention to the handout regarding cost options for the referendum. Listed on the handout with approximate costs are Option A - \$89.9M; Option B - \$86.8M; Option C - \$82.4M; Option D - \$74.7M. He explained that Option A includes everything that was discussed regarding Phase I and Phase II. Option B would exclude some proposed computers in the lab sciences (decreasing the number from 14 to 7), and would reduce the amount of furniture in both Building D and Building A. In addition to what was removed for Option B, Option C would also exclude the third floor of Building W, some of the classroom furnishings for R and W, and some specialized teaching equipment for the science labs and hospitality. Michael Lundeen explained that the specialized equipment would be new X-ray machines or new stoves for Hospitality. In addition to what was removed for Options B and C, Option D would also eliminate the computer lab building for math and science.

Dr. Dolan noted that some of the original cost estimates ranged from \$105M to \$120M. Since that time, the entire plan has been reviewed, duplications have been removed, and faculty have been asked to streamline their requests. They were asked to look at their optimum request and convert it to an operational request. This helped bring the options into the range of \$75M to \$90M.

Chair Kolze clarified that the Phases are related to construction timing, and the Options are related to cost dollars.

#### Timing of the Referendum

Dr. Dolan noted that there are two potential dates for the referendum -- February 1999 and April 1999. He called attention to the handouts and the wall charts as he discussed the advantages and disadvantages of each date.

#### **February 1999 Advantages**

1. 12-month planning and implementation of the campaign is provided.
2. Extensive district-wide meetings and education of Harper benefits and needs can be realized. This is part of the educational plan to help the public understand the referendum, the College needs, and how this will serve the communities.
3. Timing does not compete with national elections. There will be an opportunity to keep focused on the issue of the referendum.
4. Success rate for referendums on this date is good.
5. More focused media attention and information will result in better attention given to this issue from the public.
6. Stronger voter interest will be achieved on this issue as opposed to getting negative spill-over from other issues on the ballot.
7. The vote may coincide with the mailing of tax bills which would allow the public confirmation of the minimal impact of the issues on their tax bills. There is information in the packet regarding the cost implications.
8. This is the best chance for the fewest number of referenda on the ballot. The probability is that there would be fewer referendum issues in February than in April.
9. Timing allows an opportunity for a follow-up vote in April 1999.
10. Our last successful campaign was February, 1985.
11. Timing does not compete with the village/city elections and School Board elections BOTH of which, for the first time, are to be held in April 1999 because of the election law changes that were just implemented by the legislature.

**February 1999 Disadvantages**

1. Coinciding with the mailing of the tax bills may bring out "anti-tax" vote.
2. The vote would incur additional public cost in precincts that only had Harper on the ballot.
3. There would be only one opportunity for a follow-up vote during the next 12 months.

**April 1999 Advantages**

1. 14-month planning and implementation of the campaign is provided.
2. Extensive district-wide meetings and education of Harper benefits and needs can be realized.
3. Timing does not compete with national elections.
4. Better chance of good weather for voters.

**April 1999 Disadvantages**

1. Coinciding with the paying of tax bills may bring out a "anti-tax" vote.
2. Timing will compete with village/city elections and School Board elections, including the Harper Board. The School Board elections will be held for the first time in April (1999).
3. There would be no opportunity for a follow-up vote until March 2000.
4. Success rate for Bond resolutions is lower (50 percent) than the February date (78 percent).
5. Focused attention and information are diluted due to a large number of anticipated referenda. April will have many more issues on the ballot. With the tax cap, more bodies (including schools, park districts, libraries, villages) are being forced to go to the public for relief.

Dr. Dolan encouraged Board members to add other advantages or disadvantages to the lists. He explained that these lists were the result of Executive Council brainstorming and faculty input.

Member Howard stated that one possible advantage to the February date is that some of the other taxing bodies may not be prepared to have referendums that early.

In regard to the second disadvantage of the February date, Chair Kolze noted that the number of precincts had been increased recently in order to provide convenience to voters. He asked if there was evidence that more people actually came out to vote because of this. Dr. Dolan responded that the issue was discussed in the most recent legislative session.

In regard to interest rates, Member Gillette noted that current rates are low and it is predicted that they will increase slowly over time. If the prediction is true, February would have a slightly lower interest rate than April.

Member Shure asked how far back the committee reviewed success rates and bond issues between February and April. Dr. Dolan responded that the last round of elections were reviewed because only recently the tax cap has been impacting the entities. He added that Gary Davis' (ICCTA) observation was that more and more referendums will be coming up. Many discussions have taken place throughout the State. Dr. Dolan added that Dr. Davis predicts there will be more on the ballot in the state elections than there will be in the local elections.

Member Shure asked if Cook County has a quadrennial reassessment. Vice President Thorson believed it is triennial, but will verify this information.

Member Gillette noted that one advantage to the February date was that students' needs would be met sooner.

