

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LONG BEACH COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of
March 9, 2004**

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Long Beach Community College District, County of Los Angeles, California, was held in Building I, Liberal Arts Campus, 4901 East Carson Street, Long Beach, on March 9, 2004.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 p.m., in the Board Room, Building I, Liberal Arts Campus.

ROLL CALL

Present: President McNinch, Vice President Kellogg, Member Clark,
Member Polsky, Member Uranga, Student Trustee Dominguez

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

At their request, members of the public may comment on items listed on the agenda at the time the item is discussed and prior to Board action on the item. A five (5) minute time limit will be allotted to each speaker, with a maximum of twenty (20) minutes to each subject, unless extended by the Board President.

Mark Snyder: My name is Mark Snyder and I'm an instructor here at Long Beach City College and for this item I'm thinking that this is affecting me. I wasn't given the full details on this and it's a little bit sketchy. Basically, I was hired here about four years ago as an instructor in the Electrical and Electronics Department. There was basically one opening and I as well as another instructor both were hired under this one position and there were certain minimum qualifications that were required both for the Electronics as well as the Electrical. Once I was hired I was selected with this other instructor. My assignment was made primarily in the Electronics Department and I have been teaching there primarily since then even though I have taught classes in Electrical, as well as Machine Tool. And at a meeting about a year ago, they decided to look into the prospect of closing down the Electronics Department and this meeting was held in the Vice President of Academic Affairs' Office and I was really taken aback. I thought the idea was we were going to defend why we wanted to keep the Electronics Department open and the administration was going to be trying to close it down and when I got there I was a little surprised that primarily the people in the Electrical group said, "We don't want to be teaching Electronics anymore," and I was a little bit surprised at that and I spoke up in the meeting saying that I think that's doing the community a disservice. I personally have done a lot of recruiting at the high schools telling them about our program, telling them how economical it is, the type of education they would get and the type of careers out there and I am very convinced that we would have had a good enrollment

**Minutes, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
March 9, 2004**

in the fall if we were allowed to do it. One high school teacher alone said that he polled the students and they had about 40 people that were ready to come into our program. Now we have had somewhat low enrollment in our individual classes for the last couple of years, but one good suggestion was made by Dr. Bud Johnson – rather than offering three sessions a semester, why not just offer one in the fall, get these high school students in here, and then push them through the system and I thought that was an excellent idea. And, for some reason, that wasn't really considered and we were supposed to be looking at the job market and there are jobs out there. One company alone has talked with our department as well as even Dr. Callahan saying that we do need people. Now a number of students who come into our department may qualify and they need about 200 people by the end of this year. The jobs are paying pretty good money. They're saying that the typical person could be earning between \$30,000 to \$40,000 a year, and that's just one company. There's work to be done in the idea of transportation, in traffic signal controls, and we're already teaching this, robotics, CISCO. All of these, as far as I know, are still being held. They're not really closing down the department, they're simply cutting back our core curriculum. The Electronics Department is still there.

As far as the students I've mentioned, we need to go out there and recruit the students, not simply ignore them and that's part of our charge is to service the community, as well as industry and to provide people for them. So, a lot of students who were coming here are now going to DeVry, ITT, Hi-Tech Institute. Some of them I was told sadly are even risking their lives in the Gulf because we didn't follow through on our articulation agreement like we had told them. We said, "You come here and you'll be able to count credits that you've taken towards that." Our Electrical Department didn't follow through so these students are gone. We've lost that group of high-schoolers. In the future, I'd hate to see it happen. Most of them don't want to go into the Electrical Department, they like Electronics. So, I propose in the future you try to keep that going. For myself, I see no reason why I shouldn't be able to teach Electrical since I did meet the minimum qualifications for that, so there's really no reason that I shouldn't have the job in the fall, but they're making it sound like because they're cutting back in Electronics, there's no work, but we do have plenty of work, even part-time instructors have good loads there. I've talked to Human Resources and the union and we're going through this right now, but I just wanted to address this and let you know and, if necessary, maybe even combine the Electronics if the Electrical people don't see it as the future, there are other departments around here that may be considered including Advanced Transportation, Avionics, maybe even the Computer Science. So I think that there definitely is a place for Electronics. Sorry to say that the Electrical people don't see that need and I hope there is a future for Electronics, as well as for me. Appreciate your time.

