The 593rd meeting of the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 was held on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, IL.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Wadhwa called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Present – arrived at 6:20 p.m.
Dr. DiLeonardi Present
Mr. Krzyminski Student Trustee Present

Closed Session

Dr. Barshis 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. Alexopoulos seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and the Trustees along with Dr. Lee, Mr. Chirempes, Ms. Lucas, Mr. Oudenhoven, Ms. Rizzo and Dr. Smith went into closed session at 6:00 p.m. in Room 1503.

Mr. Wadhwa offered a motion to adjourn the closed session. Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion; a voice vote was called and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mr. Wadhwa reconvened the 593rd meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:44 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 Present
Dr. DiLeonardi Present
Mr. Krzyminski Student Trustee Present
Also in attendance were Dr. Margaret Lee, Mr. George Chirempes, Ms. Bonnie Lucas, Dr. Nancy Prendergast, Ms. Barbara Rizzo, Dr. Joianne Smith, Mr. Joseph Appel, Mr. Maurice Archer, Dr. Kalyani Banerjee, Ms. Ann Marie Barry, Dr. Trudy Bers, Mr. Lorenz Boehm, Mr. Paul Boisvert, Ms. Michele Brown, Mr. Timothy Davidson, Ms. Cynthia DeBerg, Dr. Carlee Drummer, Mr. Will Frank, Mr. Chad Ganger, Mr. Paul Grassman, Dr. Hollace Graff, Mr. Dennis Graham, Dr. Gregory James, Ms. Donna Keene, Ms. Linda Korbil, Ms. Sheila Kerwin Maloney, Ms. Roxann Marshburn, Ms. Marion Miller, Mr. Gary Newhouse, Ms. Rose Novil, Dr. Gwen Nyden, Mr. Bruce Oates, Dr. Luanne Olson, Mr. D. Arnie Oudenhoven, Mr. James Owens, Mr. Timothy Raetzman, Ms. Toni Rowitz, Dr. Katherine Schuster, Ms. Doreen Schwartz, Ms. Lynn Seinfeld, Ms. Carole Shapero, Ms. Julie Shotsberger, Dr. Robert Sompolski, Mr. Mark Sprecher, Ms. Sylvia Stacey, Mr. Ronald Thomas, Mr. John Wade, Dr. Sherrill Weaver, Mr. Kevin West and Dr. Donna Younger.

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.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Alex Krzyminski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes of February 21, 1006, Board Meeting

Dr. Barshis offered a motion for approval of the minutes of the February 21, 2006, meeting. Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion. A voice vote was called, and the Minutes of the February 21, 2006, meeting were approved.

Statement by the President

Prior to her statement, Dr. Lee asked for introductions of those present.

Jillian Verstrate, President of the Classified Staff Association, introduced classified staff members Marion Miller, Business Services; Kevin West, RHC Registration and Records; Pat Dalzell, President’s Office; Mark Sprecher, Instructional Media Services; Will Frank, Television Services; and Tim Raetzman, Television Services, operating the direct cable feed in the Television Studio.

Laura Saret, President of the Full-time Faculty Association, introduced faculty members present: Julie Shotsberger, Associate Professor of Mathematics; Hollace Graff, Professor of Philosophy, Chair of Humanities/Philosophy and Chair of the Council of Chairs; Luanne Olson, Professor of Physical Therapy Assistant and Faculty Development Coordinator; Cynthia DeBerg, Professor of Health Information Technology; Katherine Schuster, Associate Professor of Education and Coordinator of Education and International Programs; Tony Rowitz, Professor of English and
Speech; Ronald Thomas, Professor of Management; Carole Shapero, Professor of Mathematics; Sylvia Stacey, Professor of English and Coordinator of the WSAT Program; Sheila Kerwin Maloney, Professor and Chair of Early Childhood Education; Paul Boisvert, Professor of Mathematics; Sherrill Weaver, Professor of Library Services and Chair, Library; Gwen Nyden, Professor of Sociology and Coordinator of the Service Learning Program; Lorenz, Boehm, Professor of English; Chad Ganger, Professor and Chair of Facilities Management and Engineering and Air Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Technology; and Rose Novil, Professor of Library Services.

Mr. Krzyminski introduced students Tim Davidson operating camera two and Tim Farrell, representing the OCCurrence student newspaper.

Barbara Dayton, President of the Adjunct Faculty Association, introduced instructors Kalyani Banerjee, Chemistry; Joe Appel, Business and Management; and James Owens, History.

