

League of Women Voters – Coalition for COD Observers Report

Board meeting attended: 15 Sept. 2016

Date and Location of meeting: COD, SSC2200

Meeting started: 7:00 pm **Meeting adjourned:** 9:15 pm, into closed session

League Observer(s): Jan Dorner, Di Niesman

Board Members/Trustees present: Charles Bernstein, Erin Birt, Frank Napolitano, Deanne Mazzochi, David Olson, Diane McGuire, Luzdena Escamilla (Student Trustee)

Board Members/Trustees absent or tardy: Joseph Wozniak arrived 7:15 pm

Estimated Number Attending (excluding Board and Staff): 25

Meetings are Streamed and Archived at:

http://cod.edu/multimedia_services/botmedia.aspx

Public Comment

**Daily Herald* reporter, Robert Sanchez, commented that this Board overturned the naming of the Homeland Security Building for Robert Brueder. He stated that in 1977 & 1978, the College of DuPage President at the time, Rodney Berg, has the main campus academic building named for him. He was terminated for multiple scandals that happened at the time. Mr. Sanchez is calling for this Board to reexamine this naming of the building in Berg's honor.

Reports

- Chairman's –Wanted dates from trustees for a “committee of the whole” meeting. In her HLC (probation) update on how college was going to be ready for February 2017 deadline, Mazzochi stated she was trying to get update to trustees within 3 weeks. Board needs training in RFP-RFQ procurement issues, and VP Bente would be point man on that training.
- Vice-Chairman's –Presided over two hour meeting of the Academic Committee earlier in day where bureaucratic impediments to teaching

and learning were discussed. Olsen said committee would meet again in October and November

- Student Trustee's – Lucy Escamilla introduced the student producer and director of two videos created by COD students for the COD Foundation, and to be used during orientation. The videos are meant to demonstrate that, when considering a COD education, you should think “value and opportunities, rather than cheap.”
- President' - Chief of Police Joseph Mullin spoke of the armed robbery that took place last week. Additional patrols are taking place in the evenings. Encouraging students to use buddy system, guardian program and escorts. Could not comment on the ongoing investigation. V.P of Student Affairs Dowling and V.P. of Planning and Institutional Effectiveness Bente gave a presentation on enrollment. COD did not meet enrollment target by 6.2%. Some of the reasons: decline in high school sizes (getting same proportion of a smaller pie), more competition, students leaving state (33% elect to go out of state-second only to CA), job market improving (wk vs. college), students taking a gap year, and adverse publicity due to probation. Everyone wants our students-COD held 2nd largest job fair (DePaul is 1st), and 204 schools sent representatives. College is looking at decrease as a challenge. Will advertise on 50 PACE buses, on two more radio stations, increase scholarship dollars. During Q&A, Trustee McGuire asked what COD was doing about students from ITT and other for profit universities that were closing. COD put a plan together in 48 hours to help the students in our community. Will be holding an event on September 22nd, reached out to 22 affected students with personal phone calls and mailings. Will not be using as a recruiting tool.
 - **Audit Committee – Special Board Meeting on Friday 10/7 at 7:00PM**

Presentations:

- Strategic and Long Range Plan was presented by V.P. Bente and Trustee McGuire. Eight Strategic goals (accountability, value-added education, student centeredness, equality and inclusiveness, relationships, innovativeness, financial stewardship and infrastructure) with 55 strategic objectives were developed. This was the first year that the Board of Trustees was intimately involved in the process. The trustees added the financial stewardship and infrastructure goals to the plan.

Trustee Discussion: See above under the strategic and long range plan.

Votes by Board:

- There were 19 items on the consent agenda; two of which were removed from the consent agenda.
 - The Aug. 18th Regular Board meeting Minutes – Trustee McGuire requested that the report of the President include her statement that she had received the auditor’s report. Chairman Mazzochi was concerned that this was not entirely true. Trustee Birt said it was – history could not be rewritten. Eventually, this item was postponed (motion carried unanimously) until the actual quote could be determined to be included in the minutes. Trustee Olson then called for reconsideration of approval of the Aug. 29, 2016 Special Board Meeting Minutes, which had been approved in the consent agenda. The motion carried. These minutes also were unanimously voted to be postponed until actual quotes (concerning the auditor’s report) can be determined.
 - Financial Reports – Trustee Bernstein asked a specific question on an accounts payable item, which Chairman Mazzochi answered. Trustee McGuire asked about the total cost the College has incurred for legal fees over the last 18 months. A staff member acknowledged that she would compile this.
- Selection of General Counsel. Motion to hire John Kness for the position of General Counsel was made and seconded. Discussion ensued. Trustee McGuire was concerned that Mr. Kness is an administrator and does not fall within the parameters of the job description. She asked, “Who evaluates his performance, if he reports to the Board?” Chairman Mazzochi stated that Mr. Kness is required to follow the rules of professional conduct and will address small issues before they become large issues. The motion to hire Mr. Kness carried, with Trustees Birt, McGuire and Wozniak voting nay.

Agenda Items Relative to State or Local League Positions:

Comments/Concerns:

General Features

	Yes	No	Comments
Did the meeting start on time?	X		
Were members attentive and prepared?	X		
Were members courteous to each other?			Mostly....
Were members attentive to the publics' comments?	X		*(see above)
Was the facility adequate?	X		Great room for a meeting in the public!
Could the audience see and hear?	X		
Were visual aids easily visible to the audience	X		
Were the meeting facilities handicapped accessible	X		

Illinois Open Meetings Act requirements

	Yes	No	Comments
Was the agenda posted 48 hours before the meeting? If yes, note where	X		http://cod.edu/about/board_of_trustees/index.aspx
Did the agenda items clearly describe what was to be discussed?	X		
Were background materials made available to the	X		

public?			
Was there adequate discussion of the issues?	X		
Was there a closed session before, during or after the meeting?	X		
If there was a closed meeting, was any action taken after the closed session? If so, what action?		X	Was not on agenda and if any action will be taken out of closed session, it must be on the agenda. Chair Mazzochi also stated no action would be taken out of closed session.

Date Submitted: 9-26-16

By: Jan Dorner and Di Niesman