

**Minutes of the Oakton Community College Board Meeting  
April 17, 2007**

The 605<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Wadhwa called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in room 1503 and the roll was called:

Mr. Wadhwa	Chair	Present
Dr. Rosen	Vice Chair	Absent
Mr. Williams	Secretary	Present
Dr. Alexopoulos		Present
Dr. Barshis		Present
Mr. Collins		Present
Dr. DiLeonardi		Absent

**Closed Session**

Dr. Alexopoulos offered a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees and potential litigation. Dr. Barshis seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and Dr. Alexopoulos, Dr. Barshis, Mr. Collins, Mr. Wadhwa, Mr. Williams, Dr. Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Dr. Hamel, Ms. Lucas, Ms. Rizzo, and Dr. Smith went into closed session at 7:10 p.m. in room 1503.

Dr. Alexopoulos offered a motion to adjourn the closed session. Dr. Barshis seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mr. Wadhwa reconvened the 605<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:34 p.m. in room 1506 and Secretary Williams called the roll:

Mr. Wadhwa	Chairman	Present
Dr. Rosen	Vice Chairman	Absent
Mr. Williams	Secretary	Present
Dr. Alexopoulos		Present
Dr. Barshis		Present
Mr. Collins		Present
Dr. DiLeonardi		Absent

Also in attendance were Dr. Margaret Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Dr. Thomas Hamel, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, Ms. Barbara Rizzo, Dr. Joianne Smith, Mr. Saïd Abouamou, Mr. Patrick Altwasser, Mr. Stacey Anderson, Mr. Joseph Appel, Mr. Maurice Archer, Mr. Jonathan Au, Ms. Robyn Bailey,

Dr. Kalyani Banerjee, Ms. Ann Marie Barry, Dr. Trudy Bers, Mr. Zach Blesich, Mr. Phil Block, Mr. John Blumenshine, Mr. Paul Boisvert, Ms. Michele Brown, Mr. Ryan Brown, Ms. Stephanie Cannon, Mr. James Coates, Mr. David Cole, Mr. Carlos Contreras, Mr. Carl Costanza, Mr. James Cotes, Ms. Olivia Cronk, Ms. Eileen Cukierski, Mr. Timothy Davidson, Mr. David Davis, Mr. John Devaney, Dr. Carlee Drummer, Mr. Adrian Emmanuel, Mr. Howard Epting, Mr. Jorell Espinosa, Mr. Steve Evans, Mr. Joseph Foy, Mr. Will Frank, Ms. Rachel Fridkin, Ms. Susan Fridkin, Mr. Steve Gaither, Mr. Chad Ganger, Ms. Margaret Gas, Mr. Edmond Gbruhim, Mr. Ward Gill, Mr. Dennis Graham, Ms. Safa Hamed, Mr. Rolf Hrbacek, Mr. Darrell Iliagan, Mr. Marlon Johnson, Mr. Michael Jones, Mr. Saji Joseph, Mr. Igor Kochin, Ms. Donna Keene, Ms. Linda Korbel, Mr. Bernie Krule, Mr. Joseph Kundrick, Mr. Mark Lake, Mr. Robert Lange, Mr. A.J. Mahar, Ms. Mary Pat Martin, Mr. Brian McAuliffe, Mr. Ed McGrath, Mr. Ben Miller, Ms. Heather Miller, Mr. Weston Miller, Ms. Linda Mockenhaupt, Mr. Jeffrey Moro, Mr. Matthew Mordan, Mr. John Mroczek, Mr. Bruce Oates, Mr. Jason Page, Mr. Craig Palmer, Ms. Slobodan Parlovic, Mr. Bryan Piironen, Mr. Steve Pratt, Dr. Nancy Prendergast, Mr. Darnel Redmond, Mr. Mick Reuter, Mr. Miguel Sanchez, Mr. Cary Schawel, Ms. Pamela Schmidt, Dr. Katherine Schuster, Mr. Allen Schwartz, Mr. Jeffrey Schwartz, Ms. Doreen Schwartz, Ms. Lynn Seinfeld, Mr. Wayne Serbin, Ms. Kristy Shanahan, Ms. Cindy Sharfman, Mr. Shirish Shah, Mr. Vrushank Shah, Dr. Robert Sompolski, Mr. John Spera, Ms. Maryann Spera, Mr. Steven Spera, Mr. Mark Sprecher, Mr. William Strond, Mr. Greg Stubbs, Mr. Wayne Szatkowski, Mr. Jerrod Tucker, Ms. Kristen Walk, Mrs. Ann Walk Gill, Mr. Robert Whitman, Mr. Jan Wildman, Mr. K. David Wolfe, and Mr. Bradley Wooten.