Jeff Lawrence: Good evening ladies and gentlemen and Members of the Board. This is kind of an impromptu speech. I haven't prepared anything for this. I was kind of notified by some concerned people within the community and also in Long Beach City College. I work in one of the large aerospace companies in the area and my position is Quality Engineer on one of the major space systems that are undergoing work at this time. I started here at Long Beach City College back in 1986, was in the program in Electronics through 1988; went from there to Northrop University out of Los Angeles and from there I went into several other schools; got my BS degree in Electronic Engineering and that has allowed me to progress to the point where I am right now at this company. As a service to the people in the community, the potential students, I'd like to see this program not discontinued, but be

broadened with more advanced Electronics, and more things brought into the department that are up-to-date and current. Everything that we have in our community from our household items, televisions, satellite systems, everything else, satellite TV, whatever else, our defense, everything is based around Electronics and I'm just very interested to have reconsideration made by the Board on the Electronics Program as far as continuing it. I think it's important for the community. Thank you.

President McNinch: Thank you and we appreciate members of the public taking time to address us with their concerns. I do want to share for those in attendance at this meeting and the previous meeting that it has been my experience of this Board of Trustees that we hold the needs of the students and the education, experience and needs of the Greater Long Beach community as the highest priority and if anyone alleges that any of my peers do not hold that as the highest priority, I'll meet you in the parking lot after work.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Academic Personnel: Resolution, Regarding Layoff Due to a Discontinuance or Reduction of Particular Kinds of Services

It was moved by Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Polsky, that the Board approve Resolution No. 030904, regarding layoff due to a discontinuance or reduction of particular kinds of services and authorize the Superintendent-President to execute this resolution.

Member Kellogg: We read the documentation that explains things, but we have a window as a Board where we address issues such as this – it's one time a year where we have to take action; we can't take an action within 30 days, 60 days, etc. These recommendations come to this Board and this came through the department on recommendations on classes not being utilized and, therefore, our resources are not being utilized. So, it's always difficult to take this type of action, but the fact is that this is the time that we have to or we lose that opportunity and the recommendation did come from the people who know better than we do and so we move from there and it's difficult, but it's something that we need to do and that's why I made the motion.

President McNinch: I appreciate the reinstatement that this has come through the appropriate channels that we as an institution must follow.

Member Polsky: I'd just like to add, in support of President McNinch, that we do what is best for the district. We cannot base our decisions based upon what's good for one particular group. There are so many groups on campus that want us to do what's best for them, but that's not our job. Our job is to do what's best for the taxpayers of the district, for the district, for the students, and that's how we base our decisions, and I feel very confident that all of the Board members here take that position, so if it hurts someone's feeling, we really feel very badly about it. I have felt very badly about other, not so much programs, but employees we have had to eliminate, but we have acted in the best interests of the District. So, please understand that there is a real crisis in California as far as money goes and we have a fiduciary duty to the district to do the right thing and that's what we're doing; so I hope you'll understand.

Member McNinch: As Trustees we are holders of the public trust. There are other community college districts that are issuing blanket layoffs to everyone that they employ and

**Minutes, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
March 9, 2004**

I think that's a real hard thing because it leaves one shaking on one's shoes saying, "Does this really mean me or is it just going to affect the person sitting next to me?"

Member Uranga: I've said it once, and I've said it twice, and I'll say it every time when it comes to this issue – this is the hardest part of being a trustee for us to deal with personnel. It's a job for individuals, it's a livelihood for some, but if we can't support it, we can't support it. It's a tough decision that we have to arrive at and that's something that I've never looked forward to, but one that we have to take into consideration in terms of the district as a whole and it's position.

Executive Vice President Victor Collins: I think in the discussion of this item, the Board should be aware that this action tonight and this resolution is the culmination of at least two years of work that's been done under the direction of Mary Callahan and the students that we are instructing, under the dean, Farley Herzek, and the work that he does in terms of vocational programs, and all of the faculty that are involved in the Electric/Electronics Department. Again, for the past two years, they have reviewed the concept of what's been happening with our Electronics enrollment and, unfortunately, with today's society, we are facing a situation that we've had decreasing enrollments that have been negatively impacted. In spite of that, they set up a program to phase out this educational portion of the program on Electronics to allow those students who are in the program to progress through adequately before we got to this point. What that has meant is that for this semester, a number of the regular electronics classes were not taught because we didn't have the enrollment. So, there has been this diligent effort to make sure, again, we are serving our students. We did some work with affected faculty members and we looked at the situation saying "What do we have to do," and, unfortunately, we do come to a point, that this resolution becomes the legal issue of us to move to the next step of dealing with the impact to an employee.

President McNinch: Before we take the roll call vote, I want to thank all of the Members of the Board of Trustees for their thoughtful and deliberate thoughts tonight and the hard work that you have done, because we have been dealing with a lot of things that are not easy to deal with and as the current President of this Board, I want to thank you for your soul-searching conscientiousness.

The motion carried, all voting aye.

ADJOURNMENT

President McNinch adjourned the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on March 23, 2004. The first order of business will be adjournment to a closed session, as needed. The Board will reconvene in open session at 5:00 p.m. in Building I, Liberal Arts Campus.

Assistant Secretary