

**Minutes of the Oakton Community College Board Meeting
March 20, 2007**

The 604th meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2007, at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Wadhwa called the meeting to order at 6:43 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		Present

Closed Session

Dr. Barshis 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. Mr. Wadhwa seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and Dr. Alexopoulos, Dr. Barshis, Mr. Collins, Dr. DiLeonardi, Mr. Wadhwa, Mr. Williams, Dr. Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Dr. Hamel, Ms. Lucas, Mr. Oudenhoven, Ms. Rizzo, and Dr. Smith went into a closed session at 6:43 p.m. in Room 1503.

Mr. Collins offered a motion to adjourn the closed session. Dr. Barshis seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Wadhwa reconvened the 604th meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:32 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		Present

Also in attendance were Dr. Margaret Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Dr. Thomas Hamel, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, Ms. Barbara Rizzo, Dr. Joianne Smith, Mr. Joseph Appel, Mr. Maurice Archer, Ms. Robyn Bailey, Dr. Kalyani Banerjee, Ms. Alice Barnhart, Ms. Ann Marie Barry, Dr. Trudy Bers, Mr. Paul Boisvert, Dr. Carlos Briones, Ms. Cheryl Brown, Ms. Michele Brown, Mr. Michael Carr, Dr. Connie Churchill, Mr. Jay Cohen, Mr. Carl Costanza, Ms. Eileen Cukierski, Dr. Carlee Drummer, Mr. Will Frank, Mr. Dennis Graham, Mr. Keith Johnson, Mr. Paul Johnson, Mr. Omprakash Kamaria, Ms. Donna Keene, Ms. Linda Korbel, Dr. Chandra Modi, Mr. Jeffrey Moro, Mr. D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Ms. Lynn Seinfeld, Ms. Carol Shapero, Mr. Sam Shah, Mr. Vip Shah, Mr. Mark Sprecher, Mr. Williams Strond, Mr. Wayne Szatkowski, Ms. Cheryl Warmann, and Mr. Brad Wooten.

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

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes of February 20, 2007, Meeting

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

Statement by the President

Dr. Lee asked the representatives of their respective unions to introduce their members.

Ms. Verstrate, President of the Classified Staff Association, introduced classified staff members Alice Barnhart and Wayne Szatkowski, Business Services; Jeff Moro, Information Technology; Mark Sprecher, Instructional Media Services; Will Frank, Television Services; Paul Sanburg, Advising and Counseling; Eileen Cukierski and Pat Dalzell, President's Office, and Tim Raetzman, Television Services, operating the direct cable feed from the Television Studio at the Des Plaines Campus.

Dr. Saret, President of the Full-time Faculty Association, introduced faculty members Carlos Briones, Associate Professor of Humanities and Philosophy; Jay Cohen, Professor and Chair of Accounting; Carol Shapero, Professor of Mathematics; Connie Churchill, Professor of Chemistry; Paul Johnson, Associate Professor of Student Development; Bill Strond, Associate Professor of Biology; Paul Boisvert, Professor of Mathematics and Vice President of the Full-time Faculty Association; and Michael Carr, Assistant Professor of Biology.

Ms. Dayton, President of the Adjunct Faculty Association, introduced Adjunct Faculty instructors Jeff Moro, Computers; Joe Appel, Business; Cheryl Brown, Computers; Kalyani Banerjee, Chemistry; and Keith Johnson, Social Science.

The administrators present included Maurice Archer, Director, Accounting Services; Robyn Bailey, Assistant Director of Lifelong Learning Programs and Operations; Ann Marie Barry, Director, Student Activities; Trudy Bers, Executive Director of Research, Curriculum and Planning, and Executive Assistant to the President; Michele Brown, Director, Admissions and Enrollment Management; Carl Costanza, Executive Director, Campus Operations and Facilities; Carlee Drummer, Executive Director, College Advancement; Dennis Graham, Dean, Science and Health Careers; Donna Keene, Senior Director, Lifelong Learning Programs and Operations; Linda Korbel, Dean, Languages, Humanities and the Arts; D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Director, Human Resources; Lynn Seinfeld, Director of the Business Institute and Professional Education; Cheryl Warmann, Director, Financial Aid; and Brad Wooten, Dean, Social Sciences and Business.

The guests included Omprakash Kamaria, President of Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund; Chandra Modi, Board member of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund; Sam Shah, Advisor of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund and President of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin; and Vip Shah, President of the Indian Community of Niles Township and Executive Vice President of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund.