Mr. Paul Boisvert represented the Full-time Faculty Association in the absence of Dr. Laura Saret; Ms. Jillian Verstrate represented the Classified Staff Association; and Ms. Barbara Dayton represented the Adjunct Faculty Association.

Ms. Patricia Dalzell was present as recording secretary to the Board.

Prior to the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Wadhwa asked President Lee to lead those present in a moment of silence to honor the memory of the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting. Dr. Lee asked everyone to stand and join hands in solidarity to reflect on the loss of the innocent victims at Virginia Tech who were connected to us through the unity of higher education.

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Paul Boisvert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of the Minutes of March 20, 2007, Meeting**

Dr. Barshis offered a motion for approval of the minutes of the March 20, 2007, Board Meeting. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and the minutes of the March 20, 2007, Board meeting were approved.

### **Statement by the President**

Due to the large number of students in attendance at the April 17, 2007, Board meeting, Dr. Lee stated that the REPORT TO THE BOARD would be presented after the students were introduced and recognized.

President Lee introduced the regional and Skyway championship men's basketball team members: Darnel Redmond, Greg Stubbs, Bryan Piironen, Mark Lake, A.J. Mahar, David Davis, Ryan Brown, Jerrod Tucker, Stacey Anderson, Marion Johnson, Steve Evans, and Zach Blesich. She presented three National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) trophies to the men's basketball team: the Skyway Conference Men's Basketball Champions for 2006-2007; the Region IV 2007 NJCAA Division I, District 4B Men's Basketball Champions; and the NJCAA Division II National Basketball Championship Participant 2007 at Danville Area Community College. Dr. Lee then presented the NJCAA District 3 Men's Division II Basketball Coach of the Year Award for 2007, and the NJCAA Men's Division II Basketball Championship Coach's Award for 2007 to Men's Basketball Team coach Steve Pratt. She stated that the men's basketball team included some of the brightest students at the College and that the entire College community is very proud of them and their athletic achievements.

Dr. Lee commented on the large number of talented students at the College that included our student musicians, artists, writers and College Bowl team. She stated that the Jazz Festival event included more than 250 musicians from the eight Skyway Conference colleges and that Jeremy Kudert, drums, and Boris Kujawa, guitar, were recognized as outstanding musicians. Dr. Lee further stated that Lia Cornith, trombone, Jon Golko, alto sax, Todd Smith, trombone, and Nick Talarico, trombone, were awarded outstanding section for their performances. She congratulated vocalist Rachel Fridkin, who was present at the meeting, for her outstanding performance.

The President noted that the College of Lake County hosted the 2007 Skyway Art Competition that included professional jurors who selected pieces to be included in the show. She stated that of the 200 pieces of art submitted, only 50 were selected to be included in the show, four of which were the work of Oakton students. She congratulated Robin Carlson, Jay Jeon, Pat O'Hara, and Kristen Walk for their outstanding work. The Board recognized Kristen Walk who was present.

Dr. Lee stated that the Skyway Writers Festival event invites students to submit work in drama, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry to their colleges for judging. She explained that each college selects five pieces each for the four categories and that two Oakton students received awards from the 160 pieces selected for the competition. President Lee stated Wendy Musto was awarded second place in fiction and Rolf Hrbacek took third place in drama. She also noted that Michael R. Jones and Phil Block were two of the finalists in the fiction category. Dr. Lee stated that Mr. Hrbacek, Mr. Jones, and Mr. Block were present and invited them to come forward and be recognized. She further recognized Writer Festival Coordinator and Adjunct Instructor Olivia Cronk who was also present.

President Lee remarked that the College Bowl Team competes in two programs -- first as a Skyway Conference member with an eight team tournament in the fall; and second, in a state program as part of the community college system which includes a regional tournament each semester. She stated that the team may participate in the state tournament sponsored by the Illinois Community College Trustees Association once they qualify for the regional tournament.

Dr. Lee briefly explained the make up of the team and Oakton's winning team history. She congratulated the College Bowl Team that included Steve Spera, Vrushank Shah, Adrian Emmanuel, Stephanie Cannon, Heather Miller, Michael R. Jones, Brian McAuliffe, Ed McGrath, and Jorell Espinosa. She stated that Ed McGrath was the highest scoring player of all the teams participating in the fall 2006 regional tournament and noted that Stephanie Cannon was named twice to the all-conference team. The President also wished Jorell Espinosa a happy birthday and thanked Assistant Professor John Stryker who has coached the team since 2002.

