

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

10-085. The meeting was convened by the chairman at 4 p.m. with four trustees present. Mrs. Bilirakis' arrival was delayed.

10-086. In accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, the following Agenda was prepared:

Agenda

St. Petersburg College Board of Trustees
Special Meeting

3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 18, 2010
Seminole Campus Digitorium
9200 – 113th Street N., Seminole

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------------------------|
| I. | Call to Order | Terrence E. Brett
Board Chair |
| II. | Opening Comments | Chairman Brett |
| III. | Interview of Presidential Candidate Finalist –

Dr. William D. Law, Jr.
President
Tallahassee Community College
Tallahassee, Florida | |
| IV. | Other Related Items of Interest from Board Members | |
| V. | Adjournment | Chairman Brett |

10-087. Dr. Bill Law was welcomed by the Board as a presidential candidate for St. Petersburg College and, at Chairman Brett's request, he commented on his first impressions of SPC based on his visit thus far and expressed gratitude for the hospitality offered him. Dr. Law

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

introduced his wife Pat in attendance and shared opening comments on his previous years in Pinellas County and his current opportunity as a candidate for the SPC presidency.

10-088. Chairman Brett thanked Ms. Amelia Carey, Search Process Liaison; Dr. Jim Olliver, Seminole Campus Provost; and others involved in hosting and planning this presidential candidate visit.

10-089. The Board conducted an interview with Dr. Law. The following predetermined questions were presented for response:

1. Why did you apply to be president of St. Petersburg College?

Response: Encouraged to apply after talking to Pinellas community leaders and others. Saw it as a chance to take one more step on the ladder to get to the presidency of a larger, multi-campus college in a dynamic urban environment in Florida. Looks forward to the challenge of bettering everything he does to be SPC president.

(Mrs. Bilirakis arrived at 4:10 p.m.)

2. In regard to baccalaureate degree programs offered at SPC, if you become president, how will you reconcile the difference in baccalaureate governance and securing of funds between that of SPC and that of other Florida state colleges?

Response: SPC took the lead in legislation and funding and did it right. SPC is a model that others have to ascribe to. Explained the difference in SPC's local control and the difficulty others have in fighting for local funding. Fully supports and has fought hard for local control. Seeks strategy that allows all to work together for baccalaureate funding under the governance of the State Board of Education so that all State College funding stays secure, including that of SPC. Supports baccalaureate education in community colleges and supports seeing more of it. Salutes it as a local decision, but agrees this needs to get into a more formal and recognizable public policy. Proud of his reputation for understanding state-level funding and its nuances.

Follow-Up: Mr. Johnston commented that due to SPC's unique baccalaureate position, the new president needs to be supportive by maintaining rather than taking away local control, and he believes Dr. Law's statements are counter to the position of SPC's Board. He stated that reconciliation would be needed for all to be on the same page.

Response: Clarified he would use his talent to support SPC Board's position and to seek funding for any new baccalaureate programs. Concerned about loss of local control due to lack of state policy. Noted that baccalaureate education is not an issue of choice at TCC due to local universities, and there would be specific sensitivities if Tallahassee Community College (TCC) were to offer 4-year degrees.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

3. If you become president, what will you concentrate on your first 30 days?

Response: Reputation is a bias toward action and getting things done. First 30-45 days, would be devoted to establishing a very defined and shared learning plan based on input from others and signed off on by the Board, followed by execution and outline of the next steps, and then incorporating those areas into an existing or new strategic plan so that all can march forward together. Would make an intense effort to learn the community.

4. Leaders talk a lot about their skill sets. What are the most prominent skills in your set?

Response: Good self-representation, which hopefully translates into representing SPC well. Good team-builder. Planner. At TCC, planning matters; therefore, the Board owns a very dynamic strategic plan. Latest growth is that all information is transparent to everyone all the time. Good at making these conditions work. Affable. Passion and energy for this position.