Dr. Lee opened her remarks with congratulations to the Oakton *Raiders* men's basketball team. She stated that for the first time in the College's history, the team will compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division II National Basketball Tournament being hosted at Danville Community College on March 21-24, 2007. The President remarked that Trustee Joan DiLeonardi and a group of *Raiders* supporters would be driving down to Danville to cheer for our team.

Dr. Lee congratulated George Chirempes and Maurice Archer for receiving the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) award for Oakton's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006. She stated that this is the 15th consecutive year of receiving this award and that a plaque would be presented to them at a future Board meeting. The President also congratulated Patty Tadda, RHC Division Office Manager, who became a grandmother for the first time.

President Lee offered congratulations to Ann Marie Barry who was honored by Phi Theta Kappa, the International Honor Society for two-year colleges for her 10 years of service as Oakton's Phi Theta Kappa Advisor. Dr. Lee presented Ms. Barry with the service award. She then congratulated Cheryl Warmann for her award winning work with the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA). Dr. Lee commented on the many factors that led up to Ms. Warmann's nomination for the award. Chair Wadhwa then presented Ms. Warmann with the MASFAA Annual Award in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the financial aid profession. Dr. Lee also congratulated Glenna Sprague for her work with the Six Piano Ensemble, noting that Ms. Sprague received a plaque and tribute from the Plano, Texas, Music Teachers Association in appreciation for her musical performance. She

stated that Oakton's Six Piano Ensemble would once again grace the stage of the Footlik Theater with performances on April 28 and 29.

Dr. Lee extended get well wishes to Gary Newhouse, Dean of Library Services, as he continues to recover from a broken ankle. She remarked on Kalyani Banerjee's absence at Board meetings for the last two months and welcomed her back following her recovery from a very serious case of pneumonia.

In closing, President Lee offered condolences to Jon Turnbull, RHC Maintenance Assistant, on the sudden passing of his father; and to architect Carol Ross Barney and her husband on the loss of their son in an apartment fire in the Wrigleyville neighborhood over the weekend.

Comments by the Board Chair

Mr. Wadhwa congratulated Dr. Lee for being chosen as the only community college president in a contingency of six college presidents from across the country who would depart for India for one week on March 24. He stated that President Lee was invited by U.S. Under Secretary of State, Karen Hughes, to promote U.S. higher education and build educational ties by welcoming international students. He commented that he and the entire community were very proud of her commitment to international students and global education.

Public Participation

Mr. Omprakash Kamaria, President of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund of Skokie was the first speaker for the evening. He thanked the Board of Trustees for bringing forth the resolution that affirms the College's commitment to be a place of peace and nonviolence. He stated that he and other members of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund were present at tonight's Board meeting to show their support for the resolution and read a brief statement into the record.

As we know college is a temple of education where students are educated not just to earn a good living -- but to become good citizens of this country as well. Today we live in a diverse society where we need to live in peace and harmony with people who look different, behave differently, and believe differently. The proposed course of this resolution will help students have respect for others who are different and also will help resolve disputes peacefully and with harmony. The course should be made compulsory for graduation and all the members of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund fully support this. We must live peacefully so others can live peacefully. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sam Shah, Advisor of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund and President of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin stated that he supported the College's efforts to include a philosophical course on the study of peace and nonviolence. He stated that there are many benefits of teaching peace and nonviolence and eradicating conflict as a social and economic goal. Mr. Shah commented on all the violence in our local communities and throughout the world. He stated that we must fight for peace through training and not with weapons. He praised Oakton for taking a nonviolence approach for conflict resolution through education.

Vip Shah, President of the Indian Community of Niles Township and Executive Vice President of the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund remarked that it took three years for the Gandhi Memorial Trust Fund to build a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Heritage Park in Skokie. He stated that the statue sends a strong message that violence begets violence and that a nonviolent approach leads to profound changes in all levels of our society. Mr. Shah commented on the need to educate the public to promote a culture of nonviolence as a means for peace and harmony between human beings. He emphasized the need to endorse a course of studies in conflict resolution through peace and nonviolence in order to provide our students with the tools they need to strengthen their respect for human rights. He stated that educating our students to become doctors, lawyers and engineers without educating them in how to work through their differences and resolve their conflicts is worthless. Mr. Shah reflected on our nation's history of violence and stated that we must set the example of being the pioneers for peace through nonviolence by educating our students who will go out into the world and promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations.

