CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL
Chairman Mark Stephens called the Retreat of the Board of Trustees to order in the Boardroom at 9:58 p.m. This is a continuation of the Board Retreat from December 16, 2014. The following roll call was taken.

Present: Ms. Alexis Gonzalez, Mr. Glover Johnson, Ms. Donna Peluso, Mrs. Elizabeth Potter, Mr. Glenn Stam, Mr. Mark Stephens.

Absent: Ms. Vanessa Moritz, Ms. Diane Viverito.

Mr. Stephens noted that Ms. Viverito is vacationing and Ms. Moritz extends her apologies for not being able to attend.

COMMENTS ON THIS AGENDA
None.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
None.

BOARD SELF-EVALUATION
Chairman Stephens reviewed the typical process for the Board’s annual self-evaluation, which has been to conduct the assessment as a discussion in a public meeting, using Board Policy 1166. After the 2013 Higher Learning Commission accreditation visit, the HLC recommended that the Board obtain expert advice on the role of a Board and its self-evaluation, and Mr. Stephens noted that Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association Mike Monaghan has been assisting the Board since then, and is present tonight. Mr. Monaghan has spoken with the college’s consultant, Dr. Patricia Granados, in preparation for tonight’s meeting.

Mr. Stephens further commented that he is not overly pleased with the current Board Evaluation policy and will ask Mr. Monaghan how to make this a more effective exercise. He stated that the Board typically works in harmony because of a good committee structure and committee membership that prepares Trustees, and the Board understands it should function in a way that it doesn’t interfere with people running the college. In addition, the Board recognizes that it is the liaison between the school and the district residents and that being responsible with tax dollars is a top priority.

With that as background, Mr. Stephens suggested that Mr. Monaghan talk about his thoughts on a Board Self-Assessment now, and then meet with Consultant Granados to revise the assessment instrument to make it a more beneficial process, with the actual assessment taking place at a later date. He introduced Mr. Monaghan and turned the meeting over to him.

Mr. Monaghan concurred with the suggested process and agreed to work with Dr. Granados to design an instrument for this Board and this Board’s circumstances. He suggested that he
return after elections in April, after new Board members have time to acclimate, and recommended the Board having a stand-alone meeting, dedicating 3-4 hours, perhaps over lunch, to address the new instrument and discuss it, and then come back for a 45 minute self-assessment.

Mr. Monaghan reviewed the following points he believes a Board should ponder and discuss in self-assessment:

1. Our board has a good feel for what the residents, students, and taxpayers of our district expect and want from the college.
2. The board members know what the board is responsible for and what should be delegated to the college staff.
3. All trustees understand that the board’s powers originate from the board acting as a unit of local government. No single board member has any powers.
4. Board members allow free expression of ideas. I think other board members try to hear what I am saying. No board member insists on getting his/her own way.
5. We work through the board chair when making special requests, preparation of the meeting agenda, or requesting information. We provide regular feedback to the board chair.
6. When we have to keep something confidential, we do.
7. Our board uses its time efficiently. The current board meeting format works well for us (meeting start time, duration, agendas, etc.).
8. Our board members have a thorough understanding of the college budget and the policy the annual budget defines.
9. Our board receives an executive summary of the issues contained in the board packet in addition to detailed reports.
10. Our board has clearly told the president of the college what counts as success. As a board, we hold the president accountable by comparing her achievements to pre-stated goals.
11. We get good advice from our attorney, architect, and auditor.
12. If you could change anything with our board, what would it be?

Trustees commented on some of these points, including the realization that everyone has only one vote on the Board, and that Trustees should not have their own agenda. Regarding confidentiality, Trustee comment was that this is understood from experience, and also because the Chairman has articulated boardsmanship expectations very clearly. Trustees expressed their confidence in administration, good financial stewardship at the college, the transparency they uphold, the quality of information and advice they receive, and the diversity of the Board.

Items that could be added to a self-evaluation are identifying the Board’s strengths and in what areas improvement is needed. Also worth exploring is how the Board is working with the Foundation. Mr. Monaghan will work with Dr. Granados and provide recommendations for an amended Board Policy 1166 with an evaluation instrument to the Board through the
Office of the President. It is expected that the policy will be in place so that Mr. Monaghan can return in the middle of summer to assist with the Board’s self-evaluation.

ADJOURNMENT
A motion was made by Ms. Peluso to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Stephens. Voice vote carried the motion unanimously. Chairman Stephens adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.

Submitted by: Mark R. Stephens
Board Chairman

Diane Viverito
Board Secretary

Susan Page
Susan Page, Recording Secretary