

**Oakton Community College
District 535**

**Minutes of the Oakton Community College Board Meeting
January 17, 2006**

The 591st meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2006, at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Wadhwa called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in room 1503 and the roll was called:

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

Closed Session

Dr. Rosen offered a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing litigation, collective negotiations, and the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees. Dr. Barshis seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and the Trustees along with Dr. Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Ms. Lucas, Dr. Prendergast, Mr. Oudenhoven, Ms. Rizzo and Dr. Smith went into closed session at 7:00 p.m. in Room 1503.

Dr. Alexopoulos offered a motion to adjourn the closed session. Dr. DiLeonardi 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 591st meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:45 p.m. in room 1506 and Secretary Williams called the roll:

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

Also in attendance were Dr. Margaret Lee, Mr. George Chirempes, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, Dr. Nancy Prendergast, Ms. Barbara Rizzo, Dr. Joianne Smith, Mr. Maurice Archer, Ms. Robyn Bailey, Dr. Kalyani Banerjee, Ms. Alice Barnhart, Ms. Ann Marie Barry, Dr. Trudy Bers, Mr. Paul Boisvert, Mr. Martin Bruner, Ms. Kathleen Carot, Mr. David Cole, Ms. Therese Conway, Mr. Carl Costanza, Mr. Tim Davidson, Dr. Carlee Drummer, Mr. Will Frank, Mr. Dennis Graham, Dr. Cecelia Hutchcraft, Dr. Gregory James, Ms. Donna Keene, Mr. Nick Kittner, Ms. Linda Korbel, Ms. Roxann Marshburn, Ms. Marion Miller, Ms. Linda Mockenhaupt, Mr. Jeffrey Moro, Mr. Gary Newhouse, Mr. Bruce Oates, Ms. Theresa O'Sullivan, Mr. D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Mr. Douglas Owen, Mr. William Paige, Mr. Tim Raetzman, Mr. Lee Resurreccion, Ms. Denise Top Rhine, Ms. Doreen Schwartz, Ms. Lynn Seinfeld, Mr. Mark Sprecher, Dr. Richard Stacewicz, Ms. Leslie Van Wolvelaar, Mr. Bradley Wooten and Dr. Donna Younger.

Dr. Laura Saret represented the Full-time Faculty Association; Ms. Barbara Dayton represented the Adjunct Faculty Association; and Ms. Jillian Verstrate represented the Classified Staff Association.

Mr. Tim Farrell represented the *OCCurrence* student newspaper. Ms. Patricia Dalzell was present as recording secretary to the Board.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Donald Barshis led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes of December 13, 2005, Meeting

Dr. Barshis offered a motion for approval of the minutes of the December 13, 2005, meeting. Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the Minutes of the December 13, 2005, meeting were approved.

Statement by the President

Dr. Lee welcomed everyone to another new academic semester and asked those present to introduce themselves.

Ms. Dayton, President of the Adjunct Faculty Association, introduced instructors Kalyani Banerjee, Chemistry; and Jeff Moro, Computers.

Ms. Verstrate, President of the Classified Staff Association, introduced classified staff members Alice Barnhart and Marion Miller, Business Services; Linda Mockenhaupt, Alliance for Lifelong Learning; Therese Conway and Theresa O'Sullivan, Learning Center; Pat Dalzell, President's Office; Bill Paige, College Advancement; Mark Sprecher, Instructional Media Services; Will Frank, Television Services; and Tim Raetzman, Television Services, operating the direct cable feed in the Television Studio.

Dr. Saret, President of the Full-time Faculty Association, introduced faculty members present:

Lee Resurreccion, Assistant Professor, Nursing; Cecelia Hutchcraft, Associate Professor, Biology; Richard Stacewicz, Associate Professor, Social Sciences and History, Honors Program Coordinator, and co-advisor for the Students for Social Justice; Paul Boisvert, Professor, Mathematics and co-advisor for the Students for Social Justice; Kathleen Carot, Associate Professor, Speech and Theater; Leslie Van Wolvlear, Associate Professor, Accounting; Marty Bruner, Associate Professor, Architecture, and Chair, Architecture and Construction Management; and Denise Top Rhine, Professor, Nursing.