New Business

Consent Agenda

307-1a Approval of Adoption of Consent Agenda

Dr. Barshis 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.

3/07-1b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 3/07-2 through 3/07-6

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve resolutions 3/07-2 through 3/07-6.”

3/07-2 *Ratification of Payment of Bills for February 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 \$4,671,604.01 for all funds as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated February 2007.”

3/07-3 *Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for February 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 February 2007.”

3/07-4 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 h and hereby approves the expenditures in the amount not to exceed \$18,290.32 for all funds listed in item a and b.”

3/07-5 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 \$102,036.13, resulting in a revised total of \$2,973,002.98.”

“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 \$45,627.85 resulting in a revised total of \$361,638.90.”

“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 \$7,470.86.”

3/07-6 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

Provena Saint Joseph Hospital – Elgin

For the Substance Abuse Counseling Program

Holy Family Medical Center – Des Plaines.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the resolution.

Secretary Williams called the roll.

Dr. Alexopoulos	Aye
Mr. Wadhwa	Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi	Aye
Dr. Barshis	Aye
Mr. Collins	Aye

Mr. Chirempes explained that the resolution is to purchase only services from MRxI at a cost of \$32,000. He stated that the Board approves the adjunct faculty salaries each month as a separate resolution.

Dr. Barshis commented on resolution 3/07-7b *Authorization to Purchase Xerographic Paper*. He applauded the College's commitment to use recycled products and living up to our new strategic goal of being a "Green College" while being cognizant of our other goal, "Financial Stewardship." Dr. Barshis complimented the administration for being fiscally responsible in purchasing half the xerographic paper as recycled even though it cost \$1,000 more in the overall price of the \$50,000 expenditure, so that we could live out our core values.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-8 Approval of Grant

Mr. Collins offered:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accept \$1,000 from the Skokie Fine Arts Commission to support the Emeritus Program's Bluestem Festival of Arts and Humanities."

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

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

3/07-9 Authorization to Hire Full-time, Tenure-track Faculty Members

Dr. DiLeonardi offered:

"Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve the full-time, tenure-track faculty appointments of Sherry DeMonte and Sheila Zabin for the 2007-2008 academic year with the rank, teaching assignment, and salary as specified below."

<u>Name</u>	<u>Academic Rank</u>	<u>Teaching Assignment</u>	<u>Salary</u>
Sherry DeMonte	Associate Professor	Health Information Technology	\$48,269
Sheila Zabin	Assistant Professor	Basic Nurse Assistant Training	\$48,269.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll:

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-10 Approval of Intellectual Property Agreement

Mr. Williams offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the Intellectual Property Agreement between the Board and Jay Cohen.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed.

3/07-11 Acceptance of Retirement, Professional Personnel

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accept the retirement of John Boyles, Professor of Business Law/Accounting, under the Senior Faculty Program, on August 1, 2008.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed.

3/07-12 Authorization to Accept Retirement – Administrative Personnel

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the retirement of Maurice Archer, Director of Accounting Services, under the College Senior Service Program, effective December 31, 2008.”

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

Mr. Chirempes commented on his association with Mr. Archer for the past six years. He stated that the recent award from the GFOA for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report mentioned by Dr. Lee in her opening statement this evening was Oakton’s 15th consecutive year. He emphasized that this achievement for excellence in financial reporting is due to Mr. Archer’s hard work and due diligence in preparing the documents and thanked him for all that he does for the College and the Business and Finance Department.

Dr. DiLeonardi related that when the Trustee Finance Committee members met with the auditors in fall 2006, they commented that the biggest obstacle Oakton would need to overcome in the future was in replacing Maurice Archer. She stated that she seconded that comment and thanked Mr. Archer for his superb work.

Mr. Williams commented on Mr. Archer being the only African-American administrator when he was elected to the Board in 2003. He stated that the College has made progress in increasing our diverse, high-quality workforce by working toward a comprehensive diversity program. He asked that the College continue with our outreach program to attract and hire minorities.

Mr. Wadhwa expressed his gratitude to Mr. Archer for his commitment to the College. He stated that it was a pleasure to know and work with Mr. Archer.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-13 First Read of Policy Revisions

Mr. Collins offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby accepts for review the proposed policy 5103, attached hereto, with action to take place at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting, April 17, 2007.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Dr. Smith noted a correction for the record and stated that the second sentence in the first paragraph should read that there are “13 symbols” and not 12.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-14 Approval of Policy Revisions

Mr. Collins offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby approves revisions to Policies 4318, 4322 and 4328 attached hereto.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-15 Acceptance of the College's Strategic Plan for 2008-2012

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approves the College's Strategic Plan for 2008 through 2012 attached hereto.”