Member Hess stated she will vote for the February date because if the referendum does not pass, the College has a chance to get quick feedback and readdress the issues before the April elections.

Student Member Prinzivalli agreed with Member Gillette's statement regarding students' needs. She will vote for the February date.

Member Barton asked if there was sufficient time to file between February and April if the February referendum was unsuccessful. Chair Kolze stated that the College could prepare in advance through legal counsel in order to move very quickly.

Member Barton reaffirmed the seventh advantage of February 1999. It may be emphasized more, with the tax bill in front of the voter, that Harper's portion of the average tax bill is approximately three percent.

Member Hess stated she had calculated the impact of \$90M over 20 years to be approximately 79 cents per week for the average household. Over 15 years it amounts to 96 cents per week. It is a small portion of the tax bill. Member Barton agreed and added that the Harper community should not just tell people the facts, but sell the advantages to them.

On behalf of the faculty, George Evans stated that the date is not a big issue and that they will accept the Board's choice. He noted that faculty is concerned with other issues such as lack of information. Chair Kolze stated that those items can be discussed later.

Member Howard moved, Member Hess seconded, approval of the February 1999 date for the referendum.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Barton, Gillette, Hess,  
Howard, Kolze and Shure  
Nays: None  
Absent: Member Botterman

Motion carried. Student Member Prinzivalli voted aye.

Chair Kolze stated that this will give direction and focus to the staff. He welcomed discussion regarding the dollar amount and projects to be included in the referendum. He noted that there will not be a vote on these issues.

Member Howard stated that there is a compelling need for the items listed. She suggested Option A in order to do what is really necessary for the College for the future. By doing this, Harper will not have to go back to the taxpayers for another 20 years. She suggested that if the February referendum fails, it would be possible to scale back to Options B, C or D for the April referendum, if necessary.

Member Barton agreed. She would be concerned if the College originally asked for a lesser amount and then had to go back to the taxpayers in a few years for the additional amount.

Member Gillette stated he would like an opportunity to meet with some members of the Space Planning committee in an effort to understand the needs more clearly. He agreed that there are some items that are absolutely mandatory, but felt there may be some ways to further streamline campus needs. Member Shure agreed with Member Gillette. He added that perhaps the College could fulfill its goals and still use some of the older furniture, and also determine the impact of having fewer computers.

In regard to reducing the number of computers from 14 to 7, Member Howard asked how many students will be using them. If there are more than 14 in the lab/classroom they are already having to share computers.

Member Hess stated that as a former student, she is familiar with the campus needs. She suggested going for Option A because so much has deteriorated on the campus during the past ten years. She added that she has a lot of faith in the committees involved in identifying the needs on campus and feels they did a thorough job. Member Hess noted that if the College asks for a lesser amount now, costs will increase by the time another referendum

would be needed several years later. She stated that it should be done right the first time.

Student Member Prinzivalli stated that she would vote for Option A. As a current student in the classrooms, she sees that there are many things that should be done.

Chair Kolze agreed with Option A because of the very evident needs on the campus. In regard to the science areas, he noted that some area high schools have more up-to-date facilities than Harper. These things are long overdue. He added that a strong case must be made to show what students will be getting after the referendum that they are not getting at the present time. Member Barton stated that advantages to the taxpayers must be explained as well as advantages to the students.

Chair Kolze stated that the Board needs more time to discuss this. In regard to Member Gillette's request to meet with the Space Planning Task Force, Member Howard stated that it is up to the Board to follow up with any specific questions or request more information. There was discussion regarding how Board members would meet with the facilities committee. Member Gillette suggested individual or small group meetings as opposed to a Special Board meeting. Chair Kolze stated that the Board will consider this suggestion and decide how to proceed.

Dr. Dolan suggested Board members contact him or the groups if they have specific questions.

Chair Kolze noted that Dr. Breuder will be present at the February Board meeting and most likely will not have had a chance to absorb all of this.

Member Barton excused herself from the meeting when the conference call ended at 7:45 p.m. She thanked Board members for allowing her to participate via telephone.

#### Review of Four-Year Tuition Plan

Vice President Judy Thorson distributed a handout entitled "Tuition Recommendation" which originally had been distributed last year when the tuition plan was put in place. In order to refresh everyone's memory and update the newer Board members, she explained that per capita cost was chosen as the base for College tuition decisions. She noted that per capita cost is defined by the state using a specific formula.

Ms. Thorson stated that in the past, Harper students have paid in the range of approximately 33 percent in 1985 to approximately 17 percent of per capita cost currently. Last year, it was determined to have a goal of 20 percent -- it was reasonable to expect students to pay 20 percent of Harper's per capita cost.

She added that 33 1/3 percent is the current state limit on how much students can pay.