The administrators present included Maurice Archer, Director, Accounting Services; Robyn Bailey, Assistant Director, Lifelong Learning Programs and Operations; Ann Marie Barry, Director, Student Activities; Trudy Bers, Executive Director, Institutional Research, Curriculum and Strategic Planning and Executive Assistant to the President; Dave Cole, Director, Athletics; Carl Costanza, Director of Facilities; Carlee Drummer, Executive Director, College Advancement; Dennis Graham, Dean, Science and Health Careers; Gregory James, Dean of Students; Donna Keene, Senior Director, Lifelong Learning Programs and Operations; Linda Korbel, Dean, Languages, Humanities and the Arts; Roxann Marshburn, Director, Grants and Alternative Funding; Gary Newhouse, Dean, Library and Instructional Media Services; Bruce Oates, Director, Registration and Records; D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Director, Human Resources; Doreen Schwartz, Director, Business Services; Lynn Seinfeld, Director, Adult and Professional Education, and Acting Director, Business and Professional Development Institute; Bradley Wooten, Dean, Social Sciences and Business; and Donna Younger, Director, Learning Center.

In the absence of the Student Trustee, President Lee introduced students Tim Davidson, Tim Farrell and Nick Kittner.

Dr Lee congratulated Linda Mockenhaupt, Program Developer for the Alliance for Lifelong Learning. She stated that the Learning Resource Network (LERN) recently awarded Oakton's Alliance for Lifelong Learning the *International Award for Excellence* for their Continuing Education Fall 2005 Class Schedule Web portal page. She further stated that Ms. Mockenhaupt's work was selected from over 100 international entries, with only one being awarded. Mr. Wadhwa presented the award to Ms. Mockenhaupt followed by a loud round of applause for her achievement.

President Lee quoted Shakespeare "When sorrows come, they come not single spies, but in battalions." She extended condolences to Alex Krzyminski, Student Trustee, whose mother passed away from a sudden heart attack on January 9; to the family, friends and colleagues of Dawn Mercedes, Professor of Art and Graphic Design who lost her courageous battle with cancer on December 25; to the family, friends and colleagues of Mark Walter, Professor of Chemistry, who passed away from injuries received in a car accident on December 12; and to Harvey Irlen, former Vice President of Curriculum and Instruction, whose daughter Kathy passed away last week in Massachusetts.

Dr. Lee reported that it was her privilege to be one of the 100 attendees invited to the University Presidents Summit on January 5-6 in Washington, D.C. She stated that the Summit was called by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. Dr. Lee noted that only ten presidents from community colleges across the nation were in attendance and

they, and the presidents from the four-year institutions, met with President and Mrs. George W. Bush, Ambassador Karen Hughes, and several senators and senior White House staff members. She commented on the meeting agenda that included improving access for students and visiting scholars coming into and leaving the country to study. She stated the most encouraging news from the Summit was the emphasis on the acquisition of critical languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Persian, Arabic and Hindi and that it has to be a national priority. She further stated that they were told that funds for the language initiative would be forthcoming at the elementary school level as well as graduate and undergraduate level. Dr. Lee commented on the very rigorous schedule of meetings from early morning to late at night and stating that there were many wonderful suggestions that hopefully would be implemented.

President Lee stated that the College observed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth date on January 16. She read from an excerpt from Dr. King's Nobel Prize speech which he made on December 10, 1964.

I accept this award today with an abiding faith in America and an audacious faith in the future of mankind. I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history. I refuse to accept the idea that the "isness" of man's present nature makes him morally incapable of reaching up for the eternal "oughtness" that forever confronts him....I have the audacity to believe that peoples everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. ...This faith can give us courage to face the uncertainties of the future.

Dr. Lee commented on the recent activities of seven Oakton students who helped with hurricane clean up efforts by traveling to a small town of mostly African American residents near Mobile, Alabama. She applauded the students' efforts and motivation in living up to the legacy left by Dr. King.

President Lee stated that tonight's Report to the Board would focus on services to students who are in particular need of our assistance. She further stated that the Strategic Conversation would be a discussion on how we support the learning of our students.

Dr. Prendergast introduced Dr. Donna Younger, Director of the Learning Center. She commented on Dr. Younger's education and qualifications in the area of curriculum and instruction as well as her work with non-traditional adult students. She stated that Dr. Younger is the Chair of our First Year Experience Project and that a report on this new initiative would be presented to the Board in February.

Report: How the Learning Center Serves Students

Dr. Donna Younger thanked the Board for allowing her the opportunity to showcase how the Learning Center supports students and learning. She gave a detailed description of the information included in the packet of handout materials and how these materials were used to remind our students about the values and goals that are important to them.