### **Report to the Board – Engaging Students**

Dr. Smith commented on the large number of students in attendance at the Board meeting. She thanked those present for sharing in the excitement of celebrating the success of so many of our outstanding students. Dr. Smith explained that the report to the Board would focus on how we engage our students in the life of the College. She noted that all of the students recognized this evening represented Oakton through their participation in the Illinois Skyway Collegiate Conference and that we are one of eight schools in the Chicago Metropolitan area that participates in the Skyway Conference. The Vice President stated that the Skyway Conference competition gives students the opportunity to connect with other students who share similar interests. She further stated that it also allows our students to bond with faculty, staff, administrators and advisors.

Dr. Smith noted that the following Oakton athletic teams participate in the Skyway conference competition:

- Baseball
- Cheerleading
- Cross Country
- Men's Golf
- Men's and Women's Basketball
- Men's and Women's Soccer
- Men's and Women's Tennis
- Pom-Pom
- Softball
- Track
- Volleyball

Dr. Smith commented that the Skyway Conference is the only conference that has a co-curricular component in addition to the athletic competition. She stated that the Skyway colleges must compete in co-curricular programs in order to compete in the athletic competition and thanked Ann Marie Barry, Oakton's co-curricular representative.

Dr. Smith thanked the coaches and coordinators of the College's co-curricular activities.

- College Bowl – John Stryker, Coach
- Jazz Festival – Cary Polecek, Band Director
- Juried Art Competition – Jim Kraus, Coordinator
- Writers Festival – Olivia Cronk, Coordinator

Dr. Smith explained that the report on engaging students would focus on the Pilot Mentoring Project with the Men's Basketball Team that was initiated this year. She stated that Dave Cole, Director of Athletics, Bruce Oates, Director, Registration and Records, Steve Pratt, Head Coach, Men's Basketball, and Cary Schawel, Professor, Student Development, have all spearheaded the mentoring project and would speak about their specific roles in the program.

Mr. Oates stated that he was extremely proud to be a part of the Pilot Mentoring Project for the men's basketball team and commented that he and Coach Pratt discussed the coach's vision of the project at the end of last season. Mr. Oates commented that Coach Pratt did not measure success by wins and losses but by personal development. He stated that with this vision we were able to move forward and initiate the pilot program.

Mr. Pratt thanked the Board of Trustees and the Oakton community for the opportunity to work with the men's basketball team. He stated that his philosophy is to mentor people so that as they move along in life, they make a positive difference within their communities. Coach Pratt noted that the administration, faculty and staff all connected with the students and fully supported and actively participated in the successful mentoring program from idea through inception.

Mr. Schawel stated that in his 17 years at Oakton, this was his most successful year in terms of student engagement. He commented on how honored he was to participate in the mentoring program with a group of young men who had positive attitudes and high scholastic standards. He reflected on the dedicated effort of all the volunteer mentors and the direct impact it had on the student athletes in the program. Mr. Schawel noted that the College would offer a component to the mentoring program next year with a special section course in Psychology and Personal Growth.

Mr. Cole stated that future plans include expanding the mentoring project to include other student groups and extended a thank you to all the mentors:

- Lorenz Boehm, Professor, English
- George Chirempes, Vice President, Business and Finance
- Will Crawford, Assistant Professor, English
- Majid Ghadiri, Chair, Electronics and Electronics Servicing; Professor, Computer Networking Systems
- Krissie Harris, Coordinator, Student Activities
- Gregory James, Dean of Student
- Michelle James, Professor, Student Development
- Paul Johnson, Associate Professor, Student Development
- Joe Kotowski, Chair, Engineering; Professor, Mechanical Design
- Margaret Lee, President
- Mike Maloney, Professor, Student Development
- Bruce Oates, Director, Registration and Records
- D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Associate Vice President, Human Resources
- Paul Sanburg, Advisor, Phi Theta Kappa
- Cary Schawel, Professor, Student Development
- Joi Smith, Vice President, Student Affairs
- Richard Stacewicz, Professor, Social Sciences and History; Honors Program Coordinator
- Ivan Temisveri, Math Tutor

- Brad Wooten, Dean, Social Sciences and Business

Following the report, Dr. Lee thanked the full and part-time faculty, administrators, and staff who regularly attended the Board meetings. She introduced the new student trustee, Steven Spera, and new officers the Board of Student Affairs, Jorell Espinosa, President; Ben Miller, Vice President; Samantha Reeves, Secretary; and Shakeeb Aijaz, Senator.