Last year it was determined that per capita cost was \$240, and 20 percent of that is \$48. At the time, Harper tuition was only \$42 per credit hour. It was decided that a tuition increase from \$42 to \$48 was too much in one year. Therefore, a four-year plan was developed, making the 20 percent goal reachable several years down the road. The four-year plan is based on projections of future per capita costs. She called attention to the projections on the handout. Actual data for the 1997-98 year was higher than the 1997-98 projection of per capita cost. Actual per capita cost was \$260 and the projection was \$250-\$252. Ms. Thorson stated that although it is a bit higher than anticipated, the administration will still recommend the planned \$4 increase, raising tuition from \$46 to \$50. It may take another year to get to the 20 percent goal. Chair Kolze stated that the Board recognized last year that it might take longer.

Ms. Thorson noted that her intent was to give this brief background information to the Board before the February Board meeting when the tuition increase action is scheduled to be presented. She asked if Board members wanted her to prepare anything else for the regular Board meeting. In response to Chair Kolze, Ms. Thorson stated that she would provide comparative data on tuition from other community colleges.

Member Gillette suggested Harper look into the possibility of lowering tuition for those classes that cost less and raising tuition for those that cost more. He stated that the average would be the same. However, he felt this might help fill up some empty seats in the classrooms. He recommended that a study be done to research this concept. There was discussion regarding varying tuition. Ms. Thorson stated that something like this was done at the college where she previously worked. When they raised the price of the technical classes, the College saw decreases in enrollment that began to affect the Gen. Ed. areas. Member Gillette asked if the tuition had been lowered for the non-technical classes. Ms. Thorson replied that it had not been lowered.

Chair Kolze suggested that the administration follow up on the issue of varied tuition. He would be interested in hearing what the effort would require. Member Howard suggested finding out if other community colleges have experimented with varied tuition. Member Gillette stated that Harper could be a leader in this instead of waiting to be a follower.



Fast Track Brochure

Dr. Dolan called attention to the Fast Track brochure which had been distributed to Board members. He explained that it is a compilation of Fast Track career course options available to students. He noted that a great deal of discussion and time went into this first effort, and they are proud of it. It will be available to the campus community and to the public. Member Howard noted that the Board would be interested in hearing about the response to the Fast Track options after the first few semesters.

Chair Kolze stated that there will be an executive session after the special meeting to discuss the appointment, employment and dismissal of personnel and collective bargaining.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Member Howard moved, Student Member Prinzivalli seconded, that the meeting be adjourned into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment and dismissal of personnel, and collective bargaining.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Ayes: Members Gillette, Hess, Howard,  
Kolze and Shure  
Nays: None  
Absent: Members Barton and Botterman

Motion carried at 7:55 p.m. Student Member Prinzivalli voted aye.

Following executive session, the Board reconvened the Special meeting at 8:36 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Paul N. Thompson  
Scholarship

Member Howard moved, Member Gillette seconded, the establishment of an annual scholarship in the name of Paul N. Thompson.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

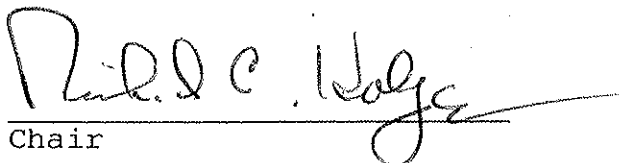
Ayes: Members Gillette, Hess, Howard,  
Kolze and Shure  
Nays: None  
Absent: Members Barton and Botterman

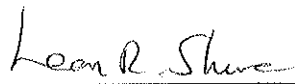
Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Howard moved, Member Shure seconded, that the meeting be adjourned. In a voice

In a voice vote, the motion carried at 8:37 p.m.

  
Chair

  
Secretary  
(Pro Tem)

## BOARD REQUESTS

## FEBRUARY 11, 1998 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

1. Member Shure asked if Cook County has a quadrennial reassessment. Vice President Thorson believed it is triennial, but will verify this information.
2. Member Gillette stated he would like an opportunity to meet with some members of the Space Planning committee in an effort to understand the needs more clearly. He agrees that there are some items that are absolutely mandatory, but feels there may be some ways to further streamline campus needs.
3. In regard to reducing the number of computers from 14 to 7, Member Howard asked how many students will be using them.
4. There was discussion regarding how Board members would meet with the facilities committee. Member Gillette suggested individual or small group meetings as opposed to a special board meeting. Chair Kolze stated that the Board will give it thought and decide how to proceed.
5. In response to Chair Kolze, Ms. Thorson stated that she would provide comparative data on tuition from other community colleges.
6. Chair Kolze suggested that the administration follow up on the issue of varied tuition. He would be interested in hearing what the effort requires -- how much it will take to look into the issue. Member Howard suggested finding out if other community colleges have experimented with varied tuition.
7. Member Howard stated that the Board be interested in hearing about the response to the Fast Track options after the first few semesters.