Dr. Younger introduced Learning Center staff members, Therese Conway, Manager of the Learning Center at the Des Plaines Campus, and Theresa O'Sullivan, Special Needs Coordinator. She commented on their important and active role in the Learning Center. Dr. Younger stated that tonight's report is an exercise in active learning and explained that the report would mirror one of her favorite quotes, "Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards."¹

The Learning Center Principles

The Learning Center expresses Oakton's commitment to learning by providing an array of learning resources and interventions for students with a variety of needs, backgrounds, and preferences. The central purpose of the Learning Center is to support students' academic success and their development as self-directed, lifelong learners. Our beliefs express the principles that guide the student-centered professional staff.

We believe learning

- is central to human development.
- is continuous and has no end point because good learning is a catalyst for additional learning.
- takes place formally in the classroom and informally through student involvement in college activities, experiences and services outside of the classroom.
- occurs differently for individuals due to their diverse learning strengths and styles, past experience, goals and circumstance.

We believe learners are more successful when they

- take an active role in the process of learning.
- become internally motivated, learn to monitor their progress and seek additional resources in order to become self sustaining.
- understand and value the learning process rather than focusing solely on its completion.

We believe our role is to

- use a variety of methods and approaches to reach learners with diverse backgrounds and experiences.
- teach people learning strategies they can adapt and use in various settings.
- help students understand the unique processes they use as they work toward their goals.
- refer students for additional resources as needed.
- keep current on research and literature in areas of education related to learning theory, college students and best practices in learning assistance.

Questions about the Learning Center

- The Learning Center is located in room 2400 at the Des Plaines Campus and in room A135 at the Ray Hartstein Campus

¹ Author Unknown

- The Learning Center’s student support services includes the Testing Center, Tutoring, Study Skills, English as a Second Language, ASSIST, Student Support Services TRIO Program, College Success Seminars and Workshops
- 21,214 students visited the Learning Center during the Fall 2005 semester with statistical data broken down as: Tutoring - 11,500 students; Testing – 8,944 students; and ASSIST – 770 students
- The percentage of increase in students with disabilities served by the Learning Center increased 30% from Fall 2003 through Fall 2005 with 485 students served in Fall 2003; 540 in Fall 2004; and 630 in Fall 2005
- The Learning Center currently provides tutoring in 25 different areas; however, the Center is committed to serving all disciplines as needed
- Students can take a CLEP test, borrow a calculator, conduct a test performance analysis, acquire a disability accommodation and take a workshop for preparation for placement tests in the Learning Center
- The federally funded TRIO programs are housed in the Learning Center and include Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services and Friends of the Liberal Arts
- Student Support Services focuses on the retention and transfer of first generation, low income, and disabled students
- Two area high schools partner with the Learning Center to offer the College Success Seminar to students in their senior year: Glenbrook South (third year in the program), Maine East (in its first year with two groups of students; and the Learning Center is currently in the planning stage with Evanston Township High School
- The new Learning Center Reading and Writing Lab officially opened on January 17, 2006, with an Open House planned for February 1
- The new Learning Center logo is “Sharpen Your Skills at the Learning Center”
- Future services will include supplemental instruction, ongoing Learning Center support for more faculty and courses, and career advising for students with disabilities

Dr. Younger commented on four Learning Center success stories:

Jennifer, an ASSIST student, who was given the motivational tools she needed to pass the Real Estate exam; Brian, a former Project Succeed student who was on academic probation and is now attending Eastern University where he was inducted into the Psychology National Honors Society and was looking forward to being an RA next year; Olga, a TRIO student, who was admitted to Jane Adams with advanced standing for the Master’s Program and began her clinical work at the University of Illinois Chicago Campus; and Toy, an experienced computer programmer who lost her job due to downsizing and came to the Learning Center for ESL writing support. She successfully completed an Early Childhood Education certificate in Infants and Toddlers.

Mr. Williams asked how students are made aware of the Learning Center services and if the Center works closely with the counselors and advisors.

Dr. Younger responded that Learning Center staff members schedule numerous classroom visits during the first two to three weeks of each semester; information on services and support is disseminated to all faculty; many faculty include a visit to the Learning Center as part of their classroom activities; and, information tables are set up at both campuses with “give away”

marketing tools such as key chains, pens and pencils. She stated that the Learning Center relies heavily on referrals from Advising and Counseling as it is important that there is continuity when students are having difficulty with the coursework.

Dr. Rosen asked Dr. Younger to address the ways in which the Learning Center helps ESL students whose primary language is not English. Dr. Younger stated that there are a number of departments at the College that serve non-native students although one of the services that is specific to the Learning Center are conversation groups. She explained that the Learning Center staff meets with groups of non-native speaking students to improve their conversational English. Dr. Younger commented that the conversation groups are well attended and include informal discussions that are centered around current and seasonal events.