Dr. Lee congratulated Linda Mockenhaupt who received the Award of Excellence from the Learning Resource Network (LERN) for her website design for the Alliance Program and stated that this was her second award for her work in this field. Chair Wadhwa presented Ms. Mockenhaupt with a plaque honoring her achievement. Dr. Lee also congratulated Chad Ganger. She stated that the College's HVAC Program was evaluated by the Partnership for Air Conditioning, Heating, Refrigeration Accreditation (PAHRA) and met the standards for HVACR training in Residential A/C and Heating for the years 2007-2012. Mr. Ganger was presented with a plaque signifying the accreditation.

President Lee thanked former student trustee, Adrian Emmanuel for his thoughtful and dedicated service as student trustee. She stated that he gave the Oakton student population a meaningful voice in Board deliberations and acted as a conduit for the flow of information and ideas between the trustees and the student body.

Dr. Lee extended get well wishes to both Jan Thompson-Wilda and Laura Saret who were home recovering from recent surgery. She then reminded everyone of the Six Piano Concert that would be held in the Footlik Theatre on April 28 and 29.

In closing, Dr. Lee thanked Trustee Donald Barshis for his faithful service and deep interest in the well-being of the Oakton community. She stated that Dr. Barshis exemplified ethical behavior and openly participated in civil deliberation with his colleagues on the Board. Mr. Wadhwa presented Dr. Barshis with a plaque and stated that he contributed greatly to fulfilling the College's mission and that he would miss his presence on the Board.

### **Comments by the Board Chair**

Mr. Wadhwa reflected on the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech. He stated that the Board was very proud of the resolution passed at the March Board meeting that affirmed the College's commitment to be a place of peace and nonviolence. He commented that as world citizens we must commit ourselves to fostering peace without weapons within our communities and throughout the world.

### **Public Participation**

There being no one present for public participation, Mr. Wadhwa moved to the business matters of the College.

### **New Business**

#### **4/07-1 Recommendation for Seating of Student Member of the Board of Trustees**

Mr. Williams offered:

“Whereas, an election for the Student Member of the Board of Trustees was held on April 10-11, 2007. The election was conducted in all respects as provided by law and according to Policy No. 1005. The Ballot Box Attendants and the Judges of Election were fully qualified to perform their duties. The returns of such election have been duly canvassed by the Judges of Election. The student meets all qualifications for Trustees as specified in Policy No. 1004.”

“Therefore, the Board of Trustees declares that Steven Spera, having received the highest number of votes for the office of Student Member of the Board of Trustees, is hereby elected to serve as the Student Trustee with a term commencing on April 17, 2007, and concluding in April 2008.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the resolution.

A voice vote was called and the resolution to seat Steven Spera as the new Student Trustee was approved. The resolution was followed by a loud round of applause.

Mr. Wadhwa adjourned the meeting *Sine Die* so that Mr. Spera could take his seat at the Board table. Once Mr. Spera was seated, the roll was called:

Mr. Wadhwa	Chair	Present
Dr. Rosen	Vice Chair	Absent
Mr. Williams	Secretary	Present
Dr. Alexopoulos		Present
Dr. Barshis		Present
Mr. Collins		Present
Dr. DiLeonardi		Absent
Mr. Spera	Student Trustee	Present

## **Consent Agenda**

### **407-2a Approval of Adoption of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Williams offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve adoption of the Consent Agenda.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the resolution.

A voice vote was called and the resolution to adopt the use of the Consent Agenda was approved.

### **4/07-2b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 4/07-3 through 4/07-8**

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve resolutions 4/07-3 through 4/07-8.”

**4/07-3 Ratification of Payment of Bills for March 2007**

*“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby ratifies expenditures and release of checks by the Treasurer of Community College District 535 in the amount of \$5,489,421.02 for all funds as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated March 2007.”*

**4/07-4 Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report for March 2007**

*“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 receives for filing as a part of the College’s official records, the report of the Treasurer for the month of March 2007.”*

**4/07-5 Quarterly Report on Investments**

*“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorize the acceptance of the Quarterly Report on Investments for filing.”*

**4/07-6 Ratifications of Actions of Alliance for Lifelong Learning Executive Board**

*“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535, in its capacity as governing board of the administrative district of the Alliance for Lifelong Learning Program, ratifies and approves the actions of the Executive Board in items a to e and hereby approves the expenditures in the amount not to exceed \$11,645 for all funds listed in item a.”*