The administrators present included Maurice Archer, Director, Accounting Services; Ann Marie Barry, Director, Student Activities; Trudy Bers, Executive Director, Institutional Research, Curriculum and Strategic Planning and Executive Assistant to the President; Michele Brown, Director, Admission and Enrollment Management; Carlee Drummer, Executive Director, College Advancement; Dennis Graham, Dean, Science and Health Careers; Paul Grassman, Director of Software and User Services; Gregory James, Dean of Students; Donna Keene, Senior Director of 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, Business Services; Lynn Seinfeld, Director, Adult and Professional Education, and Acting Director, Business and Professional Development Institute; Robert Sompolski, Acting Dean, Mathematics and Technology; John Wade, Director of Systems and Network Services; and Donna Younger, Director, Learning Center.

President Lee congratulated Dolly de la Paz, Senior Staff Accountant and her husband Armando, on the birth of a new grandson, James Armando de la Paz. She also congratulated George Chirempes, Maurice Archer, Karen Epps and the Business and Finance Team on another successful award from the Government Finance Officers Association for their Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

Dr. Lee extended condolences to the family of George Green, Facilities Housekeeping at the Ray Hartstein Campus; to Gary Newhouse, on the passing of his mother-in-law; to Joan Phillips, Emeritus Program, on the passing of her mother; and to Nancy Heldt, Health Careers Advisor, on the passing of her father-in-law.

The President also announced that the Modern Language poster competition artwork is displayed outside the library and commented on the professional quality of the students’ work. She further noted that the work of Dawn Mercedes, Associate Professor of Graphic Design, who passed away in December 2005, is on display near the main entrance and that a reception celebrating her spirituality and work would be held on March 22. Dr. Lee also announced that the Board of
Student Affairs is hosting a benefit for the Louisiana and Mississippi hurricane victims on March 23.

Dr. Lee reminded everyone that Professor Sprague’s internationally acclaimed Oakton Six Piano Concert would be held in the Footlik Theater on Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30. She stated that tickets are available through the Box Office at the College.

Mr. Krzyminski commented that the BSA benefit for the gulf coast hurricane victims will include the sale of Oakton student photographs taken prior to the flooding as well as raffle tickets for prizes. He encouraged everyone to support the benefit.

Dr. DiLeonardi reminded everyone that the Foundation fundraiser “Late Night Catechism” will be held in the Footlik Theatre on Saturday, May 6 and that proceeds go toward student scholarships.

Report: Live with Banner

Ms. Lucas stated that the College went “live” with Banner four weeks ago and thanked the three leaders responsible for the Banner implementation: Bruce Oates and Paul Grassman, co-project managers, and John Wade, director of the Luminus implementation.

John Wade presented a brief demonstration on the student and faculty perspective of the new Banner Student Information System and a live look into the myOakton portal on Oakton’s homepage. He began with a look into the system from the student’s view:

- Banner Student Information System – includes a portal for viewing the online resources that Oakton provides to students, employees and anyone affiliated with the College. Allows user to share and customize information specific to their needs
- the myOakton portal is a commercial product called Luminus that was purchased from SunGard SCT and seamlessly links into the Student Information System. Entrance into the portal is through an Oakton ID logon
- myOakton homepage includes live, active information specific to the individual. It can be customized to meet the user’s personal needs with a series of tabs that take the user into major content areas known as channels such as registration, payment applications, course information and Oakton library links
- channels within the portal may be customized; however, campus announcements are fixed channels and cannot be modified by the user
- applications include web based email, student services resources such as accessing an unofficial transcript, classes taken and grades
- registering for classes is a seamless operation and students can look at a current schedule, search by instructor, subject, course title, location and time in including a link to the instructor’s email
- new system has the ability to build channels for student life with links to the student activity calendar, student clubs and student entertainment that will continue to be built up with time
- system is secure as it runs across a Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) and is encrypted

Mr. Wade then used a live demonstration into the new system from the faculty perspective:
• faculty access includes channels with tabs specific to their needs as a faculty member
• access includes class lists, individual student address and email links, and full class email links
• functionality includes the ability to post office hour and grades from anywhere with a simple pull down menu, as well as processing registration overrides

Community building features noted in Mr. Wade’s presentation included:
• calendar system for tracking vacations
• groups can share files and message board, process a group request or provide a group approval

Dr. Rosen asked if the new system allows for Alliance non-credit course registration. He further asked if there were any situations that would prevent a student with a problem in a credit course from registering for a non-credit course. Ms. Rizzo responded that 90-95% of Alliance students are able to register through the web services of the new system; however some of the non-credit courses are packaged with discounts; therefore, this type of registration must be done in person.

Mr. Wade explained that the new system is fully integrated and that non-credit course registration and credit course registration are just separate terms with the same capabilities. He stated that the policies for non-credit and credit course are a little different as to application time limits and online registration application; however, both are seamless operations. He noted that restrictions are only germane to the specific type of course, otherwise students can apply on line, be accepted, proceed to registration, show up for class with the ability to log into their personal myOakton account, and access the resources needed for a seamless experience at the College.