Dr. Barshis asked if the Learning Center documents student successes other than in the success stories noted in the report and if so, how do those results feed back into improving services. He also asked how the College supplemented the services provided in the Learning Center when the Special Populations funding was eliminated from our budget.

Dr. Younger explained that results can be documented in sub-groups such as in the ASSIST and TRIO programs; however, it can't be measured across the board as there are too many variables that affect student success. She stated that although tracking student success is challenging, they are looking into software that would track student activity, GPA, and registration patterns, thus enabling them to better serve our students.

In response to the question on the loss of the Special Populations funding, Dr. Younger stated that although the funding was no longer available to the College, Dr. Lee made sure that the services to our students were maintained at the same level. She stated that some positions in the Learning Center were funded at 50 percent while others at 25 percent, and that through reorganizing and restructuring, the College was able to retain these important personnel who provided an invaluable service to our students.

Dr. Lee stated that although legislation on the Special Populations funding was being carefully monitored, the College had no idea that it would be terminated in its entirety. She commented that we did an in-depth review of the positions that supported this program and felt that although this is a non-revenue generating operation, we have a commitment to the College to serve these students. The President stated that there is so much emphasis on access and affordability and not much on retention. She further stated that the services provided by the Learning Center are all about retention and an investment in our future.

Dr. Prendergast stated that the services provided by the Learning Center are what make our community college unique and an important part of the education process. She noted that all of the services Oakton provides, including tutoring, are free of charge, whereas these same services are very costly or not even offered at the four-year institutions.

Mr. Williams asked about the diversity of the Learning Center staff as many of the students from the underrepresented groups are those who need academic support. Dr. Younger responded that although the Learning Center does not currently have any staff from the underrepresented

groups, they have been on staff in the past. She stated that as positions become open, they will follow the practice of the College in welcoming all qualified individuals to apply as they are committed to diversifying the staff.

Dr. Saret noted that there are African American faculty members teaching in the College's Success Program that are supporting the Learning Center operation.

Mr. Wadhwa thanked Dr. Younger and her staff for her presentation and work in the Learning Center.

Comments by the Chairman

Mr. Wadhwa commented on President Lee's participation at the U.S. University Presidents Summit in Washington, D.C. and the important role that language plays in today's society. He stated that he requested that the College teach the Hindi language many years ago and was pleased to hear that President Bush and the Secretary of Education are finally promoting it.

Public Participation

There being no one from the public wishing to address the Board, the Chair proceeded to New Business.

New Business

Consent Agenda

1/06-1a 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.

1/06-1b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 1/06-2 through 1/06-6

Dr. Rosen offered:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve resolutions 1/06-2 through 1/06-6."

1/06-2 Ratification of Payment of Bills for December 2005

“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 \$7,689,758.71 for all funds as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated December 2005.”

1/06-3 *Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report for December 2005*

“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 December 2005.”

1/06-4 *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.”

1/06-5 *Ratification of Actions of the Alliance for Lifelong Learning (ALL) 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 c and hereby approves the expenditures in the amount not to exceed \$55,742.74 for all funds listed in items a and c.”

1/06-6 *Approval of Clinical Practice Agreements*

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

For the Early Childhood Education Program

*Evanston Day Nursery – Evanston
Howard Area Family Center – Chicago
Wesley Child Care Center – Glenview*

For the Registered Nursing Program

*Samland Health Care, Inc. – Chicago
Village of Elk Grove Village – Elk Grove Village*

For the Substance Abuse Counseling Program

GW & Associates LLP/A Wellness Organization – Chicago.”

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

There being no discussion, Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The motion carried and the Consent Agenda resolutions were approved.

1/06-7 Authorization to Approve January Purchases

Dr. DiLeonardi offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the approval of the attached resolutions 1/06-7a through 1/06-7h:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
a. Printing of the 2006-2007 College Catalog	Webcom Limited	\$17,294.04
b. Additional PACE Bus Tickets	PACE	\$25,000.00
c. Travel Services for the Baseball Team	United Airlines	\$13,209.00
Florida Coast Training	\$8,580.00	
Bryan Lipschitz	\$3,300.00	
Dawn DeGiroiamo	\$1,800.00	
Walter Mann	\$3,600.00	
Jacqueline Fusco	\$1,300.00	
Courier Car Rental	\$3,500.00	
d. Waste Removal & Recycling Services	Groot Recycling/Waste	\$38,250.00
e. Ratification of Purchased Fall Conference Services for the American Council on International and Intercultural Education	Council for Resource	\$14,098.60
f. Video Transmission System Equipment	SKC Communication	\$21,425.00
g. Grant Funded Microscopes	The Scope Shoppe, Inc.	\$11,018.00
h. Online Reference Library Subscription Services	NILRC – Network of Learning Resources in Community Colleges	\$13,098.75
Grand Total:		\$175,473.39.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Dr. Barshis asked for clarification on information specific to resolution 1/06-7c *Travel Services for the Baseball Team*. He asked if the College has adequate liability insurance protection for the privately owned condos being rented to members of Oakton’s baseball team during spring training in Florida.