Change Matters: 2008 - 2012 Strategic Goals

We are an institution of academic excellence that acts boldly, with courage, creativity, and agility, to shape our future in a changing global society.

Academic excellence. We will uphold the preeminence of academic excellence as the engine that drives College decision-making.

- Advance the culture of assessment as integral to improving teaching, learning and student success.
- Increase student engagement and connections with faculty, particularly as measured by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).
- Improve the success and persistence of all students, especially underprepared students.

Innovative learning for local and global citizenship. We will evaluate and change our academic programs and learning opportunities to foster local and global citizenship and to meet clearly identified student and community needs.

- Create innovative interdisciplinary concentrations, especially within the baccalaureate areas, and create new career programs through collaborating with outside partners and employers.
- Increase opportunities to earn Oakton credit by invigorating credit for prior learning and service learning opportunities and expanding enrollments in dual credit courses by 25 percent by 2009-2010.

- Reinvent our use of time and space by revamping our class schedules and course offerings to be responsive to student needs and interests, optimize use of community resources, and foster high quality learning.
- Broaden connections with our external constituencies to ensure our programs and services are responsive to community needs.

WISE student services. We will involve all employee groups in developing, enhancing and delivering services that **W**elcome, **I**nform, **S**upport, and **E**ngage our students.

- Plan and construct one-stop student services centers at the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses by fall 2010.
- Implement required orientation for new students, including an online option, by fall 2009.
- Redesign student advising to improve effectiveness and student satisfaction by fall 2009.

Anti-bias College. We will continue to transform our College's practices, curricula and ways of engaging with one another in order to overcome racism and other forms of bias.

- Review and revise curricula to address issues of bias and cultural competence.
- Involve at least 80 percent of full and part-time faculty, staff, administrators and student leaders in anti-bias training by 2012.
- Expand outreach to underserved populations, and strengthen networking and support systems for Oakton students and employees.

Green College. We will respect, conserve, and improve the environment through our academic offerings, learning opportunities and ecologically sound practices.

- Develop baccalaureate concentrations, career programs, courses and community activities related to environmental issues.
- Demonstrate stewardship of the environment by reducing energy consumption, increasing recycling efforts, and adopting environmentally sound practices in infrastructure improvements and purchasing decisions.
- Continue to transform and restore our grounds and natural habitat so they are a model for environmental responsibility and an educational resource for students and the community.

One College: Four campuses (Des Plaines, Skokie, electronic, neighborhood). We will provide a consistently high quality learning experience at multiple locations and via multiple delivery systems.

- Increase course enrollments by 20 percent at the Skokie campus by 2010-2011.
- Update and enhance our plan for distance education and hybrid classes, ensuring that student success is comparable to students in classroom-based courses.
- Reassign curricula to best location(s) to optimize use of space, enrollments and high quality learning opportunities.

- Improve Oakton's website and other forms of technology for student, employee and community use.

Model work environment. We will develop a model work environment to attract and retain a diverse work force that is best able to serve students and the community.

- Initiate practices to increase collaborative decision making, improve communication, better engage part-time faculty, and encourage respect among employees.
- Institute programs to improve employee health and welfare, and facilitate work/life balance.
- Require and support professional development for all employees.

Reinvented physical space and infrastructure. We will reinvent and maintain the College's physical space and infrastructure in ways that build an environment conducive to learning and creating community.

- Reconfigure our classroom environments to better support teaching and learning and to improve comfort.
- Enhance study, meeting and lounge space to foster community and meet the needs of our students.
- Invest in infrastructure maintenance and improvements.

Financial stewardship. We will use our resources to advance our mission and goals while maintaining adequate reserves for the future.

- Implement innovations, practices and procedures to contain costs of tuition, textbooks and instructional materials.
- Explore new external funding sources to supplement existing revenue.
- Commit funds each year to support strategic goals and objectives.

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Dr. Lee recognized the work of the 2012 Team with a special thank you to co-chairs Laura Saret and Tom Hamel for developing a document that encompassed goals and objectives that would provide the College with direction for the next five years. She stated that the new process of planning was iterative, transparent and inclusive of the entire College community. Dr. Lee explained that the foundation for the document came from priorities identified by the Board at the 2006 Retreat, with the building blocks coming from the Constellation Survey, Conversation Day, Vital Focus, and Town Hall meetings that included employees, students, legislators, community residents, and business partners. She stated that following Board approval of the resolution, the work of establishing tasks, priorities, and timelines for the goals and objectives would begin.