Dr. Barshis asked if messages regarding restrictions such as pre-requisites and placement tests are built into the system so that students cannot register for courses that they are not qualified to take. Mr. Oates responded that the system sends a message to the student with restriction information on what they need to register for a specific course.

Mr. Williams asked if students can pay for their courses online, to which Mr. Wade responded that the students can only pay online with a credit card and that the account summary screen with how much is owed and due dates provide a link to pay online.

Dr. Alexopoulos asked for an explanation of the backup methods and disaster recovery plan for the new system.

Mr. Wade explained that both backup and disaster recovery were at the top of their priorities in planning the project as they were key factors in the Banner architecture. He stated that a multi-layered architecture was used rather than a single system as the College needed to be protected from several potential disasters.

- tape backups are stored off site
- cross-site back ups -- Des Plaines Campus is backed up at Skokie and Skokie is backed up at Des Plaines
- enhanced the server capabilities at the Skokie Campus which now acts as a mirror site for the Des Plaines Campus
- data such as registering for a class at Des Plaines is stored on the Des Plaines server and mirrored to the Skokie server in a live mode; therefore, in the event of a disaster at Des Plaines, the mirror is activated at Skokie and vice versa.

Mr. Wade stated that although the Banner System presentation looked seamless as he maneuvered through the portal and channels, it touched five different servers plus a number of supporting resources. He noted that each one of the devices used was mirrored and backed up so that if a system went down at Des Plaines, they could flip the switches and software and bring the same system up in exactly the same state at the other campus while continuing to provide necessary services. Mr. Wade reiterated his statement that all critical systems such as the student and financial systems have mirroring capabilities which occur constantly, with daily backups, incremental backups, and full backups several times each week, and that all are stored on tape at an off-campus site.

Dr. Lee acknowledged the work of the Banner and Luminous Teams as well as Ms. Lucas’ leadership. She stated that they were a focused group who worked diligently for the past 18 months completing the project on time, under budget, and without a disruption in services.

**Comments by the Chairman**

There being no comments from the Chair, he moved to proceed with Public Participation.

**Public Participation**

Cynthia DeBerg, Glenview resident, Oakton Community College full-time faculty member:

*On behalf of the faculty who attended the recent meeting with President Lee and many who could not attend, we would like to emphasize the four central points of our vision for Oakton.*

*First – we are committed to Oakton’s core values, which we believe should inform all of our work.*

*Second – we are committed to academic excellence in a society in which academic excellence is increasingly scorned.*

*Third – we are committed to the student development model of education although that model is currently out of fashion.*

*Fourth – we are committed to developing a workable model of shared governance which we can expect to make a reality through the reaccreditation process and working collaboratively with our new vice president.*

*We feel that the four points that we have made will enable us to maintain and enhance the reputation that we have earned as a premier college. In the same way, that President Lee has represented us superbly to the community, state and country, we hope that our new vice president will lead the faculty and our institution in the day to day work that helps make our students’ dreams a reality.*

Dawn Mueller, Rockford resident, Oakton Community College student:

