

Search for new president underway

Nineteen to join selection committee

January 16, 2014

BY BROOKE SELF

STAFF WRITER

VICTORVILLE * Eight college presidents in the past 12 years is not a good track record, Victor Valley College Trustee Joseph W. Brady said Tuesday evening as the board discussed forming the committee to select its new president/superintendent.

The board of trustees, with input from a private consultation group along with union and faculty leaders, scrutinized how many people and what employee groups would be invited as representatives on the search committee.

“The most important thing we do here is to hire our president/superintendent,” Brady said during the meeting. “When I first became a trustee and went to a workshop, they drilled that into our heads. I also think our No. 1 job as a board is that we pick the (search) committee.”

Peter Allan, who is VVC’s acting president, said previously he is hoping the district will have a replacement for him by July 1. On Tuesday, after about 40 minutes of feedback from union groups, public comments and board discussion, the trustees decided on 19 slots.

The committee will include VVC’s new human resources director; two people from the full-time faculty union California Teachers Association; two from the part-time faculty union American Federation of Teachers; two from the classified employees union California School Employees Association; two from the faculty’s Academic Senate; three community members; two people from the VVC Foundation; two student representatives; and three managers from each of the employee groups.

“I think what we’ve done in the past has not worked, and the numbers truly prove it,” Brady said. “I think we really need to look at ourselves and make a change, and do what we need to. This is going to be a tough year.”

The CTA ended up with two seats after CTA President Lisa Ellis argued that the union should have more than one representative. But AFT President John Reid contended that the CTA would also be represented by the two Academic Senate seats.

“I have to say ‘bull’ to that because all 117-plus full-time faculty members are CTA members, but less than half of 429 parttime faculty are AFT members,” Reid said in a public comment.

Reid said the CTA is over-represented in the Academic Senate with 22 votes, while part-time faculty has just two votes

— only one of whom is an AFT member.

“The last time I think anyone in the U.S. had representation like this was when we had 13 colonies,” Reid said. “That was the type of representation we got from England.”

The contract for the outside consulting group who will assist with the search, Professional Personnel Leasing, Inc. was also approved at Tuesday’s meeting. The firm will be paid \$26,000 to help the college in seeking out worthy candidates and vetting their credentials, according to board documents.

The new search committee is expected to begin meeting in February, PPL consultant Lisa Sugimoto said. The college will take applications for the three community members to join the search committee online, according to an email message from Allan.

Brooke Self may be reached at 760-951-6232 or BSelf@VVDailyPress.com . You can also follow her on Twitter at [@BrookeSelf](https://twitter.com/BrookeSelf).