

## **Minutes**

### **Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Trustees Present:**

Jerome Shelton  
Joseph Askew  
Elaine Crider, Chair  
James Dyke  
Errol Schwartz, *via telephone*  
Anthony Tardd  
Joshua Wyner  
Christopher Bell  
Kendrick Curry, *via telephone*  
Gabriela Lemus, *via telephone*  
Natasha Bennett  
Mary Thompson  
James Lyons, ex-officio

#### **Trustees Absent:**

Alejandra Castillo  
Reginald Felton

#### **Staff Present:**

Rachel Petty, Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Jackie Xu, Director, Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Planning  
Michael Rogers, Vice President, Institutional Advancement  
Erik Thompson, Senior Project Manager  
Dianna Phillips, CEO, Community College  
Valerie Epps, Vice President, Student Affairs  
Smruti Radkar, Assistant General Counsel  
Stacie Mills, Assistant General Counsel  
Perita Baxter, Staff Assistant, Board of Trustees Office  
Beverly Franklin, Executive Secretary, Board of Trustees Office

#### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chair Crider called the meeting to order. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the January 27, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

#### **Agenda Order Change**

Chair Crider proposed a change to the order of the agenda. Following the approval of the minutes, Chair Crider requested the President's Report be presented and the resolutions for four executive appointments added to the agenda. The Trustees approved the change.

#### **Report of the President**

Dr. Lyons discussed the 2015 Honda Classic and recognized the students who participated in the Classic. He also discussed the Million Dollar Match Campaign (\$1,070,000 raised), the FY16 budget, and the Tom Joyner Foundation which has identified the University of the District of Columbia as the May School of the Month. Mr. Michael Rogers presented information regarding the election of the alumni trustees.

The newly elected alumni trustees are: Jerome Shelton, Gwendolyn Hubbard Lewis, and Barrington Scott.

## Action Items

### Motion:

*UDC Resolution No. 2015-05: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Amendments to Chapter 7, Updating Tuition Rates for AY2016-2017*

WHEREAS, District of Columbia law (D.C. Official Code §38-1202.06(8)) provides for the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia ("University") to fix tuition to be paid by resident and nonresident students attending the University; provided, that such tuition is adopted by the Trustees in accordance with the provisions of D.C. Official Code §2-505(a); and

WHEREAS, the University consists of a flagship urban land-grant university offering a broad range of academic and professional programs including a community college offering workforce development opportunities, academic certifications and academic associate degrees and a law school whose mission is to recruit and enroll students from groups under-represented at the bar, provide a well-rounded theoretical and practical legal education that will enable students to be effective and ethical advocates, and represent the legal needs of low-income District of Columbia residents through the school's legal clinics; and

WHEREAS, the University is trying to avoid sporadic, significant tuition increases and trying instead to maintain existing cost structure consistent with the rate of inflation by implementing consistent incremental increases; and

WHEREAS, the Academic Year 2016-2017 tuition rate will be increased by 2.6% based on the calendar year 2014 rate of Consumer Price Index of 1.6%;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia hereby takes proposed rulemaking action to amend Chapter 7 of the University Rules (Title 8B DCMR) to increase tuition to the rates as indicated in the attached Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Counsel is hereby directed to publish this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in the D.C. Register as soon as is practicable for a comment period of not less than thirty (30) days, in accordance with the provisions of D.C. Official Code §2-505 (a).

The resolution was approved with one abstention.

The Board reviewed the resolution pertaining to the relocation of community college programs from 801 North Capital Street to Building #41. Trustee Dyke proposed the following amendment to the resolution following the first whereas: *[Whereas the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees remains fully committed to the development of a comprehensive Community College with hubs located throughout the District of Columbia that address our academic mission and are fiscally feasible.]* The amendment was accepted for inclusion in the resolution.