Mr. Wadhwa stated that he was very impressed that every segment of the College took ownership in developing the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

3/07-16 Resolution Affirming Oakton Community College's Commitment to be a Place of Peace and Nonviolence

Mr. Collins offered:

“Inspired by the exemplary lives of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby adopts the following resolution:

Because we are those to whom the residents of District 535 have entrusted the governance of Oakton Community College; and

Because we have affirmed that the mission of Oakton Community College is to meet the learning needs of the communities the College serves; and

Because we are committed to ensuring that the work of the College -- in learning and in teaching, in leading and in governing -- is informed by the core values of tolerance, fairness, responsibility, compassion and integrity,

We will

- encourage the teaching and learning of paths to peace and non-violence;
- oppose violence in all its manifestations;
- be examples of civil discourse and civil action;
- advocate for resolution of conflict through effective communication;
- stand against prejudice and discrimination in all its forms;
- serve as good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care;
- make decisions that comport with our commitment to peace; and
- foster an environment in which conversation and collaboration create and sustain a community of common purpose.”

Dr. Barshis seconded the motion.

Mr. Collins commented that he was pleased that Oakton set the precedent among Illinois community colleges in affirming a course of action that we are a place of

peace and nonviolence. He stated that the resolution sends a message to our entire community that we are a peaceful community, a community that works to resolve conflict through nonviolence with communications and a mutual trust and respect for each other. Mr. Collins explained that this resolution is not about a course of studies, but encompasses our approach for teaching and learning within the framework of peace and nonviolence.

Dr. Barshis noted that the Board has discussed and reflected on this course of action for a very long time. He commented on conversations during the recent Board retreat in which the trustees expressed their desire to make Oakton an exemplary institution that is committed to living the words written in the resolution. He emphasized that we are affirming Oakton Community College as a place of peace and nonviolence by challenging the culture of violence with our statement that will not accept or condone violence. Dr. Barshis stated that the resolution compliments the College's strategic goals and objectives.

Mr. Wadhwa gave tribute to President Lee for crafting the language in the resolution. He commented on her commitment to the values of nonviolence and diversity in a time of widespread social change.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved.

Strategic Conversation: The Resolution of the Board of Trustees for Oakton Community College to Be a Place of Peace and Nonviolence

Mr. Wadhwa stated the Board's strategic conversation would focus on the resolution affirming our commitment to being a place of peace and nonviolence. He reflected on previous strategic conversations and stated that tonight's conversation was nearest to his heart as it encompassed the values and teachings of his own growing up in India under the influence of Mahatma Gandhi as India struggled for independence from Great Britain. He added that when he immigrated to the United States in the mid 1950s he was profoundly affected by the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the civil rights movement with its strategy of nonviolence. Mr. Wadhwa commented that violence is a learned behavior that is transmitted from one generation to another via socialization and can be reversed through education and by respecting each other through words and actions. He emphasized that he was very much in favor of creating a course that included the teaching of nonviolence as a successful problem solving and human development

tool. Mr. Wadhwa noted that the United Nations declared 2001-2010 as the decade of nonviolence; however, seven years have passed and we have not taken this declaration to our hearts. He stated that it takes one person or one institution at a time to commit to the approach that nonviolence can transform us individually and as a nation.

Mr. Williams commented that he was very pleased to be a member of the Board of Trustees during the passage of the resolution affirming our commitment to peace and nonviolence. He asked that we not just read the words but live the words and apply them to our everyday life. He commented on how the shortage of minorities in the workplace leads to violence because it creates bad feelings. He stated that by creating a fair and equitable work environment, we can overcome the obstacle of cultural differences and successfully integrate our workforce so that everyone feels comfortable.