Dr. Smith responded that the administration reviewed the contracts with the condo owners and stated that it is the same group of owners that did business with the baseball league as a condo association in past years; however, we are now working with individual owners. She confirmed that each owner has liability insurance and the baseball players and their respective parents sign an agreement that they are personally liable for their actions.

In regard to resolution 1/06-7g *Grant Funded Microscopes* Dr. Barshis stated that he was troubled by the narrative that states that six microscopes are unrepairable and that the College has done business with the Scope Shoppe for over 15 years because they have consistently provided the low bid while meeting our sales, service and delivery needs. He asked why the College would continue to do business with a company that cannot repair their microscopes.

Mr. Graham responded that although the College has done business with the Scope Shoppe for over 15 years, the microscopes being replaced are over twenty years old and we can no longer get parts for them.

Dr. Barshis then asked for clarification on resolution 1/06-7h *Online Reference Library Subscription Services* from NILRC. He stated that the College is substituting the Gale Literature Resource Center database at a cost of \$13,000 in lieu of continuing to purchase the reference book series in print. He asked for further justification of the purchase of the online database subscription and if the College would keep the printed reference series already purchased. He further asked if the reference information would be accessible from off campus.

Mr. Newhouse responded that the reference book series is still in print and the agreement is to retain those printed copies already in our collection. He stated that the database purchase would provide the same information and regular updates to the printed materials, which would be incorporated and consolidated, in a more readily accessible format that could be used by multiple students on both campuses simultaneously. He further stated that students would still have access to past issues as well as accessing the information via our online resources.

Secretary Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

1/06-8 Supplemental Authorization to Pay Professional Personnel

Mr. Williams offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the payment of salaries to the persons and in the amounts listed for teaching on a part-time basis during the Fall Semester, 2005; resulting in a revised total of \$2,849,046.66.”

“Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the payment of salaries to the persons and in the amounts listed for teaching on an overload basis during the Fall Semester, 2005; resulting in a total of \$9,109.40.”

“Be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the payment of stipends to the persons listed, in the amounts and for the activities specified, the total payment amounting to \$43,928.00.”

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed.

1/06-9 Authorization to Pay Professional Personnel – Spring 2006

Dr. DiLeonardi offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby authorizes the Treasurer of the College to pay 2006 Spring Semester Part-time Faculty, Adjunct Faculty and Full-time Overload payments on January 27, 2006, prior to the February 21, 2006, Board ratification.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

1/06-10 Acceptance of Grants

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accept the attached resolutions 1/06-10a through 1/06-10b for the following grants:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a. Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support | \$5,000 |
| b. Oakton Community College Educational Foundation/
Chicago Tribune Charities | \$25,000 |
| Grand Total | \$30,000.” |

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the resolution.

A voice vote was called and the resolution to accept the grants was approved.

1/06-11 Approval of Emeritus Appointments

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve a five-year Emeritus re-appointment to Marilyn Appelton, Spencer Bowers, Patrick Casali, Hollis Chalem-Brown, Thomas Conway, Rosario P. Diprizio, David E. Hilquist, Nancy Markin, John Michaels, Florence Munuz, Monika Patel, Janice K Richter, Urban A. Thobe, Sandra M. Wittman, and Thelma Parker.”

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

Dr. Barshis asked for an explanation of Emeritus appointments, what were the benefits if any, and if there was any revenue attached to the appointments.

Dr. Lee explained that Emeritus appointments are available to full time faculty and administrators who have retired from there positions at the College after having served a minimum of ten years. She stated that it is an honorific position with no monetary stipend attached to it. She further stated that Emeritus appointments are done on a five-year cycle; however, Emeriti must take the initiative and reapply as it is not an automatic renewal.

A voice vote was called and the resolution was approved.

1/06-12 Authorization to Renew Baseball American Foundation, Inc. License Agreement

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the renewal of the License Agreement with Baseball Americana Foundation, Inc. commencing on May 15, 2006, such renewal terms to be subject to the terms, conditions and limitations of the License Agreement and payment by Baseball Americana Foundation, Inc., of a maintenance fee of \$22,576 for the 2006 season.”