*My name is Dawn Marie Mueller and I’m a student here and I wish to comment upon the increase in tuition that was approved by the Board at our last meeting. I first wish
to commend Mr. Collins for standing up on behalf of the students. I'm very grateful that he voted against the increase in tuition. I do wish that the Board would have taken more time to consider other options to increasing tuition. Due to the vote as was made, at this time, I believe that given the increase in tuition, that I will be discontinuing my enrollment at Oakton. I have been a medical laboratory technician student. When I entered that program I found that once I was in the program that it was, even though it had been marketed as a two-year program, it was in fact a three-year program and that blew my budget right there. The increase in tuition has really shattered my budget and as an impoverished person with a family to support, I just can’t afford this increase. And I’m reminded of a quote by an ancient ruler who upon chastising his over zealous tax collectors and tribute takers, he said “I told you to shear my sheep, not skin them.” I realize there are a lot of affluent people in this community who will not feel the pinch, but to an impoverished person such as I, I’m being skinned. And not just by the tuition increases, but by the reductions in support for impoverished persons from all aspects of government and charities. I found an article that appeared in the Tribune a few weeks ago on the front page and I will provide each of you with copies of these at a later time -- but there was an article called “In Debt Forever – How can You Cope with $55,000 in Student Loans on $33,000 in Income.” As I mentioned at the last meeting, I do have a previous Bachelor’s Degree that I am trying to pay off. I would be happy to leave this with you. I think it should impress upon you that I’m not the only person who is an older student struggling to pay student loans. I want to respond to some comments that I saw in the notes for last time that Trustee DiLeonardi made to indicate that no one in the College wants to raise tuition; however, based on information in discussions it’s the only viable option for balancing our budget and ensuring a quality education. I want to emphasize that we’re a nation at war and when a nation’s at war, all individuals, all institutions, we all need to tighten the belt. That’s how they got through WWII. Unfortunately, I see in this war that people are expecting to somehow maintain the same standard of living and the same expenditures. Somehow this money for this war is just going to magically appear. The next day after the last meeting we had the explosion at one of the golden domed mosques in Iraq and now this country is going to be paying for a golden dome rather than investing in our education and that’s a very serious thing that we have to consider. I took the liberty of printing off a copy of the 2005 Financial Report and the 2005-2006 Annual Budget. They are very hefty documents indeed. When I printed these off I asked the people in the labs if there is a possibility that I could print these documents on double sided paper so I could reduce the expense of printing. I was told there was no way to print in any of the computer labs here on double-sided format, so you might see that I’ve uncovered a little bit of a waste of expense here. So I would challenge you to look closer and do not accept statements that we’ve done everything we’ve can to tighten expenses because I see a lot of places that we can cut costs here. So I would encourage you to consider the idea of creating a competition. Open it up to the students and perhaps to the faculty, staff and administration too and award something for student, perhaps the cost of their tuition, if they can come up with creative ideas of ways to cut the budget. It would benefit the students. If they have a great idea perhaps they can get a tuition waiver and it would benefit the other
students by reducing the costs here to attend Oakton. I would also, as I have a degree in Physics, and noted that several members of the Board have experience in Mathematics and Physics, and Engineering, I’m quite interested in doing an energy audit of the facilities to see if there are ways that we can reduce costs there and so I would ask that the College release to the student government detailed information regarding energy expenditures including a detailed energy audit. I presume there has been an energy audit done on the building sometime and I would like to know what that is and then I would be happy to take a tour of the building with those who feel that they might have some technological insight into this. My background is in fluid mechanics and perhaps we can come up with something creative. My third suggestion would be for very, very impoverished students, like myself, who do not have the benefit of Pell Grants or MAP awards or other forms of state or federal financial aid and really have to rely on begging. Perhaps some sort of sliding scale tuition program so the most impoverished students, who have families to support, who have no other means and do not have time to fill out scholarship forms and go through [the process]. I just can’t do that. I’m taking care of parents with dementia. I don’t have time to fill out scholarship essays and that sort of thing; I think there might be some more creative things to help students like myself who are falling through the cracks.

Mr. Wadhwa thanked Ms. Muller for her comments and reiterated his comments from last month’s meeting that the Board would revisit the tuition increase next year based on any funding changes put forth by the State of Illinois for education. He asked that everyone contact their legislators enlisting their support in reinstating funding for community colleges. He asked Ms. Muller to reconsider her statement of dropping out of Oakton and offered to personally compensate her for the difference in tuition if she stayed the course and completed her program. The Chair further stated that there are many resources at the College for students with financial needs.

New Business

Consent Agenda

3/06-1a Approval of Adoption of Consent Agenda

Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

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

Mr. Williams seconded the resolution.

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

2/06-1b Approval of Consent Agenda Items 3/06-2 through 3/06-6
Dr. Alexopoulos offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve resolutions 3/06-2 through 3/06-6.”

**3/06-2  Ratification of Payment of Bills for February 2006**

“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 $4,518,476.45 for all funds as listed and for all purposes as appearing on a report dated February 2006.”

**3/06-3  Acceptance of Treasurer’s Report for February 2006**

“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 2006.”

**3/06-4  Authorization to Transfer Working Cash Funds**

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the transfer of $7,000,000 from the Working Cash Fund to the Education Fund. The Treasurer is directed to reimburse the Working Cash Fund in the amount of $7,000,000 from the taxes levied for the Education Fund for 2006, to be collected in 2007.”

**3/06-5  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 g and hereby approves the expenditures in the amount not to exceed $19,158.89 for all funds listed in item a.”

**3/06-6  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 Basic Nurse Assistant Training Program  
Resurrection Senior Services, d/b/a Resurrection Nursing & Rehabilitation Center,  
and Holy Family Health Center, d/b/a Holy Family Nursing & Rehabilitation Center  
– Park Ridge

For the Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

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

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

The motion carried and the Consent Agenda resolutions were approved.

Student Trustee, Mr. Krzyminski, favored the resolution.

3/06-7 **Authorization to Approve March Purchases**

Dr. Rosen offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 authorizes the approval of the attached resolutions 3/06-7a through 3/06-7d:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Ratification of Purchased Pharmacy</td>
<td>MRxI Corporation</td>
<td>$37,070.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Oracle Database Software Maintenance and Support</td>
<td>Oracle USA, Inc.</td>
<td>$19,750.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Catering Services for Employee Recognition Dinner</td>
<td>Café la Cave</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Sculpture for the Art, Science &amp; Technology Pavilion at RHC</td>
<td>Timeless Creations</td>
<td>$22,000.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total: $91,820.00.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Secretary Williams called the roll.