**4/07-7 Ratification of Payment of Professional Personnel**

*“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the attached adjustments of part-time faculty 2007 spring semester salaries in the amount of \$70,095.03, resulting in a revised total of \$3,070,650.23.”*

*“Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the attached adjustments of overload faculty 2007 spring semester salaries in the amount of \$20,105.70 resulting in a revised total of \$384,394.60.”*

*“Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the payment of stipends to the persons listed, in the amounts, and for the activities specified; not to exceed \$17,911.70.”*

**4/07-8 Approval of Clinical Practices Agreements**

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve the following cooperative agreements:

For the Physical Therapy Assistant Program

*Advanced Physical Medicine & Therapy, Ltd. – Mt. Prospect  
Greek American Rehabilitation & Care Centre – Wheeling."*

Mr. Collins seconded the resolution.

Secretary Williams called the roll.

Dr. DiLeonardi	Absent
Mr. Wadhwa	Aye
Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye
Dr. Barshis	Aye
Mr. Collins	Aye
Dr. Rosen	Absent
Mr. Williams	Aye

The resolution was approved.

Mr. Spera, Student Trustee, favored the resolution.

**4/07-9 Authorization to Approve April Purchases**

Mr. Collins offered:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the approval of the attached resolutions 4/07-9a through 4/07-9f:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a. Printing of the Oakton Class Schedules	P&P Press	\$183,303
b. Advertising Agency Services	JB Chicago	\$100,000
	To Be Determined	\$125,000
c. Air Conditioning Unit	RAECO Engineering	\$26,725
d. Pavement Rehabilitation Services	Accu-Paving Company	\$281,024
e. Grant Funded Computer Equipment	Dell Marketing L.L.P.	\$12,286
f. Grant Funded eLearning and Collaboration Software & Hosting Services	Elluminate Inc.	11,750
Grand Total		\$740,098."

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Dr. Barshis opened discussion on resolution 4/07-9b, *Authorization to Purchase Advertising Agency Services*. He asked what JB Chicago offered over the previous services of Lipman Hearne. He also asked Dr. Drummer to address the Board's

concern of measuring and reporting the effectiveness of our advertising strategies. Dr. Barshis commented that the Board recognizes\ the difficulty of gauging and measuring student response based on a particular strategy and asked if JB Chicago including this in their proposal.

Dr. Drummer introduced Steve Gaither, president of JB Chicago and stated that his firm presented an advertising program with fresh ideas that would align us with our strategic goal of acting boldly with change. She commented on JB Chicago's new concept of a viral or contagious marketing strategy of "getting the word out." She stated that our advertising has already branded us within the community; however, we needed new strategies that can be tracked as suggested by the Board, with a focus on increasing enrollment, specifically at the Skokie campus. Dr. Drummer stated that JB Chicago had the most aggressive plan that would get us to where we want to be. She asked Mr. Gaither to comment on Dr. Barshis' concerns.

Mr. Gaither responded that JB Chicago would utilize Oakton's website in measuring returns as it is the most cost effective method. He stated that they would work together with Oakton's IT management team in tagging URLs to look for trends and integrating simple actions that can gauge returns. He noted that although it is a simplistic approach, it has proven to be successful.

Dr. Drummer stated that getting Oakton into the MYSPACE, FACEBOOK and YOUTUBE mode of advertising is a positive direction as it is what traditional students are currently using. She stated that Mr. Gaither's approach to utilizing technology as well as his ideas on how to reach students who are interested in our career programs is what prompted the committee to choose JB Chicago in reviewing the presentations.

Mr. Collins stated that the bid information from the three advertising firms contacted was not included with the resolution. He stated that he requested bid information on the purchase of the marketing study from the Aslanian group in February and that he did not receive that information either. Mr. Collins noted that although he did not perceive the purchase as negative, he could not vote to approve the purchase of advertising services from JB Chicago without the comparative bid information.

Dr. Lee explained that the College used a Request for Proposal (RFP) as an agency review for the purchase of the marketing services from the Aslanian group which is different than the bid process. She noted that the responses to the RFP were sent to the Board in the packet immediately following the February Board meeting. She stated that the same RFP team approach was also used for the purchase of services from JB Chicago and that the review committee included a seven member team of faculty, staff and administrators. Dr. Lee assured Mr. Collins that although they were not present at tonight's Board meeting, both members of the Purchasing Committee reviewed this purchase with Mr. Chirempes. She suggested that he meet with Dr. Drummer regarding the RFP process.

Mr. Collins stated that he is uncomfortable with approving a \$125,000 expenditure to JB Chicago for undetermined services and asked for an explanation of those services.