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Dr. DiLeonardi asked what services Baseball Americana Foundation receives for the maintenance fees that are paid to the College, how often the baseball field is used, if the Baseball Americana game schedule interferes with the College’s athletic program, and if the fees cover maintenance of the field.

Mr. Chirempes explained that the license agreement with the Baseball Americana Foundation is for the use of the College’s baseball field including grandstands, dugouts and parking for all their league games. He stated that they use the field approximately six days per week from May 15 through September 15 and that their schedule does not interfere with the College’s athletic program schedule. Mr. Chirempes further stated that the fees paid adequately cover all field maintenance costs.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

1/06-13 Authorization to Revise Board of Trustees Meeting Location

Dr. Rosen offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby authorizes the regularly scheduled meeting of April 18, 2006, be moved from the Des

Plaines Campus Board Room, 1506, to the Ray Hartstein Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, IL, beginning at 7:30 p.m. in the Acorn Room (P103 and P104), which time and place shall be published and proper notice and agenda posted as required by law.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Wadhwa stated that it is important to schedule at least one Board meeting each year at the Ray Hartstein Campus in Skokie and that this was deferred until the construction of the new pavilion was completed.

Dr. Lee stated that we will hold a dedication ceremony in the new pavilion at the Ray Hartstein Campus preceding the April 18, 2006, Board meeting. She publicly thanked Carl Costanza and the Facilities staff for their tremendous effort and diligence during the construction phase. She noted a recent cost effective solution to an unacceptable flooring material and how Mr. Costanza has worked long hours to ensure that the project operations are in compliance with our design specifications, construction regulations and ever changing timetable for completion.

Mr. Wadhwa also thanked Mr. Costanza and extended his appreciation for a job well done.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed.

1/06-14 First Read of Policy Revisions

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby accepts for review the proposed revisions to Policies 4300, 4304, 4309, 4312 and 4328 attached hereto with action to take place at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, February 21, 2006.”

Mr. Williams seconded the resolution.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

A voice vote was called and the resolution was approved.

1/06-15 Approval of Policy Revisions

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby approves and adopts the revisions to Policies 5106, 5109, 5111, 5112, 5113, 5114, 5115 and 5120, attached hereto as amended.”

Dr. Rosen seconded the resolution.

Dr. Barshis called attention to some inconsistencies in language in Policies 5111 and 5113 which led to amending the resolution to remove Policy 5111 from the group for further revision, with action on Policy 5111 to take place at the February 21, 2006, Board meeting. Dr. Barshis noted that language in Policy 5111 under the Business Service Agreement section stated that “these students will be exempted from paying a portion of the applicable non-district tuition” whereas Policy 5113 under the Out-of-District Student section stated that “...students may be allowed to pay in-district tuition rates resulting from an agreement between an eligible in-district business....” He asked that the language in Policy 5111 consistent with Policy 5113 in reference to the College’s tuition benefits for students under the Business Service Agreement.

Dr. Barshis offered an amended resolution:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby approves and adopts the revisions to Policies 5106, 5109, 5112, 5113, 5114, 5115 and 5120, attached hereto.”

“Be it further resolved that Policy 5111 will require further revision and will be presented to the Board for action on February 21, 2006.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the revised motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved as amended.

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION FOR THE BOARD – Supporting Student Learning

Dr. Lee stated that Dr. Younger’s Report to the Board on how the Learning Center serves students provided a very good introduction to tonight’s Strategic Conversation on Supporting Student Learning. She further stated that the challenging question proposed for the Board’s discussion tonight is “In the context of widespread national discussion concerning the learning deficiencies of students who are admitted to institutions of higher learning, [and some of them who graduated from institutions of higher learning], how can Oakton sustain and enhance support systems such as those exemplified in our Learning Center in order to ensure student learning?”

Dr. DiLeonardi commented on a number of recent articles sent through the Trustees Association regarding the fact that many of our citizens are not proficient in functional English. She stated that there’s a national test given to people at various levels of education and only 31% passed English proficiency, including those with a Bachelor’s degree. Dr. DiLeonardi explained that English proficiency is the ability to read a manual and follow instructions, such as how to use a microwave, as well as other basic skills needed in order to lead an appropriate, intelligent and educated life in this country. She also commented on recent articles regarding underprepared high school students and the fact that Oakton’s Learning Center addresses these issues. She asked what Oakton can do to support our students. Furthermore, Dr. DiLeonardi asked if the students that make use of the Learning Center services achieve a certain level of proficiency in reading and applying the English language to their daily lives.