5. What do you expect in a board/president relationship?

Response: Believes Board has to devote its best energies to three things: (1) Hire and evaluate the president; (2) own the strategic plan; and (3) own the annual budget, know its priorities and how it executes the strategic plan. President should honor service of the Board by giving trustees Board-level responsibilities to deal with and the tools to have valuable discussion. Sees the Governor-appointed trustee as a position to be valued and proud of and seeks the best use of Board time. Information shared with the Board would be the same as that shared with everyone.

Follow-Up: Considering Dr. Law's past experience working with both elected and appointed trustees, Mr. Burke asked how he would maintain a professional relationship with each Board member to ensure equal communication and that same amount of integrity is maintained with each Board member.

Response: Has worked with many different Board members. All treated the same. No one gets exclusive information. Not involved in selection of Board chair, etc. Honors decision-making of the Board at its level. Not much difference between elected vs. appointed. Has learned what Boards look like from SPC's past Boards. Knows what a good Board can do. Will do everything he can to be supportive of the Board.

Follow-Up: Although Dr. Law touched on this in his previous response, Mr. Burke asked what his involvement would be in the selection of Board chair.

Response: Absolutely none. Governor often calls presidents to give input on who should be appointed to the Board. Does not believe this is an appropriate role of the president. Trustees are "entrusted" with future of institution. Values role of the Board. Does not allow anyone to talk down about trustees in his presence.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

At Mr. Burke's request, Chairman Brett noted he would forward to the Board, via Ms. Carey, all correspondence recently received on behalf of Dr. Law. Mr. Brett further noted he spoke with TCC chair Karen Moore, who spoke very highly of Dr. Law.

6. St. Petersburg College has several campuses. How would you go about making people on all campuses feel valued and equal?

Response: Will be a lot easier than thought at first. After visiting all sites, all seem to celebrate having their own identities and want to move forward without competing. Value would come from those who say they can do more in their own environment. Would have to treat everyone equally and make an effort to know what is happening on all sites and to be present and accessible to all. Would pull together a strategic vision of each site as part of a cohesive plan so the Board knows what is taking place at all locations.

7. How do you build a relationship with faculty?

Response: By valuing what they do and speaking that value, which comes easily. Faculty will respect you if you speak truth to their face. Tries to be candid, yet maintain affability. Celebrate their successes with salary, recognitions, release time for other interests, etc. Most often, it is about relationships. Meets regularly with Faculty Senate president and president-designate to hear their issues. At their invitation, meets with their executive committee or faculty senate as a whole. Annually, at appointment of new faculty senate president, sits down with that person to see what they want to accomplish.

8. What role have you played in fundraising at your college?

Response: One of his significant responsibilities as president. Good record of success, including \$10 million capital campaign. Raised a great deal of funds through grants, particularly in support of student success beyond the classroom. Changed Gadsden County's after-school program for lower-level students through grants. Proudest of TCC's commitment to Gadsden County, Florida's poorest county.

9. Modern facilities are important for attracting students. Would you be committed to securing and maintaining the best facilities for SPC?

Response: Commended SPC's facilities and growth. Would be happy to represent SPC in this County's PECO game. Need to think of alternative means rather than PECO funds. Need to be more creative in bringing private sector dollars.

10. What experience have you had in working with local and state elected officials?

Response: Has had much experience. Enjoys this aspect of the presidency. Has good relationships with commissioners of all three counties served by TCC. Still invited to participate in high-level legislative discussions due to his understanding of how the system works. Treats all officials equally.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

10-090. Additional questions presented by the Board for response included the following:

Mr. Johnston: Regarding SPC's 4-year program and your previous reference to this College being a leader, how do you see yourself continuing the philosophy SPC has of being a creative leader among the 28 community colleges?

Response: It is a result of keeping in touch with the community. Likes to be thoroughly creative. Important to take time to be sure nothing has been left behind, to ensure the old things still work while pursuing new things (i.e., prior partnerships and relationships). Met with Pinellas County Schools (PCS) Superintendent, who highly commended SPC's relationship with PCS. Continued dialog and calibration needed.

