

QUINCY COLLEGE
BOARD OF GOVERNORS
MEETING OF MAY 30, 2007

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:28 PM. The member roll was called. The following members of the Board of Governors were present at the call of the member roll: Mark Bertman; Jo-Ann Bragg; Mary Jo Brogna; Edward Browne; Joanne Condon-Walsh; Thomas Feenan; Richard Nici; Pedro Viejo-Rodriguez; Peter Tsaffaras, Esq., Chair of the Board of Governors. Absent at the call of the member roll were: Francis Byrne; David Dennis, Vice Chair; William Grindlay; Jerrell Riggins, Second Vice Chair. Also present were: Martha Sue Harris, President and Secretary of the Board of Governors; Dr. Keith Cotroneo, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs; Pushap Kapoor, Vice President for Administrative Services; Robert E. Baker, Jr., Esq., Dean of Business and Public Service Programs and Assistant Secretary of the Board of Governors; Matthew Tobin, Esq.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

Motion by Mr. Nici that the agenda be taken out of order and that the Board of Governors enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing real estate negotiations, and litigation, the Board to return to open and public session at the conclusion of Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Condon-Walsh. There was no discussion on the motion. The following members of the Board of Governors voted in favor of the motion: Mr. Bertman; Ms. Bragg; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan; Mr. Nici; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez; Mr. Tsaffaras. There were no votes in opposition to the motion, and no abstentions. The motion was adopted.

Open and public session resumed at 7:20 PM. The member roll was called. The following members of the Board of Governors were present at the call of the member roll: Mr. Bertman; Ms. Bragg; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan; Mr. Nici; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez; Mr. Tsaffaras. Absent at the call of the member roll were: Mr. Byrne; Mr. Dennis; Mr. Grindlay; Mr. Riggins.

Mr. Tsaffaras addressed the Board and stated that this is the first meeting on separation from the City of Quincy, and each member should let his or her feelings be known.

Mr. Tsaffaras said that the first issue to resolve is whether Quincy College wishes to be independent and private, or part of the state community college system.

Ms. Condon-Walsh urged that the College become private. She felt that becoming part of a large system would work to the disadvantage of the College, its students, and its programs.

Ms. Bragg said that a major concern was for faculty and staff security and pensions but that she is leaning toward independence.

Mr. Browne stated that his experience in working for a privatized, formerly public entity shows that it works, so he is now in favor of privatization of the College. He is, however, keeping his options open pending hearing recommendations from a consultant.

Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez expressed the belief that separation would give the College a positive freedom.

Mr. Nici stated that what Quincy College does, it does well, it has been self supporting, and the character of Quincy College would best be served by separating.

Ms. Brogna stated that her first impression is that private, independent would be the way to go.

Mr. Feenan expressed the fear that if Quincy College entered the state system, it would be absorbed by UMass/Boston or Massasoit Community College.

Mr. Bertman recommended that the Board first make the decision of direction, private versus public, and then hire a consultant. His wish, however, is that the College become a private institution.

Mr. Tsaffaras stated that if Quincy College does not separate from the City of Quincy, the College will not survive in terms of accreditation. NEASC raised significant concerns regarding governance. It is NEASC's preference that the Board of Governors take serious and aggressive steps to separate. Mr. Tsaffaras further stated, however, that two year institutions that become private often face financial difficulties. Since it has been twenty five years since a new community college has been established in Massachusetts, he thought that it may have been time for the Commonwealth to do so. However, Mr. Tsaffaras has been persuaded that Quincy College has its own niche, and he now believes that becoming a free standing, private institution is the way to go.

Motion by Mr. Bertman that Quincy College seek to become a private, independent, non-profit college. The motion was seconded by Ms. Condon-Walsh. There was no discussion on the motion. The following members of the Board of Governors voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Bertman; Ms. Bragg; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan; Mr. Nici; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez; Mr. Tsaffaras. There were no votes in opposition to the motion, and no abstentions. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Tsaffaras then established the following working committees as Subcommittees of the Committee of the Whole:

Facilities: Mr. Bertman, Chair; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan;

Pensions, Benefits, and Employee Relations: Ms. Bragg, Chair; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne;

Corporate, Home Rule, and Legal Considerations: Mr. Byrne; Mr. Nici; Mr. Riggins; Mr. Tsaffaras;

Capital Issues and Finance: Mr. Dennis; Mr. Grindlay; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez.

Mr. Tsaffaras said the he would serve as an ex-officio member of each Subcommittee (other than the Corporate, Home Rule, and Legal Considerations Subcommittee, of which he is a voting member) through the fall, and will coordinate the interaction of the Subcommittees. All Board members are to receive notice from the President's Office of all meetings of all Subcommittees. Backup material will be sent to Board members upon their request. President Harris pointed out that each of the Subcommittees may need input from some external experts. Mr. Tsaffaras agreed that different consultants may be needed to address specific issues, for a defined period of time. Mr. Tsaffaras and President Harris agreed that one consultant is not the answer in addressing all questions.

Ms. Condon-Walsh pointed out that on the Board, because its membership is so new, there is little institutional memory. She therefore recommended that someone such as former Governor Peter O'Neill may be a tremendous resource. Mr. Tsaffaras said that he would contact Mr. O'Neill prior to the next regular meeting of the Board of Governors. Mr. Tsaffaras also stated that the Committee of the Whole would deliver a report to the Board at each regular meeting of the Board.

Mr. Tsaffaras urged the establishment of a deadline for separation. Constituent groups also need to be identified and the process begun to reach out to them. Both of these steps should be taken by or at the next regular Board meeting.

Regarding a Request for Proposals for space, it was the consensus of the Board that this must be done quickly.

Motion by Ms. Condon-Walsh to transfer \$520,000.00 from the Fund Balance to Judgments, Settlements, and Claims (FY 2007). The motion was seconded by Ms. Bragg. There was no discussion on the motion. The following members of the Board of Governors voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Bertman; Ms. Bragg; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan; Mr. Nici; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez; Mr. Tsaffaras. There were no votes in opposition to the motion, and no abstentions. The motion was adopted.

Ms. Bragg asked for an explanation of the list attached to the Board agenda (please see copy, attached). Lorri Mayer, Director of Human Resources, presented the requested explanation.

Mr. Browne asked that Board members be provided with copies of the existing collective bargaining agreements with the Quincy Education Association and the Quincy College Professional Staff Association, as well as with information on benefits. Mr. Tsaffaras recommended that the agreements and benefits information be sent to the members of the Pensions, Benefits, and Employee Relations Subcommittee.

Motion by Ms. Brogna that the meeting of the Board of Governors be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nici. There was no discussion on the motion. The following members of the Board of Governors voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Bertman; Ms. Bragg; Ms. Brogna; Mr. Browne; Ms. Condon-Walsh; Mr. Feenan; Mr. Nici; Mr. Viejo-Rodriguez; Mr. Tsaffaras. There were no votes in opposition to the motion, and no abstentions. The motion was adopted.

The meeting of the Board of Governors was adjourned at 8:24 PM.