### Motion:

*UDC Resolution No. 2015-06: Recommendation to Implement the Relocation of Community College Programs from 801 North Capital Street, NE to Building #41.*

WHEREAS, the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees seeks to reduce University operating costs through the implementation of a variety of cost savings measures throughout the University; and

WHEREAS, the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees remains fully committed to the development of a comprehensive Community College with hubs throughout the District of Columbia that address our academic mission and are fiscally feasible; and

WHEREAS, in March 2010, the University entered into a seventeen year lease agreement, of which there are twelve (12) years remaining; and WHEREAS, the identified lease payments for the remaining twelve years of the lease agreement total approximately \$46,131,325, and estimated operating expenses for the remaining years of the lease total \$24,000,000; and

WHEREAS, the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees Operations Committee, during its February 10, 2015 meeting, asked the Administration to develop a strategy for relocating the programs offered at 801 North Capital Street, NE to a University operated facility; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has considered the impact of this relocation on the academic programs and branch campus status, as well as the costs associated with continuing to operate the University of the District of Columbia Community College at the 801 North Capital Street, NE; and

WHEREAS, the administration preliminary estimates indicate that the estimated project costs will be between \$12,300,000 and \$17,000,000 with work estimated to be performed over a twenty four (24) to thirty eight (38) month period following approval of the recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the administration is recommending the relocation and consolidation of the Van Ness campus Library from Building #41 to Building #39; relocating the David A. Clarke Law School Library from Building #39 to Building #52, relocating the Community College Nursing programs offered at 801 North Capital Street, NE to the Backus Building and all remaining programs from 801 North Capital Street, NE to Building #41;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of the District of Columbia Board of Trustees hereby accepts the recommendation as set forth above and authorizes the administration to take all necessary actions required to develop phased construction documentation, confirm pre-design project costs estimates and proceed with implementing this relocation in a manner consistent with this resolution, governing procurement rules and regulations and all required reviews and approvals of the Board of Trustees.

The resolution was approved with two nays and one abstention.

### **Testimony**

Testimony was presented to the Board of Trustees by the following: David Bardin, Hruaia Vanlal [Community College Student Government Association Secretary], and Daryao Khatri [Professor].

### **Election of Officers**

The Board of Trustees elected the following officers for the period May 15, 2015 – May 15, 2016:

Chair: Elaine Crider  
Vice-Chair: Christopher Bell  
Treasurer: Reginald Felton  
Secretary: Gabriela Lemus

The Board of Trustees entered executive session at 8:02 p.m.

### *Executive Session*

At the conclusion of the executive session, the Board of Trustees reconvened the public session of the meeting at 9:29 p.m. Chair Crider noted that all items acted upon in the executive session were proper.

### **Action Items - Continued**

#### **Motion:**

*UDC Resolution No. 2015-07: Extension of the Appointment of Ms. Marilyn Hamilton as Acting Dean for Academic Affairs at the Community College of the University of the District of Columbia (UDCCC)*

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §212.1, all Dean of academic colleges positions shall be filled by executive appointment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.4 and 212.3 a person serving in an “acting” status for an executive appointment shall be limited to one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, the Board may approve an extension or renewal of an acting appointment for no more than one (1) additional year due to extenuating circumstances as determined by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hamilton has been recommended to continue to serve as the Acting Dean for Academic Affairs at the Community College of the University of the District of Columbia, based on her knowledge, past accomplishments, and extensive experience; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Hamilton is currently serving as the Acting Dean, for Academic Affairs at the Community College of the University of the District of Columbia and the Board has determined that the acting appointment should be extended based on extenuating circumstances;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the extension of the appointment of Ms. Marilyn Hamilton as the Acting Dean, for Academic Affairs at the Community College of the University of the District of Columbia until a suitable replacement has been identified, consistent with the terms and conditions in the appointment letter.

The resolution was approved.