Mr. Collins Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi Aye
Dr. Rosen Aye
Mr. Wadhwa Aye
The resolution was approved. Mr. Krzyminski, Student Trustee, favored the resolution.

3/06-8 **Supplemental Authorization to Pay Professional Personnel**

Dr. DiLeonardi 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 Spring Semester, 2006; the total payment amounting to $2,780,548.38.”

“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 Spring Semester, 2006; the total payment amounting to $13,042.40.”

“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 $14,455.00.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed. Student Trustee, Mr. Krzyminski, concurred.

3/06-9 **Acceptance of Resignation of Full Time Faculty Member**

Mr. Collins offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 accept the resignation of Dr. Douglas L. Berger, Assistant Professor of Humanities and Philosophy, effective May 16, 2006.”
Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

Dr. Prendergast commented that Dr. Berger had accepted a position where he can do research and work with graduate students. She stated that he has served the College well and although his leaving will impact the Humanities and Philosophy courses, it is a move in the right direction for him.

With permission from Mr. Wadhwa, Dr. Saret stated that she was pleased to have gotten to know Dr. Berger on a personal level where they discussed his dreams for the future in working with students. She stated that he is very excited to have the opportunity to work with graduate students in courses that we can't offer at the community college level and that the faculty association wishes him well in his endeavors.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved. Mr. Krzyminski, Student Trustee, favored the resolution.

3/06-10 Authorization to Hire Full-Time, Tenure-Track Faculty

Dr. Barshis offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve the full-time, tenure-track faculty appointment of Carlos Briones, for the 2006-2007 academic year with the academic rank of Associate Professor, teaching assignment of Humanities/Philosophy, and salary of $57,604.”

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the resolution.

Dr. Prendergast stated that the College is very fortunate to have Dr. Carlos Briones join the College as a full-time tenure-track faculty member. She commented on his qualifications and thanked the Philosophy Search Team and Human Resources Department for their work in recommending Dr. Briones from a large pool of outstanding candidates.

Mr. Williams called the roll.
Mr. Collins Aye
Dr. DiLeonardi Aye
Dr. Rosen Aye
Mr. Wadhwa Aye
Dr. Barshis Aye
Dr. Alexopoulos Aye
Mr. Williams Aye

The resolution passed. Student Trustee, Mr. Krzyminski, concurred.

3/06-11 Authorization for Appointment of Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mr. Williams offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 approve the appointment of Dr. Thomas P. Hamel as the Vice President for Academic Affairs effective July 1, 2006, at an annual salary of $120,000 for the period July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007.”

Dr. DiLeonardi seconded the motion.

Dr. Barshis asked if the Board’s Personnel Committee met to discuss Dr. Thomas Hamel’s appointment as the Vice President for Academic Affairs and if this resolution comes with the full recommendation of that committee.

Mr. Wadhwa responded that the Personnel Committee, comprised of Mr. Williams as Chair, Dr. DiLeonardi, as Member, and he as ex-officio on all Board committees, met at length to discuss Dr. Hamel’s appointment. He opened up discussion on this resolution to members of the Board.

Dr. Alexopoulos stated that he received an enormous amount of email from faculty members, especially those in the mathematics department, who expressed their concerns with the appointment of Dr. Hamel as the new Vice President for Academic Affairs. He further stated that he did not understand the upheaval about this appointment as the Search Committee included several members of the faculty who made up the majority of the committee. Dr. Alexopoulos commented on how nothing was said about the process or Search Committee until it came down to the final selections. He emphasized that the faculty should give Dr. Hamel a chance to prove that he is worthy of the appointment rather than judge him without being given the opportunity to work with them. He noted that the College would evaluate his effectiveness and asked everyone to have an open mind. Dr. Alexopoulos further commented on the inappropriate action taken by the faculty in interfering with the recommendation of the Search Committee and the President in regard to hiring an administrator. He stated that the faculty should always participate in interacting with the administration and the Board on matters that affect them; however, he reminded
them that the College is governed by the Board and under the Board is the President, and under the President are the administration and the faculty. Dr. Alexopoulos further stated that he would have no hesitation in accepting the recommendation of the Board’s Personnel Committee and that he is confident that there would be a positive effective interaction between the new Vice President and the faculty. He commented that it was important not to undercut Dr. Hamel’s willingness to work with us and that he hoped this situation would never present itself again.

Mr. Williams stated that as Chair of the Board’s Personnel Committee, he asked President Lee if she could work effectively with Dr. Hamel. Following Dr. Lee’s positive response and the committee’s review of Dr. Hamel’s credentials, Mr. Williams recommended that the Board support his appointment as Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Mr. Collins commented that the Board members received an enormous amount of information on Dr. Hamel with a great deal of discussion on his appointment, as it is a very significant position at the College. He stated that we must all be cognizant of what Oakton represents, which is a commitment to students and community. He asked that everyone reach out to Dr. Hamel and give him a chance as he has been chosen as the best fit for the position at this time.

