

**University of the District of Columbia
Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 18, 2014
5:00 p.m.**

Trustees Present:

Elaine Crider, Chair
Joseph Askew
Christopher Bell
Alejandra Castillo (via teleconference)
Kendrick Curry
James Dyke
Reginald Felton
Kenneth Isaacs
Gabriela Lemus (via teleconference)
James Lyons, ex-officio
Errol Schwartz
Jerome Shelton
Mary Thompson
George Vradenburg

Trustees Absent:

Staff Present:

Smruti Radkar, Acting General Counsel
Rachel Petty, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Michael Rogers, Vice President, Institutional Advancement
Patricia Thomas, Athletics Director
Beverly Franklin, Executive Secretary to the Board of Trustees

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Crider called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. The roll was called and a quorum was present.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Curry presented a resolution pertaining to the Master of Arts degree in Adult Education. He read a portion of the resolution into the record.

Motion:

UDC Resolution No. 2014-04: Approval of Masters of Arts Degree in Adult Education Program

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Official Code § 38-1202.06(3), the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish or approve policies and procedures governing admissions, curricula, programs, graduation, the awarding of degrees, and general policy for the components of the University; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to DCMR § 08-B308.1, new associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs may be added to the University curricula upon recommendation by the Academic Senate and the President and after approval by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Adult Education is a high- and growing-demand profession in our region and nationally; and

WHEREAS, a Master of Arts degree in Adult Education (MA) had been an existing approved program that has been inactive since 1996 and is being redesigned to include areas of concentration that will reflect emerging workforce and socio-economic labor market indicators for the District of Columbia, and extend the program's effectiveness to several disciplines, including Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), general education development (GED) and Special Education, in addition to adult basic education and literacy, and will meet the needs of the District of Columbia's public and corporate program leaders and administrators in several related human and organization development fields and the needs of students; and

WHEREAS, the revitalized academic program will be located in the Center for Urban Education (CUE), of the College of Arts & Sciences of the University, with whose mission and vision it aligns, and the MA in Adult Education will augment the University's current offering of a Graduate Certificate Program (Certificate Program); and

WHEREAS, the proposed curriculum has been designed to satisfy the accreditation requirements of the national accrediting bodies that oversee the certification and licensure of teachers of adults, where applicable; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes to establish a Master of Arts program in Adult Education, and the proposed program has been approved by all required levels of faculty and administration;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized to implement the Master of Arts in Adult Education Degree Program in accordance with the attached proposal, *provided that* the funds required to implement the program shall not be obligated until they have been identified and reprogrammed within existing University resources.

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business

Approval of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan

Chair Crider reported the Board of Trustees asked the Administration to provide additional information or revisions for certain items in the strategic plan. It was noted the Board would consider those items only.

Dr. Petty reported information was transmitted to the Board concerning the Special Education undergraduate degree. She noted the Administration continues to recommend termination of this degree. Dr. Petty also mentioned that she had removed a hold on any program the Board has not terminated. Mr. Rogers indicated the recommendation to terminate the Special Education undergraduate degree would be considered by the Board at a later date.

Chair Crider reported the Board requested additional information regarding the Administration's recommendation to eliminate intercollegiate athletics. Dr. Lyons informed the Board that a proposal with a number of opportunities (including facilities, fundraising, and student fees) has been submitted. The request for the elimination of intercollegiate athletics is no longer being considered.

Trustee Vradenburg raised specific questions regarding savings recommendations. Mr. Rogers briefly spoke about buyout costs and savings generated in terms of academic eliminations.

Trustee Vradenburg asked about the plans to double the athletic program revenue. There was a brief discussion regarding branding opportunities, the freezing of programs, and plans to assess current programs.

Trustee Askew spoke about other financial options such as the 801 North Capitol Street building. Dr. Lyons said the [budget] enhancement request contains a request for financial assistance from the city in terms of the 801 North Capitol Street building lease.

