

Community, faculty voice concern in VVC appointment timing

Many show support for Acting President Peter Allan

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VICTORVILLE • Forty-six days away from Victor Valley College's next accreditation report deadline, several faculty and community members voiced concern about the Board of Trustees' timing in attempting to appoint a new interim president/superintendent.

Many at a special meeting on Thursday said they supported the college's current Acting President Peter Allan, who was a long-time professor and two-time administrator at the school.

"I'm here once again to ask the board to do what is in the best interest of the college," said VVC Faculty Association President Lisa Ellis. "VVC needs continuity; no, (Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges) demands continuity. VVC needs an interim president who is not only familiar with accreditation, but someone who is familiar with the accreditation issues at VVC."

Ellis continued to say the college needs someone who understudies the progress they've made and what work still needs to be done.

"For the next nine months we need Peter Allan," Ellis said.

The college's Academic Senate, represented by Tracy Davis, also declared its formal support for Allan. Davis said it was imperative that the college's administration remain stable while it prepares for its October accreditation report and the ACCJC's next visit.

"He is the former accreditation liaison, and is frankly one of the most qualified and knowledgeable administrators we have in accreditation," Davis said. "Continuing with Mr. Allan in his role as interim superintendent will demonstrate to ACCJC that we are stable, evolving and moving forward."

Some opponents of Allan said they were concerned about the school's finances and specifically that Allan had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to compensate full-time faculty for completing required accreditation assessment reports. Part-time faculty were upset that they were not included in the MOU.

That memorandum is currently being negotiated to address compensating both faculty groups, Allan said.

Denson used the gavel several times as community member Larry Hoover was "out of order" in his comments on Wednesday, she said.

"The fact that full-time instructors have gone this long without incorporating student learning outcomes and regular program assessments is evidence that for many years the Board of Trustees has been derelict in completing their fiduciary responsibilities, in my opinion," said Hoover, a community member. "The college needs a board of trustees who will bring in the fire department captain who will stop the store from burning down from overspending."

The board held two special meetings on Wednesday and Thursday in which it met in closed session to interview six candidates for the interim president/superintendent position. Allan has been the acting president since May 12, after former President Christopher O'Hearn stepped down. He said he would not apply for the permanent position because he plans to retire, but would stay on as the interim "as long as the board will have him."

Board members John Pinkerton and Dennis Henderson were both absent at Thursday's meeting. Henderson was celebrating his wedding anniversary and Pinkerton had a prior engagement, VVC Board President Lorrie Denson said. She said the board would not make a final decision without all of the members present.

The board will continue its discussion on Sept. 10 in another closed session, Denson said.

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