

**SPECIAL MEETING BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION RETREAT

Monday, June 4, 2018

Trustees Present: Jeff Crist, Dr. Marilyn Douglass, Leonard Hitz, Steven Martinez, Dr. Blake Wasinger, Terri Worf

Others Present: Debra Atkinson, Deputy Clerk
Dwight Craig Atkinson Jr., Community Member
Eugene Atkinson, Community Member
Maxine Atkinson, Community Member
Mitch Bergkamp, Community Member
Robin Bergkamp, Community Member
Holly Chandler, Reading Instructor
Emily Clouse, Vice President of Administrative Services
Mark Douglass, Community Member
Toni Douglass, Community Member
Rodney Dozier, GCCC Chief of Police
Amber Friend, *Telegram*
Randy Grisell, Attorney for Garden City Community College
Angie Haflich, *High Plains Public Radio*
Josh Harbour, *Garden City Telegram*
Sheena Hernandez, /English Instructor/Faculty Senate
Phil Hoke, Drama Instructor/Faculty Senate Representative
Tammy Hutcheson, Social Science Instructor
Micah Koksal, Counselor/ SGA Advisor
Aaron Kucharik, Community Member
Colin Lamb, Dean of Student Services
Barbara Larson, Community Member
Carol Lee, Community Member
Jacque Messenger, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness, Planning and Research
Kathy Nance, Community Member
Mark Nance, Community Member
Chuck Pfeifer, Dean of Workforce Technology
Ryan Ruda, Vice President for Instruction/Student Services
Melissa Sowers, Community Member
Dr. Herbert Swender, President
Phil Terpstra, Dean of Academics
Zach Worf, Community Member
Rachel Worf, Community Member

The Board of Trustees of Garden City Community College met in special session at 6:30 p.m. on June 4, 2018, in the Endowment Room of the Beth Tedrow Student Center. The purpose of the meeting was an update on the Higher Learning Commission reaffirmation process.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION REVIEW/DISCUSSION:

Ryan Ruda, Vice President for Instruction/Student Services and Chief Academic Officer, manages the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) process for accreditation. Mr. Ruda assured the board that, even though GCCC was on probation, GCCC remains fully accredited, can award federal financial aid, confer degrees and transfer coursework to other institutions.

Mr. Ruda gave an overview of where GCCC currently stands in the reaffirmation process and discussed the core components that were not met or met with concerns. Mr. Ruda also addressed the concerns noted regarding Dr. Swender and HLC that were stated in the May 8, faculty senate document. Ruda stated that President Swender has never issued a directive to not perform program reviews or collect data for HLC. Mr. Ruda expressed that HLC does not make bold statements regarding institutional leadership and who serves. Dr. Eric Martin represents HLC as its liaison to GCCC and that Mr. Ruda and Dr. Swender are the only two official contacts for HLC at GCCC. Mr. Ruda shared that GCCC has had no prior violations and is confident that we will be successful in its reaffirmation process.

No action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Debra J. Atkinson
Deputy Clerk

Herbert J. Swender Sr.
Secretary

Steve Martinez
Chair of the Board