**Motion:**

*UDC Resolution No. 2015-08: Executive Appointment of Mr. Erik Thompson as Acting Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate of the University of the District of Columbia*

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.1, the President may make Executive Appointments to designated positions in the Educational Service; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.4, the President may appoint a current employee to serve in an “acting” status in a position designated to be filled by executive appointment without requiring that employee to resign from his or her current position; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.4 and 212.3 a person serving in an “acting” status for an executive appointment shall be limited to one (1) year; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8B DCMR §210.6 The Board shall determine Executive compensation for administrators and non-administrators at Grade level 1A and above, including initial compensation upon appointment and subsequent changes in compensation, upon recommendation of the President through the Executive Committee or as determined by the Board Chair; and

WHEREAS, after review of his credentials it has been determined that Mr. Thompson is qualified for such position and has been recommended to serve as the Acting Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate at the University of the District of Columbia, based on his knowledge, past accomplishments, and extensive experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the appointment of Mr. Erik Thompson as the Acting Vice President for Facilities and Real Estate at the University of the District of Columbia effective April 28, 2015, consistent with the terms and conditions of his appointment letter.

The resolution was approved.

**Motion:**

*UDC Resolution No. 2015–09: Appointment of Smruti Radkar as Acting General Counsel of the University of the District of Columbia*

WHEREAS, pursuant to the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act, D.C. Code §1-601.01 *et seq.*, the Board of Trustees has the authority to fill positions within the University; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to D.C. Code §1-608.53(f), the General Counsel of an independent agency shall serve at the pleasure of the

agency head; and

WHEREAS, Smruti Radkar has been recommended to serve as the Acting General Counsel of the University of the District of Columbia, based on her current experience as Assistant General Counsel in the University's Office of General Counsel and her previous accomplishments and experience serving as a labor and employment and defense litigator in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, after review of her credentials it has been determined that she is well-qualified for such position and that the recommended salary adequately reflects the job duties and experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the acting appointment of Smruti Radkar as the Acting General Counsel of the University of the District of Columbia effective April 20, 2015.

The resolution was approved.

The Board briefly discussed the appointment of Dr. Sepehri as Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration. Chair Crider noted the Board agreed to strike some language in the appointment letter depending on the research conducted by the Vice President of Human Resources.

**Motion:**

*UDC Resolution No. 2015-10: Appointment of Dr. Mohamad Sepehri as Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration*

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §212.1(b), all Deans of academic colleges positions shall be filled by executive appointment; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 8 DCMR §212.3, the President shall provide for a formal search and selection process to fill the positions of the Dean of academic colleges positions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Mohamad Sepehri has participated in a formal search and selection process pursuant to 8B DCMR §212.3; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sepehri has been recommended to serve as Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of the District of Columbia, based on his knowledge, past accomplishments and experience serving as Associate Dean and Director of the Graduate Business Programs, Division Chair and Professor of Management & International Business at Davis College of Business and

WHEREAS, after review of his credentials it has been determined that he is well - qualified for such position and that the recommended salary adequately reflects the job duties and experience;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia approves the appointment of Dr. Mohamad Sepehri as the Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration, at the University of the District of Columbia effective August 1, 2015.

The resolution was approved.

**Report of the President – Continued**

Dr. Lyons briefly discussed hiring staff for the student center. Dr. Epps reported there would be 8.5 full time positions (Director, Associate Director, Meetings and Events Manager, Marketing Coordinator, Half-time Administrative Assistant and Budget Analyst, Information Desk/Scheduler, Day and Evening Managers, and Fitness Center Manager).

**Report of the Operations Committee**

Trustee Askew noted there were two major items from the Operations Committee that require review: President's Residence and the procurement audit.

### **Report of the Presidential Search Committee**

Trustee Askew reported approximately ninety people expressed an interest in becoming president of the University of the District of Columbia. He provided demographic information regarding the candidates and discussed the search process.

Dr. Epps gave a brief report regarding the student elections. She mentioned that Mr. Theodore Wilhite (past Student Government President) had been elected the student member to the Board of Trustees. The following are the newly elected Undergraduate Student Government Association officers: Joniece Barnes (President), Tsholofelo Motshwane (Vice-President), Mulenga Chileshe (Secretary), Anjanette Shelby (Treasurer), Tatyana Calhoun (Ms. University of the District of Columbia), Nia Williams (Ms. Firebird), and Tiffany Bridgett ( Ms. Homecoming).

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

### ***\*Action Item – Executive Session***

During the Executive Session, the Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Ronald F. Mason, Jr. as President of the University of the District of Columbia.