Cisco College Board of Regents  
Regular Board Meeting  
April 13, 2015

The Cisco College Board of Regents met Monday, April 13, 2015, in a regularly scheduled meeting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting took place in the Board Room of the Regents’ House on the college main campus in Cisco, Texas. Officers in attendance were President Brad Kimbrough, Vice-President Ronnie Ledbetter, and Secretary Martha Davis. Also present were members Sarah Adams, Jerry Conring, Allen Masters, Joe Jarvis, Ricky J. Whatley and Charles Humphries. College administrators present were Bobby Smith, President; Dr. Jerry Dodson, Vice President for Student Services; Dr. Carol Dupree – Provost, Abilene Educational Center; Vice President of Instruction, Randal Golson; and Chief Financial Officer and Dean of Business Services, Audra Taylor. Elaine F Lee, recording secretary, was present.

Guests present at the meeting included Faculty Senate President and Women’s Volleyball Coach, Susan Moore, who brought apricot strudel for the Regents to enjoy following adjournment; and Division Chairs and Professors Debra Slaton, Developmental Studies and Education Division and Jerry Clemons, Mathematics, Business and Computer Science Division.

Regent Secretary, Martha Davis, offered an invocation.

President Brad Kimbrough called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

President Kimbrough asked for corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting of March 2, 2015. There were none voiced and he declared the minutes approved as presented.

Audra Taylor, Dean of Business Services, presented the Financial Statements. The meeting in March was so early in the month that February bank statements had been received at noon the day of the meeting and were not presented at the March meeting. The Financial Statement for the period ended February 28, 2015 was in the Agenda Packet, and the Financial Statement for the period ended March 31, 2015, was placed on the table in the position of each Regent’s chair. Dean Taylor stated that under the Cash & Investments column, Local Funds/Operating Funds are down $113,000, but up in other areas, such as President’s Reserve. Operating Funds go up and down, due in part to Tuition & Fees. Total State Funds are up over $100,000 due to funds received that were Grants given to students. At the current time Tuition & Fees are up $21,000 over the same period last year, with the Abilene Center being down and Cisco being up. CFO Taylor stated that through the remainder of the fiscal year, that figure will probably add another million dollars. Miscellaneous is up more than $100,000 due to insurance funds received because of the hail storm last June.

On the third page, Expenses are up over last year due to roof repairs because of the same June hail storm. Insurance claims are shown as Revenue when a check is received and an Expense when the work is done and the contractor is paid. Scholarships and Fellowships are dollars awarded to students. Auxiliary is down due to fewer Expenses in the Bookstore and Cafeteria. The Surplus currently stands at $2 million dollars – there are a few bookkeeping adjustments to be made – so it will be down a little when those are completed.

College President, Bobby Smith, gave a Fundraising Report. A total of almost $14,000 was received since the last report, with $3300 coming from Alumni and Friends and $2550 of that amount coming from Sponsors as sponsorships for several events, including Wrangler Day at the Abilene Center. An additional $500 was given from Cain Electric toward the smoker/grill project. The College now has its
own food cooker and it will be used preparing food for Ranch Day and other events, and for other situations. The Class of 1947 added an additional $250 to their Scholarship Fund. Company/Cisco College matching scholarships totaled $7000 from First Financial Bank to pay tuition for their employee courses offered at the Abilene Center. An additional $3500 was given for Athletic Fundraisers. President Smith completed his update by adding that Dr. Carol Dupree is on the agenda to give a report regarding a recent gift to the Food for Thought Pantry on the Abilene campus.

Dr. Jerry Dodson reported that registration for May Term, Summer I and Summer II opened the day of the board meeting and that Fall registration opens April 27. He stated that he will continue giving updates throughout the summer whenever updated information begins. The information regarding enrollment evolved into a discussion regarding the related subjects of recruitment and retention and it was stated that Cisco does a lot through the College campuses. Almost 800 contact names and addresses have been collected in a database as by Shae White when she attends college days and college fairs. It was reported that the recent Ag Career Development event on campus was attended by 484 students and 47 schools. It resulted in several recruits for rodeo and one for volleyball. It is planned that the May meeting will include a report on rodeo recruitment by Don Eddleman, the rodeo coach/ag instructor. In answer to the question by one Regent regarding a small memento given to attendees, he was assured that the Ag students received a lanyard as had been suggested at a previous meeting.

CFO and Dean of Business Services, Audra Taylor, gave a Quarterly Investment Summary for the period ending February 28, 2015. The top page is a summary of all the investments held by the College. There are 5 CDs, including a new one at First National Bank, McGregor. Following an inquiry about higher rates of return being advertised, Dean Taylor stated that investments, according to the Public Policy Investment Act, must be made with a financial institution whose home offices or main bank is located within the state of Texas. She continued that the best rate of return is through First Financial and it is comparable to rates of other Texas institutions with whom she made contact.

