

**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD**

SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 27, 2022



**COCONINO COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
DISTRICT GOVERNING BOARD
MAY 27, 2022**

A Special Meeting of the Coconino Community College District Governing Board was held via Zoom. Board Chair, Dr. Nat White, called the meeting to order at 9:14 am.

PRESENT: Eric Eikenberry
 Patricia Garcia
 Patrick Hurley
 Joseph R. Smith
 Nat White

ABSENT: None

Also Present: Dr. Jami Van Ess and Ms. Kirsten Mead

Reports, summaries, background material, and other documents referred to in these minutes can be found in the May 27, 2022 documents file.

Follow Up

- None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Patricia Garcia moved to approve the agenda and Mr. Joseph R. Smith seconded the motion. The agenda was approved as presented (Ms. Garcia, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Eikenberry, Mr. Smith, and Dr. White voting in favor).

A. ACCT Search Consultant Options Discussion

Dr. Nat White noted that since the property tax reset was passed it is time to start the presidential search. In April 2022, the Board received two search proposals. The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), which specializes in presidential searches, was selected because the other proposal was far too expensive, coming in nearly three times as much as the ACCT proposal. The Board received six search consultant options from ACCT. In May 2022, the Board interviewed Dr. Bill Holda and Dr. Bruce Leslie (separately). While the Board had hoped to interview additional ACCT candidates for search consultants, ACCT had only one additional resume to share. Dr. White stated it is time to pick a consultant, as the presidential search could take six months or more.

Dr. White opened the floor to discuss selecting the search consultant between the two presented (Dr. Bill Holda and Dr. Bruce Leslie). Discussion points included:

- In Dr. White’s opinion, Dr. Holda has the credentials and ability to assist in the presidential search. Dr. White spoke with Ms. Julie Golder from ACCT, who indicated that Dr. Holda is the most experienced of their consultants. Dr. White was impressed that Dr. Holda researched the

College prior to the interview and was quite knowledgeable. Dr. Holda has vast experience with rural Colleges, which is important for the presidential search.

- Ms. Patricia Garcia and Mr. Patrick Hurley had the opportunity to speak with former ACCT Chair Dr. Roberto Zárate prior to today's meeting. Dr. Zárate told them that both candidates are very qualified to lead the College's presidential search. Dr. Zárate believes that Dr. Leslie is more data-driven, which the College needs. Dr. Leslie is more urban but has been excellent at working with Boards and has national resources. Dr. Holda has more rural experience.
- Which of the two consultants suits the needs of the College best?
- Which candidate has more diversity experience?
- Which candidate has more rural college experience?
- Which candidate would be more engaged in the presidential search process? What type of involvement does the Board want?
- Is there an urgency to hiring a new president or can the Board take their time to make sure they select the right candidate?

Ms. Garcia does not see a need for urgency with the presidential search process. The Board should take thoughtful and deliberate actions. Given that these are the only two candidates to choose from, Ms. Garcia chooses Dr. Leslie.

Mr. Smith agrees with Ms. Garcia that the Board should slow down. He is unimpressed with ACCT's response to requesting additional candidates to interview and is disappointed that he could not interview more candidates.

Mr. Hurley spoke about his experience consulting as a construction manager. When Mr. Hurley puts his resume out for consideration and he's interviewed, they have interviewed his company, not his resume. Mr. Hurley is not unhappy with the response from ACCT regarding additional candidates. Mr. Hurley agrees that the Board must take time with the consultant chosen. Once the consultant is chosen, the next task is to choose an interim president, as the Board cannot guarantee that a president will be chosen by September 2022.

Dr. White explained that selecting a search consultant gets the process started. It does not rush the process. This is what ACCT specializes in and Dr. White believes Dr. Holda is the best search consultant for the College.

Mr. Smith is convinced both candidates would do a great job for the College.

Ms. Garcia expressed her concern that if Dr. Holda is chosen she will be going into this search believing that she will not be listened to.

Mr. Hurley let the Board know that the Action Item was not written correctly. There should be two points to it:

1. Choose a consulting firm
2. Choose a search consultant

Dr. Jami Van Ess confirmed that the Action Item can be split into these two steps.

B. ACTION ITEM – Dr. Jami Van Ess

Selection of ACCT Search Consultant to the District Governing Board to provide comprehensive search services in the search for a new president and approval of the ACCT Consultant Firm Agreement

Coconino Community College has successfully contracted with the Association of Community College Trustees Consulting Firm (ACCT) in the past to conduct comprehensive search services for a new President. Because of the previous success with a search consultant recommended by ACCT, the District Governing Board plans to work with an ACCT search consultant to conduct the upcoming search for a new President. The Board has recently interviewed search consultant candidates recommended by ACCT and selected the following individual: Dr. Bill Holda.

Relation to Policy and Procedure or Strategic Plan or Board Priorities and Goals:

Policy 22-00 states that “The District Governing Board mission is to govern the College on behalf of Coconino County Citizens by 1. Employing, evaluating, and supporting the College President.”

Funding Source and Financial Implications (past, present, or future):

The ACCT Consultant Firm Agreement for the sum of \$37,500 plus search consultant travel expenses agrees to provide search services in the search for a new president and assist with finding an Interim President to serve Coconino Community College. The funding will be taken out of the District Governing Board’s Budget as appropriate.

Recommended Action for the Board:

It is my recommendation that the District Governing Board approve a search consultant recommended by ACCT and direct the President to sign the ACCT Consultant Firm Agreement for comprehensive search consultant services.

Dr. Nat White made a motion to use ACCT as the search firm. Mr. Patrick Hurly seconded the motion. Four in favor (Mr. Eikenberry, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Smith, and Mr. White). One opposed (Ms. Garcia). The motion carries with ACCT selected as the search firm.

Dr. Nat White made a motion that the presidential search consultant will be Dr. Bill Holda. Mr. Eric Eikenberry seconded the motion. Four in favor (Mr. Eikenberry, Mr. Hurley, Mr. Smith, and Mr. White). One opposed (Ms. Garcia). Motion carries with Dr. Bill Holda being selected as the search consultant for the College’s President search.

MEETING EVALUATION

Dr. White thanked the Board for the discussion and sensitivity, thoughts, and experiences and is confident this is the right direction to find a president.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, Chair White adjourned the meeting at 10:04 am.

MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Ms. Kirsten Mead
Board Recorder

ATTEST and APPROVED:

Mr. Joseph R. Smith
Vice Chair/Secretary of the Board

Dr. Nat White
Board Chair