Dr. Drummer explained that this amount of money was budgeted for advertising and that once the College begins working with JB Chicago on ideas for implementing the new marketing plan, they will know how much they will actually spend on online sites such as Myspace.com and other internet sites.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

Mr. Wadhwa	Aye
Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye
Dr. Barshis	Aye
Mr. Collins	Nay
Dr. Rosen	Absent
Mr. Williams	Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi	Absent

The resolution was approved.

The student trustee, Mr. Spera, abstained.

Following the vote, Mr. Wadhwa asked for an explanation of the contingency money for the pavement rehabilitation project of College Drive at the Des Plaines Campus.

As Chair of the Facilities Committee, Dr. Barshis stated that the committee recently met and discussed various options for improving the roadways at the Des Plaines Campus. He explained that a contingency was included in the event of cost overruns and unanticipated problems. Dr. Barshis noted the many issues associated with reconstructing College Drive between Golf Road and Circle Drive. He stated that the engineering firm gave the College a very solid estimate and a clear understanding of the project that would include leveling, widening and repaving College Drive.

Mr. Chirempes explained that contingencies are included in all construction projects as a standard industry practice. He noted that the College is built on a former land fill and although the engineering firm is aware of this, there is a possibility that we could run into unforeseen problems once the project is underway. He stated that the contingency is there if we need it and will not be used if we do not need it.

#### **4/07-10 Approval of Illinois Board of Higher Education Grant**

Mr. Spera offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accepts \$30,000 from the Illinois Board of Higher Education to support cooperative work study program at Oakton Community College.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

A voice vote was called and the resolution accepting the grant was approved.

**4/07-11 Authorization to Hire Full-time, Tenure-track Faculty Member**

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve the full-time, tenure-track faculty appointment of Elena Ermolenko-Fein for the 2007-2008 academic term with the academic rank of Instructor, teaching assignment in Economics, and salary of \$48,219.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Collins commented that the College should review and improve on our practice of responding to candidates who have applied for positions in a timely manner by notifying the candidate on the status of the position.

Dr. Barshis commented that Ms. Ermolenko-Fein has taught successfully at the College as an Adjunct Instructor. He stated that the move from Adjunct to a qualified full-time, tenure-track faculty member is in keeping with the College’s practice of promoting within the ranks.

Mr. Williams called the roll:

Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye
Dr. Barshis	Aye
Mr. Collins	Aye
Dr. Rosen	Absent
Mr. Williams	Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi	Absent
Mr. Wadhwa	Aye

The resolution was approved.

Mr. Spera, Student Trustee, favored the resolution.

**4/07-12 Approval of New Instruction Certificates**

Mr. Williams offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the Massage Therapy Certificate and the Aseptic Pharmaceutical Preparations Certificate.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Dr. Barshis asked if the Aseptic Pharmaceutical Preparations Certificate was in addition to an existing program or basic certificate. Mr. Graham responded that this

new certificate compliments the Pharmacy Tech Program and will enhance the pay scale for those certified in the program.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

Dr. Barshis	Aye
Mr. Collins	Aye
Dr. Rosen	Absent
Mr. Williams	Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi	Absent
Mr. Wadhwa	Aye
Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye

The resolution passed.

The student trustee, Mr. Spera, favored the resolution.

#### **4/07-13 Approval of Policy Revision**

Mr. Collins offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby approves and adopts the revisions to policy 5103 attached hereto.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

Mr. Collins	Aye
Dr. Rosen	Absent
Mr. Williams	Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi	Absent
Mr. Wadhwa	Aye
Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye
Dr. Barshis	Aye

The resolution passed.

Mr. Spera, Student Trustee, concurred.

Prior to the Strategic Conversation on Engaging Students, Dr. Barshis asked Chair Wadhwa if he could make a few comments as this would be his last meeting as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Barshis reflected on his experience as a member of the Board of Trustees. He stated that Oakton is a great place to work and study; however, we must all strive to make it better by

meeting the challenges presented by the community and the changes inspired by new technology. He commented that he committed himself to the responsibilities entrusted to him as a trustee and stated that we must continue to react, to grow, and to continually engage in civil discourse. Dr. Barshis thanked his fellow Board members and Mr. Wadhwa for their friendship and support; President Lee for her compassionate and enlightened leadership; the administration for their positive leadership in promoting the growth and development of the College; the full-time and part-time faculty for providing a quality learning experience in our classrooms in addition to a curriculum that leads our students on the path of global citizenship; to our students who make us proud with their commitment to learning; and to our staff for their tremendous support that made his time as a member of the Board of Trustees an enjoyable one.

