

**LUNA COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES/HLC (HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION)  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Monday, March 19, 2018 @ 3:30 p.m.  
LCC Student Success Center Board Room

**Call Meeting to Order and Establish a Quorum**

**Roll Call**

**Present:** Chairman Daniel J. Romero, Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina, Secretary Ernie Chavez, Trustee Michael Adams, Trustee David Gutierrez and Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr.

**Also Present:** Dr. Randy E. Hyman, Affiliate Associate Professor of Higher Education Colorado State University, Dr. Irene H. Kovala, Special Projects Officer Maricopa County Community College District, Dr. Jennifer McClure, Managing Director Enrollment Services Elgin Community College, Mr. Stephen Schmall, Vice President of Finance and Facilities Rochester Community and Technical College, Dr. Jeryl L. Nelson, Professor Wayne State College, Ricky Serna, Interim President, SherylAnn Yara, Executive Office Manager, Orlando LeFebre, Information Specialist, Renee Maestas, Student Success Center, Janice Medrano, Student Success Center, Kenneth Bachicha, Humanities/MA&FT, Geno Castillo, STEM/SGG&FS, Cindy Armijo, Student/PTK, Elaine Luna, AHEC Director, Moses Marquez, Admissions Director, Jesse Gallegos, Public Relations, Lita Berna, School of Business Director, Amanda Lucero, Humanities, Antionette Lucero, Student, Dr. Anita Roybal, Humanities Director, Dr. Sharon Lalla, Vice President of Instruction, Sara Vigil, Humanities, Maxine Salas, Dual Credit, Georgia A. Baca, Fiscal, Joseph Ramos, Student, Donny Trujillo, Student, Harold Garcia, Resident, Gloria Pacheco, Dental Director, Estelle Garcia, Allied Health, Francisco Apodaca, STEM Director, Brody Vigil, Student, Eugene Sandoval, Auto Instructor, Susan Grohman, Nursing, Maxine Hughes, Nursing Director, Twila Quintana, PTK.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina led the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Michael Adams moved for approval of the Agenda. Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion carried.

**Informational Items**

- Discussion with HLC (Higher Learning Commission Peer Review Team)

Dr. Randy Hyman, Chairman of the Higher Learning Commission addressed the Board and advised that they will be doing a lot of listening and questioning and will not entertain any comment from anyone other than the Board and themselves. Dr. Randy Hyman also advised that over the next three days, they will be doing a lot of listening and questioning from the students, staff and constituents.

Dr. Randy Hyman then asked the Board what they did to prepare for the role in the assurance argument the show cause visit that they are on.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that they left it to the President as they were told and **he** believes that the President did a fantastic job in preparing for HLC. Trustee Michael Adams further advised that he believes in the governance that we hire a President, he runs the school and contacts the Board when it comes to policy or funds and with things as they are, we have both, a President and an Attorney to take care of the day to day operations.

Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina reiterated Trustee Michael Adams' comment in that they give direction to the President.

Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. advised that Interim President Ricky Serna took the lead, he brought the word back to the Board, nepotism policy was fixed and they have worked on faculty senate, students, etc. with their policies

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that once we received a copy of the findings and they set down together to figure out what it is we need to do to get this done and Interim President Ricky Serna sat down with staff and faculty and advised them of what it is that we need to do to get this done.

Trustee David Gutierrez advised that he was pretty stunned with the findings and wondered why Luna Community College was not advised of them earlier. He then advised that Interim President Ricky Serna addressed all the findings and advised how we were going to deal with this and further advised that he feels that Interim President Ricky Serna advises the Board very clearly as to what is going on. Trustee David Gutierrez then advised that whatever was found, was found and we are working on clearing it up.

Secretary Ernie Chavez advised that he too was stunned with the findings and further stated that we have addressed the issues and made corrections and we have made some adjustments within ourselves to get along better and he feels that this is a big step for them.

Dr. Randy E. Hyman asked that Secretary Chavez elaborate on his last comment.

Secretary Ernie Chavez advised that the Board has gone through trainings which has helped them out tremendously.

Dr. Jennifer McClure asked how the students and the community can see that.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that they are elected officials and when a new member comes in, they are not trained in the Trustee position.

Dr. Irene Kovola just retired from President in Arizona has been with HLC for nearly 25 years and advised that she has seen the good, the bad and the ugly and advised the Board that they have had some major changes in policy but there are other policies which have changes which are pretty significant as we look to the new version and she would like to know what impact these policies have on them now and what impact will impact will they have in the not so far away future above the operation of the college and the relationship between the Board and the college.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that he has believed in changing these policies since he was first elected as the world is changing and we had to change.

Trustee David Gutierrez advised that he has been here for a long time also, and policies had been revised probably back in 2004 but the biggest problem was implementing them.

Dr. Randy E. Hyman asked what has changed and what brought on the change.

Trustee David Gutierrez advised that it was probably the show cause.

Mr. Stephen Schmall advised that he has been at HLC for a little over 8 years and asked, since receiving show cause, how has the Board changed its methods of operations.

Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. advised that #1 the spotlight was on us and we have implemented our shared governance as we almost forgot the student because of all the wrangling which was going on. Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. further stated that they are working together with staff and it really takes the President of the school to make sure policies are being followed by the school and the Board. Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr then stated that the New Mexico Community College Act does not have a lot of teeth and it is time to put this great lady back on her feet as we went out of boundaries in some areas, but this has definitely brought us back.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that we have continued to give our students a great education as staff and faculty have continued to get things done despite what has going on with the Board. Chairman Daniel J. Romero then gave staff, student senate and faculty senate credit for all that they have done getting ready for the HLC visit

Trustee David Gutierrez advised that the show cause had opened up the line of communication between the Board, our peers and the students and made us more broadly open minded as we have opened up our minds deeper to get feedback from our constituents.

Dr. Jennifer McClure asked for an update on the process for the search of the next President.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that HED came in and gave us some advice, to hire and Interim President who cannot be hired as the full time President as well as hire an outside firm who we have already met with. Chairman Daniel J. Romero further stated that we are getting faculty, students and the community involved as we were also advised by HLC to take our time and do it right and have hired an out of state company, Zilo International.

Dr. Jennifer McClure then asked if the Board has an established time line.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that that is one of the things they will be bringing with them when they attend the next Board meeting.

Dr. Jeryl L. Nelson then asked if the search group is going to meet with students and staff prior to the job description going out or will once the individuals are applying.

Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. advised that the report that the Board received from the President is that the search group is coming down to meet with the staff.

Mr. Stephen Schmall asked how we are going to involve the community with the Presidential Search.

Trustee Abelino Montoya Jr. advised that he is not sure at this point, but for the last search, each member was going to appoint someone from within their district to represent them, although he is not sure how it will be done.

Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina advised that this was scrapped because of perception and we decided that we would allow Zilo International to take care of that.

Dr. Jeryl Nelson asked for an elaboration as to how the Board is involved in assuring that strategic initiatives are done through the budget process.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that we need to strive for building our grounds, keeping the college afloat and we strive to spend the money wisely.

Dr. Irene Kovala then advised that this strategic plan is coming to an end and we learned this morning from the President's Executive Council of their interest of not totally redoing it from scratch but getting some reiteration of the current plant. Dr. Irene Kovala then asked what involvement the Board has had in the forward look of the strategic plan and what information is being shared so that the Board has input in the tweaks or changes or new directions they would like to see in the strategic plan for the next 3 to 5 years.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that he strongly believes that we will be alright and we have an election coming up for five of our members and we need to have a plan for the

incoming board and he feels that if we can get through this, it will be easy to jump on a strategic plan and if we work together, it won't be that hard to come up with a plan.

Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina advised that one of the main things we need to work on is enrollment because enrollment is what makes Luna Community college. Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina also mentioned housing which we do not have and how important it is.

Dr. Jeryl Nelson asked what the Board's plan is for replacing the member who resigned.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that we will follow policy and advertise that there is a position vacant and go from there.

Dr. Jeryl Nelson then asked that the Board describe their relationship with the Foundation.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that he sits on the Foundation Board as a non-voting member and the Foundation changed when President Sanchez came and we hired a person as to run the Foundation as part Luna employee, part Foundation and the Foundation starting to fall apart as to where we did not know what was happening fiscally. Trustee Michael Adams further stated that the Board requested that an audit be done on the finances of the Foundation and in the meantime, one employee was fired from the college and another resigned and shortly thereafter, other Foundation members decided to leave and with that, they were trying to keep the finances up. Trustee Michael Adams also stated that the only thing he has done recently is help the President find someone to help with some of the fiscal areas as the local banks would not release and financial information to the President.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero advised that he thought the foundation was a stand-alone and when the auditors came in and requested records, LCC was unable to access the records.

Dr. Jennifer McClure then asked if there was ever any MOU between Luna Community College and the Foundation.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that the Foundation's by-laws list where the President comes to play (appointing members) but other than that, he is unaware of anything else prior. Trustee Michael Adams also advised that he has tried getting most of the Foundation Board members to come back to try and figure out where we go from here.

Dr. Randy Hyman asked the Board what they tell students when they ask about the status of the Foundation Fund because they are eager to apply for the scholarships.

Trustee Michael Adams advised that this has not happened yet but he is totally open to it.

Mr. Stephen Schmall asked how the Board is addressing the financial concerns raised the New Mexico HED, External Auditors and HLC.

Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. advised that as these issues come up (Foundation), it was a real eye opener to find out what the status was and we took it to the President to find out all that we could and we got to a place where we cannot do much with that until the records are sent. Trustee Abelino Montoya Jr. further stated that with HLC finding the dollar amount of equipment which had been stored in our buildings for years, was taken on systemically and immediately by the President. Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. then advised that it is almost on a daily basis that we get something thrown at us and the President takes that on and then informs the Board.

Dr. Randy Hyman then asked the Peer Review Team if there were any follow up questions and if not, they have completed their questions and thanked the Board for taking the time to sit with them.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero then advised that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2018 @ 5:30 p.m. in the Student Success Center Board Room.

Trustee Michael Adams then moved for adjournment. Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr. seconded the motion.

Chairman Daniel J. Romero called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote was taken and reflected the following:

Chairman Daniel J. Romero	Yes	Vice Chairman Kenneth Medina	Yes
Secretary Ernie Chavez	Yes	Trustee Michael Adams	Yes
Trustee David Gutierrez	Yes	Trustee Abelino Montoya, Jr.	Yes

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Daniel J. Romero, Board Chairman

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Ernie Chavez, Board Secretary

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SherylAnn Yara, Recorder