In response to a question from Chair Crider regarding the athletic program, Ms. Thomas reported the university would incur penalties in a move to Division III. Division III requires more sports. The division does not have athletic grants-in-aid.

Trustee Shelton expressed continued concern about the language regarding the community college. He felt the real issue is to ensure both institutions are on sound financial footing. Dr. Lyons distributed revised language [Goal 2] concerning the community college.

Trustee Askew asked if the twenty percent enrollment figure pertained to the student population or if it was related to each university unit. Mr. Rogers discussed the enrollment projections at the various levels.

Trustee Askew spoke about the vision statement. He recommended the following change: *“To be a student centered and demand driven university system that empowers”* its graduates to be critical and creative thinkers, problem solvers, effective communicators, and engaged, service-driven leaders in the workforce and beyond. A motion was made to incorporate the change in the vision statement. It was seconded and approved.

Chair Crider requested information regarding whether workforce development students are counted in the cost per FTE [Full Time Equivalent].

Chair Crider read a portion of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan resolution into the record.

Motion:

UDC Resolution No. 2014-05: Approval of the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06(2)(B), the Board of Trustees are charged with preparing and, from time to time, revising a long term plan for the development of the University, including the type and scope of programs offered and envisioned, as well as for the development, expansion, integration, coordination, and efficient use of the facilities, physical plant, curricula, and standards of public postsecondary education ; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees developed and implemented the “University of the District of Columbia Right-Sizing Plan Part I: Creating Pathways to Sustainability and Accountability” (commonly known as the “Right-Sizing Plan”) in October 2012 to reduce overall operational costs and bring the University’s budget into balance to address the University’s financial position, and respond to legislative requirements enacted by the District of Columbia government; and

WHEREAS, the University leadership, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, embarked on a formal re-visioning and planning process entitled “2020 Vision: A Roadmap for Renewal, Innovation, Success & Sustainability” (commonly known as the “Vision 2020” process) in March 2013 following the implementation of the Right-Sizing Plan; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the University’s various constituencies, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees closely examined the University’s operations and proposed recommendations for the direction of the institution between March and August 2013; and

WHEREAS, over 75 University representatives including faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and other stakeholders attended a two-day retreat in August 2013 to share ideas and recommendations for the future of the University including their proposals for the University’s Mission, Vision, Core Values, Goals, and Objectives; and

WHEREAS, the University’s Interim Provost, as part of the Vision 2020 process, developed and proposed an Academic Plan in collaboration with faculty, departmental chairs, and deans that was presented to the Faculty Senate in September 2013; and

WHEREAS, three public hearings were held in early November 2013 to solicit community feedback on the preliminary Vision 2020 recommendations to which more than 80 representatives from the University community provided their input; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Provost amended the proposed Academic Plan in response to certain issues raised at the three public hearings on the Vision 2020 recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate and the UDC Faculty Association/NEA provided a formal response to the proposed Academic Plan in November 2013 that expressed a difference of opinion about certain areas of the proposed Academic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the University’s administration, under the direction of the Interim President, developed a formal strategic plan based on the work of hundreds of members of the University community, recommendations from higher education experts, feedback from dozens of regional employers, views of the wider District of Columbia community, recognition of the importance of the District of Columbia’s economic development goals, and many additional considerations; and

WHEREAS, the formal strategic plan included a number of key areas for investment and growth; and

WHEREAS, the investments in the key areas identified in the formal strategic plan were primarily funded through cost savings associated with the elimination of selected academic programs and the discontinuation of the University's intercollegiate athletics program, as well as additional revenue from regular tuition rate increases, enrollment growth, and other sources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees, at a regularly scheduled meeting on November 19, 2013, considered the recommendations contained with the formal strategic plan and provided feedback to the University's Interim President; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees, at the November 19, 2013 meeting, requested the Interim President develop alternative funding options for the investment in key areas should the University elect to continue its existing intercollegiate athletics program; and