Dr. DiLeonardi commented on the Personnel Committee meeting and the Board’s extensive discussions regarding the appointment of Dr. Hamel to the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs. She stated that Ms. DeBerg’s very positive comments to the Board on behalf of the faculty were appreciated. She further stated that she trusted that Dr. Hammel would reach out to the faculty in response to the four points on their vision for the College. Dr. DiLeonardi asked that that the faculty and the administration work together as a community of learners with Dr. Hamel.

Dr. Barshis commented on his participation in discussions regarding Dr. Hamel’s appointment and the voluminous amount of emails that he received from faculty members regarding their concerns. He reflected on factors such as the due diligence of the Search Committee and the President’s decision in working with the committee’s recommendations. Dr. Barshis stated that Dr. Lee enthusiastically supported the recommendation of Dr. Hamel with justification and background support of his credentials; thus her decision was a credible one, arrived through due diligence, much like that of the Search Committee. He further stated that the tone and inflection in the email communications from the faculty raised a question on shared governance at the College. He applauded Ms. DeBerg’s statement on the faculty’s commitment to shared governance and stated that the Board is also committed to shared governance; however, he noted that there is some disagreement among the two groups as to the structure of shared governance. He posed the question as to how we discern shared governance in matters such as the selection of an academic vice president and stated that through Chairman Wadhwa, the Board would take a proactive approach to understanding shared governance. Dr. Barshis commented on his deliberation of the critical appointment of the new Vice President of Academic
Affairs, stating that dealing with change is a difficult process. He further commented on his many years of experience in the community college system both as a faculty member and as an administrator in looking at factors that challenged the College, the students who come through our doors, and the resources that we have to work with. Dr. Barshis stated that we have a set of core values that are at the heart of everything we do and that it would not take long to recognize if the new vice president did not embrace those core values. He asked those present to give Dr. Hamel the opportunity to demonstrate his commitment to education, to the College, and to the core values that reflect who we are.

Dr. Rosen also stated that he received a great deal of email and looking beyond the comments, he tried to understand the motivation of the writer. He stated that he could not find unanimity among the emails and that in his opinion, the faculty were not speaking with one voice in raising the issues expressed in their comments. Dr. Rosen reflected on comments made by both Dr. Alexopoulos and Dr. Barshis regarding shared governance, the role of the faculty, the role of the administration and the role of the Board. He used many student-faculty-administrator analogies of following protocol with the comment that many of the instances suggest a lack of understanding of due process and shared governance. He stated that the Board needs to address shared governance so that the lines of communication remain open with an understanding of the appropriate lines of decision making, accountability and responsibility.

Mr. Krzyminski commented that he and the students met with Dr. Hamel and that he thought his ideas for the future direction of the College were creative. He expressed his opinion that Dr. Hamel would fit well into the framework of the College.

Dr. Lee thanked the Board for their support in the administration’s recommendation to appoint Dr. Hamel to the position of Vice President for Academic Affairs. She echoed Ms. DeBerg’s comments regarding their shared vision for the future of the institution and asked that everyone focus on the College’s commitment to our core values of tolerance, compassion, responsibility and integrity. She apologized if she failed to be respective in listening to the concerns of the faculty; however, she stated that she did meet with a large number of faculty last week and noted that she’s been at the College for 21 years, ten of which were in the position of Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction [Academic Affairs]. She stated that she would never make a decision that would harm the College and commented on Dr. Hamel’s virtues. The President assured the faculty that Dr. Hamel would embrace the values that we all share and asked for their commitment to working with him.

Mr. Wadhwa stated that he was in agreement with the faculty’s four points of vision for the College and comments made by Ms. DeBerg. He further stated that he listened to the faculty regarding their discourse on this appointment and would continue to listen to them as they are the vehicle that the Board entrusts to educate our students. The Chair stated that the Board discussed the topic of shared governance with Dr. Lee and that it would be the topic for the Strategic Conversation
at the April Board meeting as there were many misunderstandings on the lines of responsibility regarding shared governance.

