

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Board divided on how to replace Krause

Former trustee Joe Range says he'll take the spot

July 15, 2013

BY JOSE QUINTERO

STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE — When Michael Krause resigned as vice president of the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees, he left the board with the task of filling his seat in addition to finding an interim superintendent/president.

So far, the board members can't agree on how the new trustee should be selected.

According to a timeline proposal from board President Lorrie Denson, the Board of Trustees would replace Krause's position by interviewing applicants and appointing the new member during a special meeting on Aug. 8 — the same way the board has appointed trustees in the past.

Another option is a costly special election.

Trustee Dennis Henderson is opposed to those methods because he feels the board can easily solve the issue by calling on a candidate who was runner-up in the previous election: former trustee Joe Range.

"We have a fine member who didn't get re-elected," Henderson said. "He knows how the board runs. He went through all this training and finally straightened out to the point where he knew exactly what he was doing. To put him back on the board would be the easiest and best way to do it. We wouldn't be going out and spending all kinds of money, money that is tight right now, because both of the other ways cost money. All we have to do is call Range and ask if he wants to be on the board."

Trustee John Pinkerton said he's also opposed to Denson's proposal. During the meeting, Pinkerton said he would like to give some input on what process the board is going to follow.

"The last three times the college has appointed a replacement trustee, the board has appointed that way," Denson said in an interview after the meeting. "That's the same way Pinkerton tried to get on, and (Joseph W.) Brady did get on board that way. I don't know why Pinkerton was against it. It was reviewed, so he knew the procedure. I don't know why he acted as if it was a shock."

Since the board could not come to an agreement at last week's meeting, Denson will have to organize a special meeting to discuss the appointment.

Brady said he had previously heard Range had an interest in coming back to the Board of Trustees, and Brady said he recently told Range he would not support his return to the board.

"Although Range gave me the opportunity and appointed me as a trustee, I had to tell him two weeks ago that I thought it was time for a change," Brady said. "I told him I could not support his candidacy and I felt bad. But as a trustee, I have to do what is in the best interest of our 12,000 students, not what is politically beneficial for me. That's not why we are elected as trustees."

The college faces troubles now partly because of bad decisions made by the prior board, Brady said. He pointed out that Range was on the board during the time VVC was plagued with accreditation issues.

Pinkerton said he doesn't see why there would be any controversy over appointing Range. Pinkerton said if Range was to come back, there would be no learning curve and Range has continued his involvement with the VVC Foundation.

Range said he would serve on the board if asked.

“I could fit back into that seat without any problem at all,” Range said. “I know all the players. I know all of them, I know how they feel about different issues. But this is about the students, this really isn’t about the board. The board needs to get it back together. There’s a lot of issues facing the board. There’s a lot of things that need to be worked on.”

Jose Quintero can be reached at 760-951-6232 or JQuintero@VVDailyPress.com .