

**MEETING OF THE
EXTERNAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

April 18, 2012

Minutes

The External Relations Committee of the Board of Trustees of Houston Community College held a meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at the HCC Administration Building, 3100 Main, 2nd Floor, Seminar Room A, Houston, Texas.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sandie Mullins, *Committee Chair*
Yolanda Navarro Flores, *Committee Member*
Neeta Sane, *Committee Member*
Carroll G. Robinson, Alternate Committee Member
Bruce A. Austin
Leila Feldman
Herlinda Garcia

ADMINISTRATION

Renee Byas, Acting Chancellor
Art Tyler, Deputy Chancellor/COO
Destinee Waiters, Acting General Counsel
Shantay Grays, Executive Officer to the Chancellor
Charles Cook, Vice Chancellor, Instruction
Diana Pino, Vice Chancellor, Student Success
Fena Garza, President, Southwest College
Cheryl Peters for William Harmon, President, Central College
Zachary Hodges, President, Northwest College
Paul Patterson for Irene Porcarello, President, Southeast College
Michael Edwards for Betty Young, President, Coleman College
Remmele Young, Executive Director, Government Relations & Sustainability
Karen Edwards, Interim Chief Human Resources Officer

OTHERS PRESENT

Jarvis Hollingsworth, System Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani
Todd Bisch, President, Faculty Senate
James Walker, President, COPA
Paul Colbert, Paul Colbert Consulting, State & Local Gov't Relations Consultant
Michael Harrison, Lord Locke Bissell & Liddell, LLP, State & Local Gov't Relations Consultant
Robert Miller, Lord Locke Bissell & Liddell, LLP, State & Local Gov't Relations Consultant
Other administrators, citizens and representatives from the news media

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Mullins, Chair called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m. and declared the Committee convened to consider matters pertaining to Houston Community College as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

Ms. Mullins recessed the meeting at 1:40 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:09 p.m.

(Trustees Present: Austin, Flores, Loreda, Mullins, Robinson, and Sane)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND ANY OTHER RELATED BOARD ACTION, AS NECESSARY
Motion – Mrs. Flores moved and Ms. Sane seconded.

HB 2448 – (Rep. Turner)

Mr. Remmele Young informed that State Representative Sylvester Turner is requesting a letter of support from HCC, which allows for students who are in-district and out-of-district to pay in-district fees. Representative Turner is requesting that HCC provide its response no later than Friday, April 19, 2013. Mr. Young apprised that the Fiscal Note, 83rd Legislative Regular Session denotes that no fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

Dr. Cook apprised that it would be conducive for HCC to support the request.

Ms. Mullins inquired if there are other similar areas. Dr. Cook informed that there could potentially be an issue as it relates to Wharton Jr. County.

Mr. Robinson apprised that on the face of the bill, every border area contiguous with other community colleges could be affected by the bill. He informed that the bill language should be clarified to state that it is applicable only with this specific area. He noted that Acres Homes needs to be either in or out of the service area or the bill language needs to be revised regarding service area specifications.

Mr. Austin informed that the issue is a concern of the citizens of Acres Home. He asked if there is a measure to amend the bill to specify why the bill is necessary. Mr. Young noted that he could speak to the author to request the revisions. Mr. Austin inquired if HCC is allowed to revise the bill to speak to the legislative content. Mr. Young informed that the bill is defined to a geographic area that is greater than two million people and the municipality must be designated as a super neighborhood.

Mrs. Flores noted that her inquiry is regarding the super neighborhoods and asked if there are other super neighborhoods that could be affected by the bill. She apprised that issues could arise in the future.

Mr. Austin noted that the bill should be tied to a definition that does not change regarding land usage.

Mr. Paul Colbert apprised that if turned into a local bill, HCC will have to meet certain specifications such as providing a local public notice.

Ms. Mullins inquired why the bill is just coming before the Board. Mr. Young informed that the request to support the bill was just received.

Mr. Robinson requested that the maps listing the super neighborhoods be reviewed.

Mr. Miller noted that the bill would apply to super neighborhoods that straddle the taxing boundaries of another community college.