Dr. Barshis remarked that the Board of Trustees is entrusted with reviewing and refining Board-initiated policies as a governance tool. He stated that this constant review of practices that include such topics as hiring and conflict resolution, allows the Board to address the issues that we are committing ourselves to in the strategic plan and in the resolution on peace and nonviolence. He commented that community colleges serve as a model in every aspect of public life within our districts and that the Board is in a unique position to influence that role within the community. He explained that the Board is the final arbiter and decision maker as we bring forth the values of the institution when settling disputes. Dr. Barshis noted that the Board must be mindful of what is in the best interest of our students, employees and community residents and treat those interests with respect and dignity. He stated that through our commitment to making Oakton a place of peace and nonviolence, the Board has the responsibility to encourage and support curriculum that encompasses this commitment. He further stated that by eliminating prejudice in the way we do business, in our hiring practices, and in teaching our students, we provide the kind of environment that is conducive to peace and nonviolence. Dr. Barshis stated emphatically that the Board is committed to all the principles of peace and nonviolence so that when our students leave here, they take with them a deep regard for human life and dignity and the ability to respect their fellow man.

Dr. DiLeonardi highlighted the affirmative qualities of creating and nurturing a culture of respect for each other. She explained that through this resolution, we are committing ourselves to communicating with each other and engaging in conversation that furthers individual dignity and improves society. She commented on how the Board's interaction with different employee groups modeled civil discourse as everyone was committed to sound reasoning to resolve the issues in a cordial manner -- we disagreed without being disagreeable. She stated that she was very pleased that we put our actions into words and that she hoped we would have the will to carry out our words.

Mr. Collins remarked that violence is often masked in fear, uncertainty, and doubt, which is actually ignorance. He stated that ignorance can be removed by giving others the opportunity to explain and discuss another perspective through civil discourse. He commented on the importance of having many voices from many kinds of learners expressing differing points of view, but with respect and civility. Mr. Collins was very appreciative of Oakton's taking a leading step in our commitment to peace and nonviolence.

Chair Wadhwa asked President Lee, Dr. Saret, Ms. Verstrate and Ms. Dayton for their comments on the resolution affirming Oakton Community College as a place of peace and nonviolence.

Dr. Lee stated that the Board's strategic conversation this evening challenges us all to live the words that are written on the page. She commented that although it was not an easy task to write the words, it will be an even harder task to live them. She stated that the commitment expressed in both the resolution detailing our strategic goals and objectives and our commitment to being a place of peace and nonviolence is something to be proud of. Dr. Lee reflected on a quote from Robert Browning, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp. Or what's a heaven for." She stated that although we would probably fall short of the goals, to cease to strive for them would be the worst thing we could do.

Dr. Saret stated that the work on the strategic plan was based on many conversations at a multitude of meetings that revealed to the 2012 Team that a lot of change was needed in order to make Oakton the institution that they wanted it to be. She commented that as we work together on better ways to communicate and have mutual respect for each other, we are striving to meet the goals and objectives that were identified in the strategic plan. She stated that she was very pleased that the Board has taken action on the resolution.

Ms. Verstrate echoed comments made by Dr. DiLeonardi regarding the civil discourse during the classified staff contract negotiations. She stated that the Board and staff negotiations team disagreed while still being respectful and that we arrived at an agreement that was mutually beneficial to both parties.

Ms. Dayton commented on the hard task of putting our goals and objectives into words that encompassed everyone's comments and suggestions. She stated that the task of putting those words into practice will be even more difficult; however, the entire 2012 Team believes that this is the direction that we must take. She thanked the Board for approving the resolution and stated that if everyone makes their best effort in living the words written, Oakton will be a better institution as a result of it.

Mr. Wadhwa reflected on the similar basis of philosophy regarding the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. He stated that learning from their experience was a strong component of their unique wisdom and that nonviolence is an active and powerful way to build a better world. He commented on the circumstances and outcomes of Gandhi's and King's nonviolent struggle and how their movement spread into other countries throughout the world. Mr. Wadhwa stated that everything we do has an impact on other people and that living nonviolence as a way of life means making the right choices. He stated that it is our mission to educate our students to think and live the words that nonviolence is a powerful way to build a better world. In closing, Mr. Wadhwa commented that he has seen the great effect that nonviolence has on conflict resolution. He stated that when the study of nonviolence as a way of solving problems is made available to our students, we will contribute in positive ways to diminishing violence in our world.

Adjournment

Chair 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 Tuesday, April 17, 2007, at the Des Plaines Campus, room 1506.

Dr. Alexopoulos offered a motion for adjournment and Dr. Barshis seconded the motion. A voice vote was called and Mr. Wadhwa adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

/s/ Jody Wadhwa

Jody Wadhwa, Board Chair

/s/ Emory W. Williams

Emory W. Williams, Board Secretary

/pd
4/07

A video tape recording of the March 20, 2007, meeting was made and may be viewed by calling the Library and Instructional Media Services office at 847-635-1640.