

### **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Chairman Mark Stephens called the Retreat of the Board of Trustees to order in the Triton College Boardroom at 7:57 p.m. The following roll call was taken.

Present: Ms. Norma Hernandez, Mr. Tracy Jennings, Mrs. Elizabeth Potter,  
Mr. Rich Regan, Mr. Mark Stephens, Ms. Diane Viverito.  
Absent: Mr. Glover Johnson, Ms. Bertha Sanchez.

### **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

None.

### **TOUR OF FACILITIES**

Associate Vice President of Facilities John Lambrecht reported that the tour will include the T and R Building entrances and the theatre in the R Building. He discussed projects that are priorities to be completed, including the A Building rooftop unit for the computer dome, which houses the computer infrastructure, and a chiller in the F Building.

Trustees left the Boardroom for the tour of facilities at 8:05 p.m.

Trustees returned to the Boardroom at 8:45 p.m.

### **PRESIDENT EVALUATION**

Chairman Stephens distributed the President's evaluation instrument and Trustees reviewed the different sections and discussed the procedure for completing the evaluation. A cumulative evaluation will be prepared and presented to President Moore at the December meeting; the individual forms are destroyed. The Student Trustee also completes a form which is given to the President separately, since the Student Trustee vote is advisory. Mr. Stephens asked Trustees to complete their form and return it to Susan by the end of the week if possible.

### **BOARD SELF-EVALUATION**

The following open discussion proceeded in response to the questions contained in the Board Evaluation Policy (policy shown as italicized text).

#### *Community Involvement*

- A. *How involved is the Board in the community?*
- B. *Are there opportunities in the district that the Board could become involved in that would benefit the college?*
- C. *Are there events Board members could speak at that would raise the level of interest in the college?*

Mr. Stephens stated that all Trustees are involved in their immediate communities and the opportunity to speak at events is limited right now. Mr. Regan commented that all he hears about is engagement of high schools in the district. Mr. Stephens responded that he is ready to go out to the high schools; he's never been asked to talk to parents clubs, etc., but he is ready to share his personal story of Triton College getting him back on track in his education. Mr. Jennings discussed his use of social media and making people aware

of the Trustee scholarship. Mrs. Potter discussed her experience at health care facilities and always running into Triton alum who rave about the H Building being state of the art. Ms. Viverito commented that she is out in the community by nature of her job and people regularly ask her questions. She suggested that high school students wouldn't want to hear from a Trustee, but counselors or teachers might. Ms. Hernandez discussed her being in the community due to the nature of her work and her advocacy for students to go to Triton, including promoting Triton at summer festivals. She also has a story to tell about her struggles and Triton turning her life around.

Enrollment Strategies

- A. *Is Triton's enrollment plan working?*
- B. *Does the Board have a role in encouraging enrollment?*
- C. *Is the Board confident in Triton's on-going enrollment strategy?*

Vice President of Enrollment Management & Student Affairs Jodi Koslow Martin provided a presentation about enrollment strategies. During the pandemic, only two Illinois community colleges saw enrollment increases; Illinois community colleges saw an average decrease of 13 percent. Triton was open, available, offering remote and face-to-face services and had an 8 percent decrease. Community college students either went to college or they didn't go at all last year. This fall, the enrollment story is a higher head count and lower credit hours, and we are working to get more credit hours enrolled. Mr. Stephens commented that it is outstanding that Triton was third in the state in enrollment. Dr. Koslow Martin discussed the enrollment strategies of welcome and care, offering personal service and serving whoever is in front of us at the time. President Moore added that we know our community and that students want to interact face to face.

Public Image of Triton

- A. *What does the public think of Triton?*
- B. *Does the Board feel that the College is adequately articulating positive messages?*
- C. *What does the Board think is the most positive message Triton can convey to the district?*

There was discussion about the problem of political involvement in education and the resulting bad morale and diminished public image it can create, and the hope that employees have a concern for their workplace and want to do a good job serving students. Trustees shared their personal experiences and comments they hear about Triton College – both positive and negative, and the need to make a better image for students and make them feel welcome. Conveying to the public the value of coming to Triton and getting an Associate's Degree before transferring was also stressed. Chairman Stephens stated that in terms of public interaction, the Board is ready to do whatever the administration thinks will be helpful.

Financial Challenges

- A. *What financial challenges does Triton face this next year?*
- B. *Is the Board confident of an increase in state funding?*
- C. *What demands will collective bargaining have on the college?*

Mr. Stephens discussed debt and debt service, and asked Vice President of Business Services Sean Sullivan to get information now for the Board to discuss next year about

rolling it and getting more funding to finish outstanding projects. The Board discussed school field trips and academic, athletic, and band events and tournaments that bring students and parents onto campus as a way to build the public image, future enrollment, and revenue for the College.

*Triton's Future*

- A. *What does the Board want Triton to look like in five years?'*
- B. *What size student population is desirable?*
- C. *How large a faculty & staff would facilitate that population?*

Mr. Stephens noted that there used to be 25,000 students here. In terms of right size, he feels it important that we are going to step up to do something for people who aren't being served. There was discussion that the college is understaffed in support staff and the size of the faculty has shrunk. In terms of hiring, it was suggested that criteria include living in-district. It was suggested that the college create some form of cultural center with prompted a discussion about different cultural centers we've had in the past, including a multicultural center, and the Nuevos Horizontes community center which were all underutilized and not cost-effective.

Chairman Stephens concluded that he hopes the Board finds him communicative, adding that the President's Office provides a lot of information to keep the Board informed. He asked Trustees to not hesitate to call him if they have a question or complaint.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Ms. Viverito to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jennings. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. Chairman Stephens adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Mark R. Stephens  
Board Chairman

Elizabeth Potter  
Board Secretary

*Susan Page*  
Susan Page, Recording Secretary