The Board Workshop commenced at 4:20 p.m.

The following Trustees were in attendance:

- Mr. Rod Jurado
- Mr. Andrew Graham
- Mr. Daniel Coton
- Ms. Nancy Watkins
- Mr. Randall Reid

Mr. Jurado requested that during the moment of silence, we remember SouthShore students Ryan Modrow and Shawn A. James, who recently died.

Mr. Jurado thanked Dr. Narcissa Polonio for her assistance in HCC’s presidential search.

1. Review of Public Forum Feedback Forms from College and Constituencies

Dr. Polonio advised she had heard from some of the constituencies inquiring as to the best way to organize feedback for the Board. She suggested they focus on strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Polonio stated that the feedback received was done in a respectful manner. She then asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the Public Forum Feedback Forms. The Board did not have any questions.

Dr. Polonio advised that Dr. Mark Rocha no longer wished to be considered for the president’s position. She also stated that Dr. Rocha was very impressed with the entire process and thanked everyone for the courtesies afforded to him. Mr. Jurado asked if he gave a reason for removing his name from contention. Dr. Polonio advised it was largely a timing issue and that Dr. Rocha could no longer commit the time needed for the search process.
2. Review of Pertinent Background Information on Candidates

Dr. Polonio stated she is continuing to compile background information on three candidates through Google, Internet reviews, LexisNexis, and an array of interviews of people who have worked with the candidates in the past. She stated that all candidates had given ACCT permission to speak to people at their respective institutions and will continue to work on a fifth layer of review once a final candidate is selected.

Mr. Jurado asked if there were any “red flags”. Dr. Polonio advised there was no evidence of legal litigation for any of the candidates; some had circumstances but no evidence of bankruptcy, malfeasance, etc.

3. General Discussion of Candidates

Dr. Polonio distributed a matrix to narrow the consideration down to one individual so the Board can move forward with a campus visit. Dr. Polonio asked that the Board complete the matrix by circling one candidate’s name. Ms. Watkins stated this matrix would become public record under Florida’s Sunshine Law. Mr. Carraway asked that each board member initial their selection.

Dr. Polonio collected the completed forms and advised that there were five (5) votes for Dr. Ken Atwater. Mr. Jurado stated it might be important to talk about the decision to select Dr. Atwater.

Ms. Watkins stated her rationale for selecting Dr. Atwater. She noted that Dr. Dorsey was extremely pleasant, personable and very competent in her position but had doubts about her transition to a school with this type of governance and particularly the size of this school. From her interview with Dr. Tricoli, she stated that if we needed a change agent for the College, then without question, that would have tipped the scale in his direction. She also stated that he would be a fabulous president but his strengths aren’t what the College needs at this time. Dr. Atwater’s background and experience are more relevant to this institution. She also noted that Arizona also has more of a national/international presence.

Mr. Reid stated he felt the same as Ms. Watkins and if we had deferred to Dr. Tricoli, he would have been good with that selection as well.

Mr. Coton stated he would have been comfortable with Dr. Tricoli as well. However, he had a sense with Dr. Atwater, that he is the type of leader who doesn’t “steer the ship” himself but finds the right people to steer the ship and doesn’t want to see the College digress from that attitude. He said he would like to know more about Dr. Atwater. He stated that Dr. Atwater is very knowledgeable about the community college system and that the Maricopa system is a little more similar to ours than Dr. Tricoli’s. In addition, he said that Dr. Dorsey is the up and coming star of the community college system and was a delightful person. However, he would have
been concerned about her transition from her system to our system. He said that, in a few years, she would be one of the more sought-after college presidents.

Mr. Graham concurred with everything the board members said about each of the candidates and that he liked them all. He said he chose Dr. Atwater because he seemed to have the respect of his community and that he got the sense he was a leader.

Mr. Jurado agreed that Dr. Dorsey was very well-respected at the AACC and reiterated that she was very pleasant. He said that, after spending time with Dr. Tricoli, if the College needed a hard right or hard left, he would have been the right person for the job. Mr. Jurado stated that Dr. Atwater was very optimistic about education and community colleges. In addition, he is a member of the League for Innovation and he would like to learn more about him.

Dr. Polonio advised that Dr. Atwater had been at his college for many years and is credited with building the institution. She stated that Arizona is a very diverse and complex environment and Dr. Atwater has been able to transcend many communities, raising money and increasing visibility. In addition, he is well-connected in the political arena.

4. Selection of Candidate Campus Visit

Dr. Polonio recommended making the campus visit as soon as possible. Once we know who is planning to visit the campus, her office will help with the arrangements. In addition, she will prepare a cross-section of different people in the school, tour of the facilities, an opportunity to meet with the trustees and with members of the community.

Mr. Jurado advised, due to Sunshine Law, only one Trustee would be able to visit the campus. Mr. Jurado then volunteered Mr. Coton to make the campus visit and asked if he was available. Mr. Coton advised yes. Mr. Jurado nominated Mr. Coton to go out and visit South Mountain Community College and Ms. Watkins seconded the motion with an aye vote of all members present.

Mr. Coton asked if there were questions from everyone to make sure all concerns were addressed. Ms. Watkins advised that he take license, as a lot of questions will arise when he is there. Mr. Coton asked if there were any Sunshine Law issues if everyone gave him a list of questions. Mr. Carraway advised the questions would have to be a matter of public record so questions should be sent to counsel and he would forward them to Mr. Coton. Mr. Coton asked if Dr. Polonio would be available to attend the campus visit. Dr. Polonio advised no, but that a staff member would be available for him.
5. Selection and Process for Negotiation of Contract

Dr. Polonio presented the Board with a salary scale for presidents in Florida. She asked that the Board consider one trustee to be ready to negotiate on behalf of the Board. There was a lengthy discussion on what type of contract should be offered.

Mr. Graham nominated Ms. Watkins to negotiate the contract, seconded by Mr. Reid followed by an aye from all board members.

Ms. Watkins said she would need more information before starting on this contract. She stated she would like to have another meeting as soon as possible after the campus visit occurs to have a discussion and make a decision.

Dr. Polonio asked if, in the interim, she could still meet with Ms. Watkins to discuss terms of contract. Ms. Watkins advised yes but it would not preclude any possibility that we wouldn’t look at another candidate if something came up.

6. Next Steps

Mr. Graham asked about Dr. Rocha’s withdrawal and if he would have considered the position if an offer was made today. Dr. Polonio advised when he was visiting HCC, his family wanted to live here; however, he received an offer from another location and although his heart was here, he just could not wait any longer for an offer to be made.

Mr. Coton asked if we were behind on the schedule. Dr. Polonio advised that the search was only a few weeks behind due to the snowstorms experienced in February. Dr. Polonio complemented the Board for taking the time during the process to listen and assess and make the judgment of what is in the best interest of the school in the long term.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.