Mrs. Sane inquired who is the Trustee representing the area. Mr. Young apprised that the area is in Trustee Austin's district. She asked for Mr. Austin to provide his thoughts regarding the bill. She also requested an update on the bill sponsored by Representative Ron Reynolds.

Mr. Austin noted that he desires that a compromise be reached on the issue and associated with the comments of Trustee Flores regarding the super neighborhoods.

Mr. Miller informed that the specifics could be added to the bill to state that the bill regards super neighborhoods in existence at the time of the bill.

Mrs. Flores noted that the definition should read super neighborhood in existence as date of the act and defined as a municipality with a population over two million.

Motion – Mrs. Flores moved to approve the request by Rep. Turner regarding a letter of support with modifications as discussed.

Vote – The motion carried with a vote of 3-0.

SB 414 – (Senator Ellis)

Ms. Mullins inquired of the opposition regarding the Bachelor of Science Nursing Degree (BSN). Mr. Young informed that strong support was received from the Texas Medical Center. He noted that there was non-support from some of the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC) members; however, Mrs. Byas was able to discuss the bill and gain support.

Mr. Miller apprised that the bill states that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) could grant one or more pilots. He noted that the THECB is in support of the bill.

Mr. Young informed that no immediate action is required at this the time.

Mrs. Flores requested that the External Relations committee hold a discussion regarding relationship with TACC.

HB 1373 – Hire Local First

Mr. Young apprised that a bill filer was identified who had the ability to pass the bill based on certain criteria. He apprised that the HB 1373 passed out of committee successfully without any public opposition.

Mr. Young provided an overview of the bill status and probability of passing. He noted that the bill is on the Local Consent Calendar and he informed of the process of possible actions on the bill. He apprised that the desired position is to be on the Local Consent Calendar.

Mr. Young provided an overview of the substitute language prepared for possible opposition. He noted that the question is how the Board desires to proceed. He informed that the member sponsoring the bill is uncomfortable moving the bill forward.

Ms. Mullins requested updated information regarding the bill status in order to make certain the bill proceeds. Mr. Young apprised that the consulting team was present to comment regarding passage of the bill.

Mr. Miller noted that his firm represents the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) as well as Houston Community College. He informed that Mr. Young has accurately described the situation. He apprised that the opposition arose over the past weekend and was brought to the team.

Mr. Miller noted that the bill sponsor has apprised that he does not want to move the bill forward with GHP opposition. He noted that the options are:

- Resolve partnership rejection
- Move forward with GHP opposition
- Identify another bill to amend

Ms. Mullins informed that the option to tweak the bill to appease both parties makes sense. Mr. Young apprised that a mutually acceptable accommodation will increase the likelihood of moving the bill forward.

Mr. Robinson noted that he was unaware of opposition regarding the bill. He informed that efforts should be to move forward with passing the bill to include any reasonable accommodations. He apprised that there appears to be a misunderstanding of the purpose of the resolution approved by the Board in August 2012. He informed that discussion will continue regarding revising the procurement process.

Ms. Mullins apprised that the Board's intent is to make improvements. She noted that there has been discussion regarding local first before the resolution was passed and the bill was filed.

Mrs. Flores informed that she does not know the specifics of the objections and does not understand why there are objections to provisions already in the local government code.

(Mr. Robinson stepped out at 3:48 p.m.)

Mr. Hollingsworth apprised that under current state law, there is the ability to consider geographic location of a business for procurement, if the place of business is in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Flores inquired of the difference regarding the City of Houston's program. Mr. Colbert apprised that the bill regarding the city of Houston was actually filed through Dallas County. Mr. Young noted that he has requested information from the City of Houston.

Ms. Mullins inquired as to what would be done regarding the process should authority be granted regarding the bill.

(Mr. Robinson returned at 4:00 p.m.)

Mr. Rogelio Anasagasti informed that the first step would be to create policy and definitions regarding implementing the bill. Mr. Miller noted that the proposed change would state that in a competitive sealed bid process, if a bidder is within three percent of the lowest bid their location within district could be considered.