Mr. Collins thanked Dr. Barshis for his commitment to the College. He stated that as a new trustee, Dr. Barshis was a very valuable mentor.

Mr. Williams stated that Dr. Barshis spent his entire professional life in the community college system and was able to bring that knowledge to the Board table each month. He reflected on Dr. Barshis' service and his positive commitment to increasing diversity at the College.

Dr. Alexopoulos reflected on Dr. Barshis' excellent work ethic and stated that he enjoyed working with him as a member of the Board.

Mr. Wadhwa stated that he was privileged to work with Dr. Barshis. He commented on his spirit of cooperation in sharing his knowledge and experience with the rest of the Board members.

### **Strategic Conversation – Engaging Students**

Mr. Wadhwa asked President Lee to lead the trustees in the Strategic Conversation. Dr. Lee remarked that the topic of engaging students emerged as one of the primary goals in the College's new strategic plan, *Change Matters*. She stated that the Welcome-Inform-Support-and Engage (WISE) motto taken from the FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE taught us not only to engage the first year students in the community college experience but that by connecting all students to the college and the community at-large we ensure the success of our students. She reflected on her personal experience as a mentor to Steve Evans, a student and member of the College's very successful men's basketball team. President Lee explained that her mentoring relationship made a difference in her life and hopefully in Mr. Evans' life as well. She agreed with Dr. Barshis' remarks that Oakton is a great place to work, study and experience. Dr. Lee further commented on effective student engagement as a means to realize our mission as was evident in the presentation of awards to so many outstanding students early in the evening. She opened discussion with the question "How and what can we do from your [trustees] perspective to support student engagement at the College."

Mr. Collins commented on discussions at the March 9<sup>th</sup> candidate forum that was sponsored by the Board of Student Affairs. He stated that one of the topics included different ways to reach out to our students, one of which was through the student newspaper, the *OCCurrence*. Mr. Collins explained that using the medium of the newspaper gives us the opportunity to engage with the students and the students with the College. He stated that opening up opportunities for Board members to participate in dialog with our students on a regular basis either through

meetings or lunch would provide the necessary feedback that encourages an interchange of ideas that promote change. He stated that he would make himself available for such meetings. Mr. Collins also suggested that members of the Board be invited to attend faculty senate meetings and meetings of the Board of Student Affairs so that the lines of communication remain open.

Dr. Alexopoulos stated that he promotes and will continue to strive for high academic standards at the College. He explained that evaluations are based on the product and outcome of what we produce, which are the students that pass through our doors to four-year colleges and universities. He suggested that the *OCCurrence* recognize the high performance of different departments with merit awards as it is an excellent instrument of communication at the College. He stated that the College should also expand on the Troika configuration<sup>1</sup> of administration, Board and faculty so that we are all on an equal basis in delivering a first rate product.

Mr. Williams stated that he was very impressed with the recognition awards presented to our students this evening for their athletic and co-curricular activities that are in addition to their regular coursework. He commented on his belief in the strength and purpose of the community college in building relationships that foster the best from our students. Mr. Williams stated that we need to spread the word throughout our communities that we have what it takes to inspire our students both academically and physically. He commented on the poor academic history of previous basketball teams and heralded Coach Pratt and the mentoring project for finding a way to motivate and support these young men. He stated that these are the types of programs that will get students in the door by engaging them in college life. Mr. Williams asked that our advertising efforts focus on attracting those students who need extra help to succeed in life so that we can fulfill our mission as the community's college.

Dr. Barshis approached the topic of engaging students through two avenues; the first from an academic perspective, and the second from a services perspective. Dr. Barshis commented that in order to engage our students, we need to know who they are to us. Although he could not recall the author, he stated that one of his favorite quotes was "our students are our message to the world that comes after us." He stated that this message poses a rhetorical problem which Aristotle explains as "discovering the available means of persuasion in every given case." He further explained that Aristotle gave us the classic rhetorical triad of speaker, speech and audience. Dr. Barshis related Aristotle's triad to Oakton and explained that the speaker is the College and includes our qualifications, our preparedness, and our core values that help make our audience -- our students, feel welcome so that they benefit from what we do. He stated that speech includes all of us who provide services such as teaching, maintenance, support staff, administrators and trustees. He noted that speech can come in the simplest form of greeting a student to counseling them but should always be in the student's best interest. Dr. Barshis stated that we engage our students by welcoming and supporting them in every possible way so that the positive message they receive from Oakton Community College follows them throughout their lifetime. He noted that we have engaged our students with a positive message through the mentoring program and Skyway Conference competition.

