

DELTA COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES BUDGET HEARING
DRAFT MINUTES
Tuesday, June 12, 2012
Delta College Board Room
7:00 P.M.

- MEMBERS PRESENT** K. Ellison, R. Emrich, K. Higgs, K. Houston-Philpot, K. Lawrence-Webster, J. MacKenzie, R. E. Selby, R. Stafford, E. Wacksman
- OTHERS PRESENT** J. Goodnow, B. Baker, J. Baker, E. Beckman, T. Boudrot, T. Brown, P. Clark, C. Curtis, L. Dull, S. Enriquez, A. Givens, L. Govitz, P. Graves, T. Grunow, L. Holoman, G. Hoffman, D. Lutz, J. Miller, M. Moore, M. Mosqueda, L. Myles-Sanders, F. Peters, G. Przygocki, L. Ramseyer, J. Sorrels, J. Stahl, J. Trader, A. Ursuy, B. Webb, S. Whitney, S. Witzke, M. Wood
- PRESS PRESENT** Z. Reichard (The Bay City Times), J. Hall (WSGW)
- CALL TO ORDER** Board Chair Emrich called the Budget Hearing to order at 7:21 p.m.
- 2012-13 BUDGET OVERVIEW** D. Lutz began the meeting by explaining that the public Budget Hearing is required by law. She explained that this is a special session in which a summary of the 2012-13 Budget will be given and the public will have a chance to ask questions. D. Lutz gave an overview of the proposed budget. The College has a charter millage rate of 1.5563 mills. The extra voted millage is .4864 for a total of 2.0427. That millage applied to the three county property tax-base of approximately \$11 billion generates about \$22.5 million in revenue for the College for operations. Combined with the tuition and fee revenue and the State revenue, the total revenue for the General Fund will be about \$65.5 million.
- PUBLIC COMMENTS** Board Chair Emrich called for any comments from the public.
- TRUSTEE COMMENTS** K. Higgs commented regarding the out of control costs at colleges and universities. He shared some comparison statistics regarding community college fees and costs from a website called Michigan Community College net. He also said that he watched a program that John Stossel hosted on CNN called "The College Scam." K. Higgs also read from an issue paper titled "Frequently Asked Questions About College Costs" by Robert C. Dickeson. K. Higgs said that in his opinion, Delta College is not doing enough to keep costs low for students.
- R. Emrich noted that K. Higgs was at the end of his allotted 5 minutes. He asked K. Higgs if he would like an additional 5 minutes. The additional time would have to be voted upon by the Board. K. Higgs asked for additional time. The Board voted 1 in favor, 7 opposed to allotting additional time. E. Wacksman voted in favor.
- R. E. Selby said that Mr. Higgs is making a case for why students should choose Delta College instead of universities where costs are out of control.
- J. MacKenzie said that he is insulted by Mr. Higgs' comments. Delta employees do the best job possible in being careful and conservative in the way in which the

College spends financial resources. He thanked the staff for how well they do their jobs.

D. Lutz said that Budget Cabinet spends a considerable amount of time looking at cost comparisons of tuition and fees from Michigan Community Colleges before making recommendations.

J. Goodnow said that when doing research it is important to critically think about the information and analyze the data. She said that in her opinion, the Delta College Board and Administration do an outstanding job of keeping Delta College affordable and accessible. The quality of our faculty and staff is outstanding. Students who come to Delta do not only find an affordable education. They find a quality education.

R. Emrich said that he agrees that the cost of higher education in our nation is out of control. However, in all the years that he has served on the Board, Delta College has been careful and conservative in use of financial resources. Costs at Delta College are not out of control. He noted that Mr. Higgs has personally cost the College thousands of dollars in lawsuits.

Hearing no further comments, Board Chair Emrich declared the Budget Hearing closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Myles-Sanders, Board Secretary

Andrea Ursuy, Recording Secretary