President Smith offered a bit of information on the upcoming graduation. It is Friday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Harrell Fine Arts Auditorium. Nursing is Thursday, May 14 (not May 21 as stated in a handout regarding spring events!) at First Baptist Church in downtown Abilene. Finally, there is no Certificate Ceremony scheduled this year as few certificate candidates signed indicating their desire to walk in a ceremony. Lastly, as has taken place in recent years following the Certificate Ceremony, there will be no dinner for board members due to College budget constraints.

The Legislative Session is ongoing, President Smith reminded board members, and said Cisco College really doesn't know much yet. Appropriations appear to be about the same as the last two years, but [community college presidents' organization] is still working to get an increase. A few other related items include a bill dealing with tax reform. The bill is to set the maximum increase for ad valorem taxes to 6% instead of the 8% where it has been "forever." As far as handguns, who knows what [open carry? campus carry?] will pass or not? But if either passes, there is a lobbying push to leave it to the local governing board to decide. There is also a bill specifically relating to Blinn College to force Blinn to spend [tax] dollars in Bryan that are collected in Bryan. When a Regent inquired if something like that could have an impact on Cisco College, it was replied that it could.

There is a memo in the agenda packet with a recommendation to increase tuition $3.00 per hour for the 2015-2016 college year. President Bobby Smith stated that the increase will make out-of-district classes in Cisco $118 per semester credit hour and out-of-district classes in Abilene and online classes $133 per semester credit hour. Dual credit courses will remain $204 per course. Those figures will put Cisco about in the middle as far as [community college tuition] rates across the state. Cisco did not want to put too much pressure on our students, so is trying to keep the rates as low as possible. Board
President Kimbrough reminded the Regents that other districts will be increasing their rates also, and some increases will be quite a bit more. He then called for a motion and Regents Masters and Adams moved and seconded, respectively, to approve the $3.00 increase as presented. Motion carried 8 – 0.

Dr. Carol Dupree – Provost at the Abilene Educational Center reported that the Food for Thought Food Pantry at AEC is going well and that a group of telephone pioneers with AT&T has somewhat adopted the food pantry. AT&T has given Food for Thought a $10,000 grant to be spent by December 31. More usage at the food pantry has required more hours of operation – and they are currently looking for more volunteers. Dr. Dupree stated that the pantry is currently in good shape and 10 – 12 students come in for food when it is open. When a board member inquired regarding the availability of diapers and baby formula, Dr. Dupree said they do have those items available for student moms and their babies. She said during in the summer semesters this year they would also schedule hours of operation.

President Smith updated the board members regarding the dual credit program and told them there were some things going on with dual credit offerings that are beyond the control of the College. He continued that not just Cisco, but community colleges around the state are having the same difficulties. Angelo State University came into the Wylie Independent School District and the Abilene Independent School District proposing dual credit classes at no cost for the first two courses and student takes and also the payment of a $2000 incentive to the ISD with $1500 for the teacher and $500 for the district. Angelo is able to offer such a program because of their large Carr Foundation. They want to only provide dual credit in public schools where there are teachers who have the credentials to offer the college level courses. Currently there about 250 dual credit students in Wylie ISD. Cisco will still provide some academic courses in Wylie ISD as Cisco has the credentialed instructors. Texas Woman’s University, the University of Texas – Permian Basin in Odessa and UT – Arlington have done the same thing. ASU is in the Howard College service area and has a Howard campus in San Angelo. Currently there are no service area constraints on universities; however, community colleges have traditionally approached other colleges and schools of higher education and asked permission to offer a course or classes in the area in which the school is located.

President Smith continued and reminded board members regarding the resignation of the Director of Dual Credit Programs, Grant Greenwood, who returned to Hardin-Simmons. He took a position that looked promising as far as advancement of his career. President Smith stated that the College is trying to find a replacement for Mr. Greenwood as soon as possible.

The Agenda Packet contains information and a recommendation from the Nursing Programs Division for a new position, to be under the supervision of Dr. Pearl Merritt. The Nursing Retention Counselor is very important to the Cisco program because this level of nursing is very difficult. Additionally, in order to be a nurse, the students must pass the exam. The Retention Counselor will be responsible for 110 to 120 nursing students. The Nursing Programs have been awarded a grant totaling nearly $600,000 and it is to be spent by 2018, but the list of eligible grant money expenditures is very restrictive. However, the salary of a retention counselor qualifies as an eligible expense and grant monies would be used in that manner. It is planned that the counselor would have the same salary as a nursing instructor. Regent Joe Jarvis moved and Ricky Whatley seconded to authorize the new position paid with grant funds, as presented. Motion passed 8 – 0.