With permission from Chair Wadhwa, Dr. Saret addressed the Board. She stated that the faculty respect Dr. Lee’s and the Board’s decision to appoint Dr. Hamel as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. She remarked that the faculty would welcome Dr. Hamel in the same way that they have welcomed his predecessors and that they were looking forward to working with him. She explained the faculty’s understanding of the three part search process for the Vice President of Academic Affairs:

**Part I**
- Form Search Committee
- Search Committee would interview candidates
- Search Committee would recommend three candidates

**Part II**
- Candidate interviews with various groups within the College including the faculty as a separate group and the faculty together with students and staff at both campuses

**Part III**
- Evaluation and feedback of candidate interviews sent to Human Resources for review

Dr. Saret stated that following the candidate interviews, over 70 faculty members did not respond favorably to any of the three candidates put forth by the Search Committee and became frustrated when they felt that their input did not matter. In response to comments made by Dr. Rosen and Dr. Alexopoulos, Dr. Saret stated that the Board does have a Policy that states administrative decisions can be appealed to the Board, which is why so many faculty felt compelled to express their opinions on this matter to them. Based on tonight’s discussions, Dr. Saret commented that the faculty were obviously wrong in assuming that they could bring their concerns to the Board. She further commented on the faculty’s willingness to serve on committees knowing now that their opinions do not matter; however, she did acknowledge that the faculty respect the right of President Lee in making this decision and that the faculty would welcome Dr. Hamel and looked forward to working with him.

Mr. Wadhwa responded that although we do things with the best intentions, misunderstandings are a part of human nature. He expressed his appreciation to Dr. Saret for her explanation and thanked the faculty for their willingness to work with Dr. Hamel.

Dr. Rosen also expressed his appreciation to Dr. Saret for her comments as the faculty representative. He reflected on last month’s unpopular decision to raise the student tuition and stated that there are many instances when a decision does not go the way of the majority; however, as stewards of the College, the Board must consider accountability, responsibility and what is in the best interest of the institution. He noted the importance of the faculty’s contribution to the discussion.
and their willingness to work with Dr. Hamel in the spirit of moving forward for the betterment of the College.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved. Mr. Krzyminski, Student Trustee, concurred.

3/06-12  **Notice of Intent to Renew President’s Contract**

Dr. DiLeonardi offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby notifies the President, Margaret B. Lee, of its intent to renew the contract which expires on 30 June 2007, for another three-year period with the terms and provisions currently incorporated in that contract.”

Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

All of the Trustees expressed their unanimous support for President Lee and commented on her strength, values, warmth, intelligence and analytical abilities in leading the College

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution was approved. Mr. Krzyminski, Student Trustee, favored the resolution.

3/06-13  **Recommendation to Name the Manufacturing and Engineering Center in the Art, Science and Technology Pavilion at the Ray Hartstein Campus**
Dr. DiLeonardi offered:

“Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Community College District 535 hereby name the Manufacturing and Engineering Lab in the Art, Science and Technology Pavilion at the Ray Hartstein Campus, the Sylvia and Irving M. Footlik Manufacturing and Engineering Center.”

Dr. Alexopoulos seconded the motion.

Mr. Williams called the roll.

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

The resolution passed. Student Trustee, Mr. Krzyminski, favored the resolution.

STRATEGIC CONVERSATION FOR THE BOARD – Supporting Student Success

Dr. Lee commented on Dr. Randy Swing’s report at the March Board meeting regarding Oakton’s participation in the Foundations of Excellence in the First College Year experience. She stated that the project establishes a model for Oakton to increase student learning, success, and retention. The President commented on the efforts to increase state and federal funding for community colleges and stated that the most important role for the Board is that of advocacy in lobbying for educational issues. She stated that the two questions for the Board to consider this evening on the Strategic Conversation topic of Supporting Student Services are:

- What are we learning about factors that support the retention and success of new students?
- What can the Board do to ensure that Oakton supports the retention and success, especially of students new to the College?

Mr. Williams opened the discussion on Supporting Student Success. He commented on community college funding and how we must ensure that we use those funds to benefit the students who are truly in need. Mr. Williams further commented on the critical issues facing educational institutions throughout the country. He asked that everyone participate in the call to action to alert those in our community of what Oakton Community College has to offer.

Dr. Alexopoulos comments reflected his background in physics, mathematics and engineering. He commented on the need to make the new Art, Science and Technology Pavilion at the Ray Hartstein Campus a showcase facility within the educational and business communities in our district. He stated that the College must continue to strive for excellence by offering our students a course of instruction that parallels that of our four-year universities so that they compete on level ground. He asked the faculty to join forces in monitoring deficiencies in
course materials, grading and tests for our students so that they would not fail in their attempt to secure a Baccalaureate degree. Dr. Alexopoulos commented on the seriousness of recycling tests year after year and how this issue must be addressed internally with the full cooperation of the faculty.

Dr. Barshis directed his comments on what the College can do to ensure a strong and positive outcome for our first year students. He reflected on the diversity of Oakton’s students and the remedial needs of over 60% of students enrolled at community colleges. Dr. Barshis emphasized Oakton’s commitment to developing a student model of education through the Foundations of Excellence project and commented on two opposing methods on handling developmental students.