Mr. Gibbons: As the College's chief salesperson, how would you sell this College to your audience, whoever that may be, in one minute or less?

Response: Advertising is not "one size fits all." Provided three separate commercials: (1) to concerned parents of prospective students; (2) to corporate executives; and (3) to donors.

Mr. Gibbons: SPC's #1 customer is the students. A presentation was recently made to the Board regarding Student Services. As a Board member, he visits the campus on the first day of the semester to gauge how student needs are being met. How would you, as president, try to streamline processes to be sure all student needs are being met?

Response: Primary topic of dialog and a model program at TCC. Challenge is figuring out how to bridge the gap between the large number of students and the limited number of faculty and staff. Explained TCC's individual portal learning plan, which prepares students to make sophisticated choices in their future. Program working well at TCC.

Mrs. Bilirakis: Impressed with Dr. Law's resume. Expressed concern about negative feedback regarding his lack of support of 4-year degrees. SPC is very successful in this and wants to sustain it.

Response: Offered absolute assurance this will not be a concern. Energy will be focused in the direction this Board wants to go.

Mr. Brett: A survey was done in regard to your strengths and weaknesses, and a strength that stood out is "courage." Do you agree and, if so, can you provide some examples?

Response: Cited "courage" in reference to (1) leading dialog regarding the Achieving the Dream grant; (2) making the leap at TCC to use information and to share it with everybody; and (3) writing an e-mail to colleagues recommending a refocus of state policy.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Mr. Burke: There has been much talk among the Board and interest among the students in regard to the textbook issue. Do you have any creative solutions in place at TCC in regard to this issue?

Response: Arose in every dialog the last two days. Days are numbered for those who currently have the high hand. Emergence of E-books will break monopoly. Florida is rapidly creating its own industry of electronic textbooks, which are available to students to own at a much lower price. Have to lend our best energies to more electronic textbooks for the future and get moving on the new dialog.

Mr. Brett: Another strength referenced in the survey is that you are a “change agent.” What do you see changing around here?

Response: Resisted answering. Followed a legendary figure in Tallahassee and is not concerned. Is his own person and is comfortable with his skill set and its value. Knows his level of enthusiasm and how to mobilize his talents behind an institution. Will figure out where to put his best energies over the period of time he is here. Change agents “pick their game.”

Mr. Burke: Having been through the presidential transition process, how would you guide this Board in the transition, and what amount of time elapsed between being offered the presidencies in Tallahassee and Texas and actually starting the jobs? Did you feel those time periods were appropriate?

Response: TCC hired in mid-March 8 years ago and immediately retained on a separate contract starting April 1 in order to execute contracts on behalf of the College. If chosen as SPC’s next president, TCC would probably want him to use talent and experience to help craft next year’s operating budget, which is completed by May Board meeting. Official transition to SPC would probably involve a contract arrangement in the interim and then the signing of a long-term contract to report for duty by July 1. Timetable discussed with and agreed to by his family. Received advice to move forward fast to execute the choice once its made. After selection, really important to get together with the Board and, using his input and guidance, be sure the learning plan represents their wishes. Then start identifying a renewed strategic plan in the fall, followed by budget strategies to implement that next spring.

Mr. Johnston: In seeking a commitment level, would coming to SPC be your last move?

Response: Yes. Wants to finish career here leading this institution to another level. Asked Board to consider re-evaluating him after 8-10 years. Meanwhile, would give it his best.

10-091. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked Dr. Law for his interest in the presidency and Mrs. Law for accompanying him. He reiterated that two other candidates remain to be interviewed, with a selection to be made on April 13.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 18, 2010

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

10-092. Having no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Brett adjourned the meeting at 5:25 p.m.

Terrence E. Brett

Chairman, Board of Trustees
St. Petersburg College
FLORIDA