Mr. Austin apprised that he was in opposition of the bill until reviewing the City of Houston's participation. He noted that the legislation regarding 271.9051 and 271.90 denotes a provision within five percent of the lowest bid and simultaneously contains the provision if the bid offers additional economic opportunities for people within the district. He informed that the GHP desires to work with HCC to tweak the language of the bill.

Mr. Austin inquired if the Board has moved to perform the tweaking. Mrs. Flores apprised that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the tweaking.

Mr. Robinson noted that he does not have a problem with the bill and informed that a request to review and tweak should be presented along with proposed language. He noted that the Greater Houston Partnership has not provided any language to tweak the bill.

(Mrs. Feldman joined the meeting at 4:07 p.m.)

(Mrs. Garcia joined the meeting at 4:07 p.m.)

Mr. Robinson apprised that in the sixteen months he has been on the Board, he has not been called on to vote on the "best value" regarding the points. He inquired as to why Hire Local First places him in becoming involved into the awarding of points system. He noted that his suggestion was to review best practices regarding the awarding of points.

Mr. Robinson informed that if the GHP has opposition regarding the bill, then they should provide language to compromise.

Mr. Young apprised that the opportunity may be to reach out to the GHP to inquire if there is an opportunity to resolve the opposition. He noted that there is also the possibility of passage with the opposition.

Ms. Mullins requested the timing in regards to the bill. Mr. Young informed that there are options.

Ms. Mullins read a letter of support from Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee regarding support of Hire Local First.

Mrs. Sane noted that it would be appropriate to explore all possible actions and options to compromise. She informed that she does not have specifications regarding the matter and apprised that the legislative team should handle the matter and provide recommendations to the Board.

Mrs. Flores noted that it appears that the consensus of the committee is to continue communications with the GHP.

Mr. Miller informed that he would have to recuse himself from the bill because the Board has identified its desire to move forward and identify a compromise with the GHP.

Mrs. Sane requested a full report detailing an analysis of HB 1373 to include effects of the bill on the institution, funding, students, etc.

Mrs. Flores requested information on the specific objections regarding the HB1373.

Mr. Robinson requested that HB 1373 be worked similar to SB 414 regarding the BSN program. He noted that the issue is passionate to him and informed that he advocated for the program. Mr. Robinson apprised that he does not have opposition with the GHP but would request opportunity to have conversation.

Mrs. Sane noted that her request is to delegate the discussion to the consulting team and allow them to provide a report and status on the progress in review of tactical details denoting that the issue is beneficial to HCC.

Ms. Mullins informed that Mr. Austin, Ms. Loreda and herself were invited to meet with the GHP and informed that there are no attempts to withhold information. She apprised that administration should be aware that the intent is to move forward with the HB 1373 and review opportunity to amend the language in discussion with the GHP.

Mr. Robinson noted that he received a copy of a letter from the Greater Houston Black Chamber of Commerce requesting a meeting to discuss Hire Houston First. Mr. Austin informed that he has asked the Chancellor to invite the Chambers of Commerce to a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss how to do business with the college.

Mr. Robinson apprised that the issue was that there was an outreach effort to chambers to request support for the bond and the Chamber wants a follow-up meeting.

Mrs. Flores noted that a meeting should be held with all interested individuals regarding the post-bond dialogue.

Ms. Mullins supported moving forward on the HB 1373.

Mr. Colbert inquired if the team is authorized to move forward or should come back before the Board for approval. He noted that there will need to be ability to act right away. Mr. Young inquired if there is the ability to nominate someone at the executive level to negotiate and discuss with the GHP

Houston Community College
External Relations Committee – April 18, 2013 - Page 7

Motion - Mrs. Flores moved to accept recommendation and nominated the Chair of External Relations to act on behalf of the Board.

Ms. Garcia informed that the Committee Chair should be present; however, the Board Chair should also be included. Mrs. Flores informed that someone has to be identified to work with the team.

Amended Motion – Mrs. Flores amended her motion to also include Mr. Austin in the discussion with the team to bring a report to the Board. Mrs. Sane seconded. The motion passed with a vote of 3-0.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

Recorded, transcribed and submitted by:
Sharon R. Wright, Manager, Board Services

Minutes Approved: May 16, 2013