1. “Remediation” model: students take only developmental courses for the first college year which is a frustrating experience for many students and the outcome is a high drop out rate
2. “Social Darwinist” model: a sink or swim analogy, where all students are put into college level courses and the fittest would survive while the others would drop out as they don’t belong in college

Dr. Barshis stated that Oakton’s method of handling developmental students is a compromise between remediation and social Darwinism. He noted that Oakton allows students to take ten hours of coursework and if tests indicate remediation, students are offered those services. Dr. Barshis commented that Oakton could better utilize resources by identifying students that can be mainstreamed effectively into the college experience as quickly and efficiently as possible. He further commented on the importance of having programs in place with proven track records that would lead our developmental students down the path to success. In regard to the issue of retention, Dr. Barshis felt that the first line of action is with the faculty in mainstreaming their students into a meaningful college experience. He stated that the first year experience poses a challenge to all of us and that we need to focus on how to work effectively with the resources that we have.

Dr. DiLeonardi commented on information received regarding retention and the link between students who stay in college and those who have connected with someone. She stated that Oakton is a community of learners that provide the best possible experience for our students by providing mentoring, whether through support services, counseling or in the classroom and that this connection is the key to retention. Dr. DiLeonardi commented on her role as Chair of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Scholarship Committee and how after reading through over 65 submissions, the same story rang out throughout all of them – the connection they had to a person or a teacher who took an interest in their educational future. She touched on many of the student applications that noted a history of abuse, abandonment and financial problems, and how they had that one person who encouraged them which made a difference in their life. She stated that Oakton needs to continue making strong articulation initiatives so that there is a smooth transition into the Baccalaureate arena. Dr. DiLeonardi reflected on the importance of being open in providing the kind of mentoring and learning experience that our students deserve.
Mr. Collins stated that the Office of Institutional Research provided very important statistical information on student perceptions of Oakton and our mission in recent In the Abstract reports. He stated that in one of the reports, 58% of our students responded that they were satisfied with their decision to attend Oakton. In regard to another survey of 1,400 students, Oakton received a 4.47 out of a possible 5 in response to the question “Is Oakton dedicated to excellence in teaching and learning?” Mr. Collins stated that this kind of information is invaluable to Board members in making decisions on the direction of the College as it reflects student opinions.

Dr. Rosen commented on Dr. Swing’s important message last month regarding the need for student support services and Dr. Younger’s impressive report in January on How the Learning Center Serves Students. He remarked on the number of students who used the Learning Center services and stated that the College must support this important service even if it means underwriting the financial support. He stated that the Learning Center is not a tuition generated unit and that the State of Illinois cut funding for special services. Dr. Rosen commented on the need to ensure that students who require additional learning support be at the forefront of our retention mission.

Mr. Krzyminski stated that the cornerstone for student retention is institutional engagement. He further stated that students who are inspired by someone who have made a personal contact with them usually complete their education as they have the motivation to do so. The Student Trustee remarked on how many students are unaware of all the services that we offer; therefore, they fail to make a connection with someone. He stated that our services are underutilized by students on the edge as only those who have a problem seek out help. Mr. Krzyminski expanded on Dr. Barshis’ idea of mentoring and remarked that every student who walks through our door should be introduced to a specific person, a contact who would not necessarily be from the Advising and Counseling area.

Dr. Prendergast responded that Dr. Younger initiated a mentoring program last year such as those recommended by the Student Trustee. She asked Dr. Younger to comment on the program.

Dr. Younger stated that the mentoring program came out of an idea to address retention by connecting with students so that they would stay in college and achieve their educational goals. She explained that over 40 people responded within the institution and many students expressed an interest in having a personal contact at Oakton. She stated that since the experimental program was not part of Advising and Counseling or Student Services, the students did not follow through in making the connection with their mentor. Dr. Younger noted that the idea came up again with the Foundations of Excellence Project and that we will continue to work on being an advocate for those students who have difficulty in dealing with coursework and college life.

There being no further comments from the Board, Ms. DeBerg asked the Chair for permission to clarify her statement made during Public Participation. She stated that the comments she made were not solely hers. She further stated that the comments were a collaborative effort by a group of faculty who were very passionate about making Oakton an institution that promotes excellence in teaching and learning.
Mr. Wadhwa affirmed Ms. DeBerg’s comments and stated that the Strategic Conversation for the April Board meeting would address the issue of Shared Governance.

Prior to adjournment, Dr. Lee recognized the efforts of Dr. Sompolski, Mr. Kotowski and Dr. Drummer in the role they played in securing a very significant donation in support of the Sylvia and Irving M. Footlik Manufacturing and Engineering Center at the Ray Hartstein Campus.

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 April 18, 2006, at the Ray Hartstein Campus, 7701 N. Lincoln Avenue, Skokie, in pavilion rooms P103 and P104.

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 9:54 p.m.

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

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

/pd
4/06

A video tape recording of the March 21, 2006, meeting was made and may be viewed by calling the Library and Instructional Media Services office at 847-635-1640.