WHEREAS, the Interim President has presented these alternative funding sources to the Trustees via memorandum dated February 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees have reviewed the final Vision 2020 Strategic Plan as distributed to the Trustees by the Interim President on February 6, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees and the Interim President recognize that the final Vision 2020 Strategic Plan is a living document, and that additional research and information may impact the proposals in the final Vision 2020 Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees and the Interim President acknowledge that certain actions proposed in the final Vision 2020 Strategic Plan will require presentation to and subsequent approval by the Interim President, the Board of Trustees, and/or a relevant local or federal legislative, executive, or regulatory body; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan including all appendices, as attached;

FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Interim President to take any and all actions within the authority granted to him by the Board of Trustees to implement the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan as approved;

The resolution was unanimously approved.

Termination of Academic Programs

Chair Crider read a portion of the resolution into the record.

Motion:

UDC Resolution No. 2014-06: Termination of Academic Programs

WHEREAS, pursuant to D.C. Code §38-1202.06 (3), the Board of Trustees is authorized to establish or approve policies and procedures governing admissions, curricula, programs, graduation, the awarding of degrees, and general policy for the components of the University; and

WHEREAS, the University leadership, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, embarked on a formal re-visioning and planning process entitled "2020 Vision: A Roadmap for Renewal, Innovation, Success & Sustainability" (commonly known as the "Vision 2020" process) March 2013; and

WHEREAS, representatives from the University's various constituencies, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, and Trustees closely examined the University's operations and proposed recommendations for the direction of the institution between March and August 2013; and

WHEREAS, the University's Interim Provost, as part of the Vision 2020 process, developed and proposed an Academic Plan in collaboration with faculty, departmental chairs, and deans that was presented to the Faculty Senate in September 2013; and

WHEREAS, three public hearings were held in early November 2013 to solicit community feedback on the preliminary Vision 2020 recommendations, including the elimination of certain programs, and more than 80 representatives from the University community provided their input; and

WHEREAS, the Interim Provost amended the proposed Academic Plan in response to certain issues raised at the three public hearings on the Vision 2020 recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Association (NEA) provided a formal response to the proposed Academic Plan in November 2013; and

WHEREAS, the University, has completed a comprehensive analysis of its academic programs and has identified a number of academic programs that have low internal or external demand, do not produce consistent positive outcomes, are not current, require resources not presently available, or display other indicia of under-performance or lack of relevancy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the elimination of each of the academic programs identified below, provided that such eliminations are carried out by the President in a way that is consistent with University rules and regulations required for the discontinuation:

1. Graphic Communication Technology (AAS);
2. Sociology (BA)
3. Mass Media (BA)
4. Graphic Design (BA)
5. Physics (BS)
6. Math Statistics (MS)
7. History (BA)
8. Special Education (MA)
9. Marketing (BBA)
10. Finance (BBA)
11. Procurement and Public Contracting (BBA)
12. Economics (BA)
13. Management Information Systems (BBA)
14. Nutrition (Food Science) (BS)
15. Environmental Science (General) (BS)
16. Environmental Science (Water Resources) (BS)
17. Environmental Science (Urban Sustainability) (BS)

The resolution was approved. The following Trustees abstained from voting: Trustees Curry, Shelton and Lemus.

New Business

Dr. Lyons shared some information regarding a luncheon he attended (National Center for Families Learning). A young man (Ikisi Walker) brought greetings to an assembly of six hundred people. He grew up in the District of Columbia. Dr. Lyons said he is an impressive individual who plans to transfer to the University of the District of Columbia in the fall 2014.

Trustee Isaacs raised the issue of a separate law school graduation. There was some discussion and it was agreed that the decision to have a separate graduation for the law school was the President's decision.

Chair Crider thanked everyone for their work on the strategic plan. Dr. Lyons also thanked the trustees, faculty, staff, alumni and the community members who worked on the plan.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Secretary's Signature

Date