Neither the Board President, nor College President nor any of the board members expressed the need for a Closed Meeting. President Kimbrough moved to the Personnel Recommendations item on the board agenda.
College President, Bobby Smith, stated there was a single resignation from Kenna Barnes, a library media specialist at the Abilene Center. There were no retirements and no terminations. There were also no part-time employees to recommend. Recommendations for full-time positions included:

- Makenzie Bingham as Director of Libraries. Ms. Bingham’s husband is already employed at TxDot in Baird and they plan to live in Clyde. They will move from Big Sandy in East Texas. She is very outgoing and will begin her duties May 1 for both campuses.
- Sydni Rabb is recommended for employment as the Administrative Assistant to Randy Golson, the Vice President of Instruction. She is scheduled to begin employment later in the week.
- Linda Sellers is recommended to assume the vacated position of Director of Financial Aid. She has been the Assistant in that office for the past 13 years.
- Phyllis Baird is recommended as the replacement, finally, for Jackie Wright in the Maintenance/Custodial section. Ms. Wright, earlier in the semester, became the evening attendant in the snack bar.
- Erica Seabourn is recommended for the Assistant to the Dean of Students/Athletic Director and the Key Coordinator for the Cisco Campus. She left to work in Abilene at ACU, but decided to seek employment in this area because of the driving involved. She began April 1.

Regent Joe Jarvis moved and Ricky Whatley seconded to approve the personnel recommendations as presented. Motion carried 8 – 0.

Faculty Senate Representative, Coach Susan Moore, related a scenario that occurred the day Ag students were on campus. She saw a group and introduced herself and asked their school or hometown. They were from Millsap and the bus driver told her he had a daughter who played volleyball when she mentioned she was the volleyball coach. As it happened, the daughter is a good volleyball player and was recruited to play for Cisco, and Coach Moore possibly recruited another Millsap student as the manager.

- The Faculty President had challenged the faculty and staff at the last Faculty Senate meeting to get 5 people interested in attending Cisco. She reiterated that being friendly goes a long way in getting people interested, as shown by the story she used as illustration above.
- Because of the Food Pantry and the volunteer time it involves (keeping it open, stocking food items, recording student IDs, shopping for food, etc.), Faculty Senate recommended that there be a permanent Food Pantry Committee formed and members appointed for next year.
- Several volunteers will adopt flower beds for planting, especially before the graduation ceremonies. The campus needs to look nice for graduates and families. Volunteers mentioned included Diane Carlile, Coach Moore herself, and Debbie Baker, to mention only three of them.
- There was a discussion about the need at the Abilene campus for advising by volunteer faculty members for the fall semester. A call was made for volunteers to help with advising for one day during the summer.

In his Remarks by the President, President Smith mentioned (1) the AAUW (American Association of University Women) luncheon in Abilene earlier in the day honoring 5 women, including Dr. Pearl Merritt. He said 2 of the 5 honorees held degrees from Cisco College or Cisco Junior College – Dr. Merritt and the second was Marti Anderson. The AAUW also presented 6 scholarships and 3 of the 6 recipients were named as either currently or previously attending Cisco College. Dr. Dupree was an AAUW honoree in 2010. Sarah Adams inquired about any publicity regarding the luncheon. (2) The Jazz Band will present a concert April 23, 7:00 p.m. in Harrell Fine Arts Auditorium. (3) Ranch Day is tomorrow, April 14, and April 21 is Wrangler Day, the AEC version of Ranch Day, but without the arena activities. (4) April 24 is the Belles Dance Recital and (5) the Folk Life Festival is April 25 and 26. (6) April 27 the Concert Band is in concert, also in Harrell Fine Arts Auditorium. (7) May 8 is Graduation in the Auditorium and the Regents’ Reception in the home of Beverly Smith. President Smith also plans to be present. (8) May 14 is Nursing Graduation at First Baptist Church in downtown Abilene, NOT the
21st as shown on a handout of spring events. (9) Cisco has purchased a table of 10 at the Meals on Wheels 40th Anniversary Dinner with Dr. Ben Carson as the speaker. (10) June 6 is the CCATT Summer Conference in San Antonio. The hotel is on the Riverwalk. It is an all-day conference. (11) Regent Adams mentioned that she appreciated the Spring Events handout sheet. Regents were reminded to check the College home page on the website for more information.

Board members had a few remarks and questions. In answer to a question regarding SACS, it was stated that SACS preparations are on track and that Heather Hicks had no report to offer at the current meeting. Regent Ledbetter mentioned recruiting and stated that the Ag Department was doing okay, as was Nursing, but that Auto Mechanics and the Drama Departments need help.

The next board meeting is May 11, 2015.

President Kimbrough entertained a motion to adjourn. Regents Humphries and Adams obliged with a motion and second, respectively. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8 40 p.m.

Minutes presented and approved the 11th day of May, 2015 at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Cisco College Board of Regents.

Martha Davis, Secretary
Board of Regents
Cisco College

Brad Kimbrough, President
Board of Regents
Cisco College