Dr. Lee remarked that the proficiency test noted in the article Dr. DiLeonardi was referencing comes from a report of the *National Assessment of Adult Literacy*. She stated that the stunning results indicated that the average literacy of college educated Americans declined significantly from 1992 to 2003. She further stated that the report also revealed that a considerable number of college graduates fail to achieve at significant levels of literacy proficiency.²

Dr. DiLeonardi stated that the National Assessment of Adult Literacy proficiency results included testing in three areas and meant that one could figure out how to work a microwave, and not those who could interpret Shakespeare. Dr. Rosen added that the three areas are basic, intermediate, and proficient, and that the advanced category is no longer used as no one was deemed to be advanced.

Dr. Barshis stated that the National Assessment also analyzed three kinds of literacy: prose, document, and quantitative. He stated that prose literacy is the most basic and involves responding to what words say. Dr. Barshis commented that prose literacy has become increasingly problematic for higher education, as the level of understanding has declined significantly over the past ten years. He noted the loss of funding for student support services as a significant factor in the decline. Dr. Barshis further commented that student support services

² The U.S. Government defines literacy proficiency as the ability to use printed and written information, to function in society, to achieve ones goals, and to develop ones knowledge and potential.

have been relegated by the four-year institutions to the community colleges thus forcing us to correct the achievement gap of the K-12 schools whose students failed to attain academic proficiency. He stated that we are forced into providing the special services needed to transform students into literate individuals so they can transfer to four-year institutions, and we are expected to accomplish this without any funding. He noted the disappearance of the Special Populations Grant and the cut back in per student financial support at the higher education level where Illinois ranks 49 out of the 50 states in funding. He stated that Illinois is one of the few states this year with another decrease in funding, while other states are on the upswing. Dr. Barshis acknowledged that with a dedicated staff and a lot of creative ingenuity, our Learning Center has taken on the impossible task of helping students meet the obligations of curricular pursuits so that our students can get good jobs or transfer to a four-year institution. He reiterated his statement that we are asked to resolve this problem with declining funding support. Dr. Barshis commented on how student support services is a “people intensive occupation.” He stated that to be successful, you must have the right people who address diverse issues and make those who ask for the services feel welcome in doing so, while also providing alternative learning methods to those who need them. He stated that it is a monumental job and it is how we succeed as an institution.

Dr. Rosen remarked on the 1986 initiative entitled “Writing Across the Curriculum” and stated that it was an innovative program when he was starting his teaching career as a new professor. He noted that Oakton’s faculty still teach Writing Across the Curriculum and asked that information about the program be provided.

Dr. Prendergast responded that Writing Across the Curriculum initiative is part of the College’s general education program. She stated that we continue to review what we are doing well in these programs, as well as what we need to do better. Dr. DiLeonardi asked if the College provides any evaluation that determines if these students would pass a prose literacy assessment test.

Dr. Lee responded that assessment results are periodically documented by the Office of Research in their monthly publication entitled “In the Abstract.” She noted that the College can assess students in specific programs such as nursing because they must pass the NCLEX³; however, assessing students in general education courses is very difficult because of the sheer difference in the population of our students. The President stated that 25% of Oakton’s students already have another degree (either at Bachelors’ or Masters’ level), and the assumption is that they had the skills needed to attain their degree. She further stated that the formative assessment of students through programs such as our critical literacy project have transformed the way we think about teaching, we focus on student learning. Dr. Lee explained that we must define what we want our

³ Under the guidance of its membership, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, Inc. develops and administers two national nurse licensure examinations; the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses and the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nurses. These two examinations are used by all U.S. state and territorial Boards of Nursing to test entry-level nursing competence of candidates for licensure as Registered Nurses and as Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses. The NCLEX examinations are provided exclusively as computerized adaptive tests.

students to know, which is driven in part by the Illinois Articulation Initiative.⁴ She acknowledged that although the College is doing a good job with our students, we always strive toward doing better.

Dr. DiLeonardi commented that the National Assessment of Adult Literacy article is a confirmation of what is happening to education in America and not with Oakton or community colleges in general. She stated that the skills one must have to be a functioning adult in our society are not necessarily those being taught as part of our general education courses.

Dr. Prendergast commented on the difference between the American educational system and those in other countries. She explained that colleges in the United States accumulate credits in a variety of disciplines and when they total a specific amount, a degree or certificate is issued. She stated that there is no cumulative assessment on completion of a degree in America such as that required in other countries.

