

VIRGINIA WESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
PRESIDENTIAL SELECTION SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
April 23, 2001

The Virginia Western Community College Board met on Monday, April 23, 2001, at noon in the President's Conference Room in Fishburn Hall on the North Campus of the College. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the presidential candidate interviews and to determine whether any of the candidates should succeed Dr. Downs, who will be retiring effective July 1, 2001.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. James Arend
Dr. Charles Downs, Executive Secretary
Mr. Stan Lanford, Chair
Ms. Harriet Lewis
Mr. Geoffrey Ottaway
Mr. Richard Shoemaker
Ms. Audrey Wheaton
Mr. Bill Wilcher

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Margaret Grayson
Mr. George Logan
Mr. David Spigle
Mr. Michael F. Urbanski

STAFF PRESENT: Ms. Brenda Shepherd, Secretary

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. J. Andrew Archer, Chair, Administrative Interview Committee
Ms. Faith Janey, Chair, Staff Interview Committee
Ms. Shirl Lamanca, Chair, Student/Alumni Committee
Mr. Jim Poythress, Chair, Faculty Interview Committee

The meeting began at noon with an informal lunch and was followed by each interview committee chair's report of strengths and weakness of the three candidates interviewed for the position of president of VWCC (Dr. Eric McKeithan, Dr. Vicky Smith, and Dr. Robert Sandel).

Following the committee reports, the chairs were excused, and Mr. Lanford called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m. The board members who participated in the interviews were Mr. Arend, Mr. Lanford, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Shoemaker, and Mr. Wilcher. Each member provided a summary of what they perceived as strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. Following a discussion of their perceptions and taking into consideration the reports of the campus interview committees, the following motion was made.

A motion was made by Mr. Arend and seconded by Mr. Shoemaker that:

Based on the reports provided by the interview committees and the interviews of the candidates by the Board members, the Local Board unanimously recommends that Dr. Robert H. Sandel be offered the position of president of Virginia Western Community College to succeed Dr. Charles Downs, whose retirement will be effective July 1, 2001. Barring his acceptance, the Local Board recommends that neither of the two other candidates be offered the position and that the recruitment process begin again.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Lewis noted that it is important that the board members share with the president matters that they feel important to the college—in no way to be a micromanaging body, but to let the president know what the Board feels is important to the life and business of the college. The group expressed appreciation to Mr. Landford for his good leadership throughout this process. Mr. Arend recommended that a letter be written to the members of the interview committees commending them for the good job they did and expressing thanks for the responsible way in which they approached their charge in this selection process.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

17 May 2001
Date

Charles L. Downs
Charles L. Downs