Dr. Barshis commented that the very core of engaging our students is treating them with respect. He reflected on the resolution passed by the Board at the March meeting in which we affirm that

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<sup>1</sup> troika - the cardinal number that is the sum of one and one and one

Oakton is a place of peace and nonviolence. He stated that we, as a community of learners, are obligated to engage our students in all that we do by providing them with a welcoming and safe place in which to learn.

Mr. Collins reflected on Dr. Barshis' comments and added that our students are our best ambassadors as they share their Oakton experience as they move on in their lives and in their careers. He stated that engaging our students is a circle as we engage them, they engage others, who then come to us, thus the circle is created once again.

As the representative from the full-time faculty, Mr. Boisvert offered his comments on engaging students from the faculty perspective. He stated that faculty engage with students every day; however they see them as a group of often 30 or more which makes it difficult to target specific students who need the extra care. He noted that in addition to their teaching load, many faculty have other responsibilities so they welcome help from staff and administrators. Mr. Boisvert commented that although we did not introduce colleagues present this evening due to the many student award presentations, he asked that Kristy Shanahan stand up and be recognized. He stated that Ms. Shanahan served the College as Professor of Medical Lab Technology and would be retiring at the end of the semester. Ms. Shanahan was recognized with a round of applause.

Ms. Dayton commented that part-time faculty see a large number of students with a variety of needs; therefore, they rely on all the resources that Oakton has to offer in engaging students such as tutoring, counseling and classroom support. She stated that the job is overwhelming but they do their best to make Oakton a positive experience for students.

Ms. Verstrate stated that Oakton staff members provide many services that engage students in the life of the College. She commented on how staff members willingly help students with applications, transcripts and advice.

Mr. Spera stated that his experience with the faculty at the College has been a very engaging and positive one. He also stated that the staff members greatly contribute to a positive experience as well. The student trustee commented on many of the programs that allow students to "engage" such as the student ambassador program, the various clubs, and the mentoring program. He stated that he looked forward to representing the student voice on the Board.

Mr. Collins reiterated his suggestion that trustees be invited to the Board of Student Affairs meetings and asked Mr. Spera for ideas on how to improve communication with the students through the electronic media. Mr. Spera responded that the College has several sources of communication available including *myOakton* and *The Buzz*. He stated that the BSA holds meetings every Wednesday afternoon and they are open to the public. He noted that the meetings and events are also advertised on *The Buzz*. Mr. Espinosa, the BSA President echoed Mr. Spera's comments and extended an open invitation to everyone to attend the BSA meetings.

Mr. Wadhwa asked Ms. Barry to comment on engaging students. Ms. Barry stated that it is important to seize the opportunity of engaging students by going to them instead of having them come to us. She explained that students are generally very receptive to discussing their day to day experiences in informal settings such as the cafeteria and hallways throughout the building. She commented on a variety of meetings in which we can engage our students in conversation

that are focused on the students' point of view. She stated that we need to listen to what our students tell us and engage them in finding the appropriate solution that will meet their needs or solve their problem. Ms. Barry noted that Mr. Spera served on one of the Higher Learning Commission committee and that Mr. Espinosa served on the 2012 Team. She stated that their commitment to this extra work was overwhelming at times; however, once they understood what the research was showing us, it became an enlightening experience. Ms. Barry reiterated the importance of engaging our students in areas that they frequent including the meetings that students preside over.

Prior to adjournment, Chair Wadhwa announced the incomplete and unofficial results of the April 17 election and noted that the preliminary vote count was that Ms. Tennes, Mr. Collins and Dr. Alexopoulos were leading in the three open positions on the Board.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Wadhwa stated that the Board of Trustees of Oakton Community College would hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2007, at 4 p.m. at the Des Plaines Campus to declare the results of the April 17, 2007, Consolidated Election and to reorganize the Board. He further stated that the next scheduled regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Oakton Community College, District 535, would be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at the Oakton Community College Ray Hartstein Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, IL, rooms P103 and P-104.

Mr. Collins offered a motion for adjournment and Dr. Barshis seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and Mr. Wadhwa adjourned the meeting at 9:12 p.m.

*/s/ Jeffrey H. Rosen*  
Jeffrey H. Rosen, Board Chair

*/s/ Joan W. DiLeonardi*  
Joan W. DiLeonardi, Board Secretary

/pd  
5/07

A video tape recording of the April 17, 2007, meeting was made and may be viewed by calling the Library and Instructional Media Services office at 847-635-1640.