Mr. Wadhwa explained that he is a product of such education and remarked on the difference in the educational systems. He reiterated Dr. Barshis' statement that unless we change the standardized education being offered in the K-12 schools, community colleges will continue providing the supplemental student support services in areas not addressed by the K-12 schools. He stated that community colleges educate all kinds of students and we must be accountable to these students because we are competing with the four-year institutions for their business. Mr. Wadhwa further stated that students who do not have a command of English as a written and spoken language, nor basic mathematics skills, should not be moved along through the educational system. He noted that the reason he became involved in Oakton Community College was to ensure that students who wanted to advance their education or re-educate themselves would be given the opportunity to do so. Mr. Wadhwa stated that community colleges must collaborate with the K-12 schools to advance the level of education in this country; otherwise, other countries will keep moving ahead and we will fall farther behind.

Mr. Williams stated that Oakton is in better shape than most educational institutions, mainly because of our affluent district, thus allowing us to staff programs such as those offered in the Learning Center. He commented on President Lee's involvement with the U.S. College and University Presidents Summit in Washington, D.C. and how our educational system must step up to the challenges and issues of the 21st century. He noted that manufacturers in this country cannot staff their jobs with skilled workers while our technical programs are experiencing low enrollment. Mr. Williams further commented on how Oakton's counselors and faculty need to be diligent in recognizing those students who need the services offered by the Learning Center as we have the resources to help them.

Dr. Alexopoulos commented on the difference between the American educational system and the European system. He stated that the European system is a process of elimination; students must take entrance exams for high school where it is determined whether or not they will move on to a

⁴ Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI) - a statewide agreement that allows transfer of the completed Illinois General Education Core Curriculum between participating institutions. Completion and certification of the transferable General Education Core Curriculum at any participating college or university in Illinois assures transferring students that lower-division general education requirements for an associate's or bachelor's degree have been satisfied.

technical school or other training school or to a university track. Dr. Alexopoulos commented that the allocation of funding is not going to resolve the inadequacies in the American educational system. He stated that we need to get back to the basics of studying hard, providing the right counseling, and be disciplined within the subject matter. He commented on how America imports scientists and engineers from other countries. Dr. Alexopoulos stated that education in this country is politically motivated and stressed that we need to get politics out of education in order to move forward.

Mr. Wadhwa stated that many years ago he proposed that our district work together in educating our children and future leaders. He stated that not much has changed in our educational system in the 18 years that he has been on the Board. He further commented on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how he stood for equality and non-violence as a means to move forward in our society. He expressed his desire to have a course modeled after Dr. King's teachings as well as those of Gandhi.

Dr. Lee commented on Barry Scott's "Tribute to Martin Luther King" that was held earlier this evening in the TenHoeve Center. She remarked that Mr. Scott recited some of the civil rights leader's famous speeches and how Dr. King's words relate to racial issues in today's society. President Lee stated that if Dr. King were here today, he would be optimistic. She further stated that although we cannot change the whole world, we must work to change the little piece that we occupy. Dr. Lee also remarked that those who sit at the Board table and discuss the issues that impact our students are making a difference as we work toward a better understanding of what we need to do to help our students attain their goals.

Dr. Prendergast stated that America is a country of second chances and new opportunities, and that our country was built on this concept, as were our community colleges. She remarked on how some students do not do well at their studies in elementary or high school as they cannot focus on the future at such an early age. She stated that in most cases, these same students excel once they get to college and that our Learning Center helps those who got a late start succeed in life. Dr. Prendergast echoed Dr. Lee's remarks that we need to be optimistic in allowing our students to grow and develop without being labeled as in any way relegated to second class status.

Dr. Alexopoulos commented on how the voucher system for schools may increase competition to the point where all the schools are trying harder at improving the learning capabilities of our students. He stated that the American educational system has declined over the past 20-25 years and is now a matter of national security. He expressed the need to analyze the educational systems of other countries so that we can move forward with improving what we do. In closing, he stated that it is criminal on the part of the politicians to allow our educational system to decay in such an exponential way.

Mr. Wadhwa thanked everyone for their comments in relation to tonight's strategic conversation on how we can support student learning and stated that he looked forward to next month's strategic conversation.

Adjournment

Mr. Wadhwa 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 February 21, 2006, at the Des Plaines Campus, room 1506.

Dr. Alexopoulos offered a motion for adjournment and Mr. Williams seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and Mr. Wadhwa adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

/s/ Jody Wadhwa
Jody Wadhwa, Chairman of the Board

/s/ Emory W. Williams
Emory Williams, Secretary of the Board

/pd
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A video tape recording of the January 17, 2006, meeting was made and may be viewed by calling the Library and Instructional Media Services office at 847-635-1640.