The Board of Trustees of the Houston Community College System held a Meeting of the Athletic Committee on Monday, February 26, 2007, at the System Administration Building, Seminar Room B, Second Floor, 3100 Main, Houston, Texas.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT
Abel Davila, Committee Chair
Mills Worsham, Committee Member
Yolanda Navarro Flores

ADMINISTRATION
Norm Nielsen, Chancellor
Gloria Walker, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration
William Harmon, President, Central College

OTHERS PRESENT
Jarvis Hollingsworth, System Counsel, Bracewell & Giuliani
Other administrators, citizens, and representatives of the news media

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Davila called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and declared the Committee convened to consider matters pertaining to the Houston Community College System as listed on the duly posted Meeting Notice.

DISCUSS AND/OR APPROVE TO PROCEED WITH DEVELOPMENT OF AN HCC ATHLETIC PROGRAM
Dr. Harmon elaborated that the goal for the development of the athletic teams within HCCS is to enhance a significant aspect of a mission for commitment in strengthening the college’s community engagement throughout the System. The athletic programs will be designed to allow students the opportunity to support and participate in campus and system-wide activities and enhance the student out-of-classroom experiences. He also noted that the athletic program may also serve as an essential recruitment incentive for prospective students.

Dr. Harmon presented an Organizational Strategy Action Plan for the development of an athletic program and noted that HCC currently has athletic teams at Central and Southwest colleges that are financially supported by the two college President’s offices. He apprised that the primary rationales for developing the college athletic teams: (1) For the Athletic – the discipline and values of sports can contribute to personal development reinforcing academic excellence (2) For the Campus – the ceremonies and competition of athletic events can contribute to community
and institutional loyalty (3) For the College Community – college sports can broaden positive interest in higher education as well as the public support of the institution.

Dr. Harmon apprised that the proposal recommends the development of (1) soccer (2) basketball (3) baseball (4) tennis and (5) volleyball teams.

Dr. Harmon noted that he was encouraged by Dr. Leslie to review the possibilities of an athletic program and provided an overview of the estimated budget for the program. He noted that there is approximately $80,000 available from the student activity fee that is currently charged to students and informed that the program would be funded with revenue from this student activity fee.

Mr. Davila asked if a study has been conducted with other community colleges. Dr. Harmon informed that in addition to teams representing HCCS, the recommendation would also propose a system of intramural that will allow students to participate in sporting events and noted that the purpose of the intramural system is to assist students in leading healthy and satisfying lives by providing them with meaningful instruction and practical experience in general fitness, physical movement, and activity. He noted that the intramural program requires that there is at least one female team in order to implement the program.

Mr. Worsham asked if the expenses for the current teams were covered by the student activity fee and whether additional funding would be needed for the program. Dr. Harmon informed that the students currently use the student activity fees for special events.

Mr. Davila asked if there is a committee for the students. Dr. Harmon noted that there is currently a College Advisory Board (CAB) for each college as well as a Central Advisory Board who serves as overseer to make certain the funds are utilized as designated.

(Mrs. Flores arrived at 1:25 p.m.)

Mr. Worsham asked how the facilities will be supplemented. Dr. Harmon noted that this will have to be determined by the Board and noted that the current recommendation is to review utilizing the 288 corridor property as athletic facilities such as soccer field and a basketball arena that could be used as multi-purpose facility.

Mrs. Flores asked if there were plans available to determine the benefit versus the cost and the student reaction if it is proposed to utilize a portion of the student activity fee since this could become a part of the fee allocation. She also inquired on the legal requirements/parameters for the usage of the student activity fee. Mrs. Flores requested that legal counsel provide an opinion on the legal parameters for usage of the student activity fee funds.

Mr. Davila recommended that a study is developed that would include information on the teams, portion of student fees to be used, benefit analysis, request for proposal, etc. He also requested a funding proposal depicting how the program would be funded.
Dr. Harmon noted that the athletic program would bring more exposure to the college from a positive aspect.

Mr. Worsham asked if there was a consensus opinion of the individual presidents. Dr. Harmon noted that the Presidents are more geared to the intramural type programs.

Motion - Mr. Worsham motioned that a request for proposal is developed. Mr. Davila seconded the motion.

Mrs. Flores asked if the proposed athletic program is the formulated consensus of all the Presidents and recommended that the Presidents submit a letter stating their support of the program. She also recommended that the Presidents are invited the next Athletic Committee meeting as well as the Presidents of the Student Government Association from each College.

Dr. Harmon recommended an internal committee is devised with representation from the Presidents, students, faculty, and administration to complete the feasibility study.

Mr. Davila recommended that each president is included on the committee.

Withdrawal - Mr. Worsham withdrew his motion and Mr. Davila withdrew the second.

Motion - Mr. Worsham motioned to approve that a feasibility study is completed by an internal committee spearheaded by Dr. Harmon comprised of the college Presidents and interested constituents within the college representing faculty, students, stakeholders, and administration. Mr. Davila seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Mr. Davila asked that a timeline on the program with dates is presented. Dr. Harmon stated that a chronology of the feasibility study could be presented to the Board by next week.

Mr. Davila also recommended formulating an external committee with stakeholders that would provide input from the stakeholders as a partnership. He recommended that it is included in the feasibility study.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Recorded, transcribed, and submitted by:
Sharon Wright, Executive Administrative Assistant, Board Services

Minutes Approved: ________________________________