

VICTOR VALLEY COLLEGE

Trustees to try again to fill vacancy

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VICTORVILLE * Anyone with interest in becoming a Victor Valley College board of trustee could potentially be voted into a vacant position at a special meeting scheduled for Aug. 8.

After several failed attempts to come together to fill the vacant board of trustee position, Board of Trustees President Lorrie Denson has scheduled another special meeting.

Denson said because the board has not implemented Administrative Procedure 2110, she is suggesting the process in hopes of avoiding ordering a special election that will cost the college more than \$100,000. According to Denson, Administrative Procedure 2110 is designed to solicit applications for the provisional appointment and assure ample publicity to, and information for, prospective candidates.

The board has used the same process when appointing a trustee to fill a vacancy, most recently Trustee Joseph W. Brady in 2011.

Denson and Brady say they believe interviewing applicants is the best choice for the college, while trustees Dennis Henderson and John Pinkerton have said appointing former trustee Joe Range is in the college's best interest.

The conflicting opinions have created a split board.

"It could still be a 2-2 division after this meeting because trustee Pinkerton is convinced that former trustee Range is the best candidate," Denson said. "I tried to share with Pinkerton that Range may possibly be the best candidate out there, but we don't know that. I would rather do due diligence and look at everyone who may be qualified for the position before we make a decision."

Pinkerton said he feels he and Henderson are the only trustees are asked to compromise and "give an inch." He does not believe Denson and Brady are willing to compromise either.

Henderson declined to comment on any issue prior to the special meeting next week.

"I like Range, he's kind of balanced and I think we need that right now," Pinkerton said. "If I was looking for my political soul mate, it wouldn't be Joe Range. We just have a common thread and it's that we would like to see this college get through this accreditation. I think there is enough that we have in common, not to mention we just had 31,000 people that supported him in the last election."

Pinkerton said to overlook the votes from the last election would be wrong because he believes in principles.

"In a matter as large as this, I would prefer to have safety in numbers. Safety in letting a large number of people decide who they would like to represent them as opposed to three of us," Pinkerton said.

Brady said he doesn't see exactly what there is to compromise because this is the same procedure that was approved by a board of trustees that included Henderson and Range in 2005 and 2009. Brady said the only reason somebody would want to scrap the previous board-approved process would be to change the outcome for a personal favorite candidate. "I acknowledge Range received 31,167 votes in the last election but there were 91,414 votes that were against him," Brady said. "What people are not saying is how many votes would have Range received had the full-time faculty not spent \$22,000 to get him in office? I don't see why we would do it any differently. Let's go with the procedure that was good enough to appoint me."

When reached by phone on Wednesday, all four of the trustees said they would attend the special meeting.

Anybody with an interest in being a candidate for the vacant position is asked to submit a letter of interest and resume to the VVC president's office before 5 p.m. on Monday. Applicants are invited to speak at the meeting by filling out a public comment card to address the board of trustees prior to the meeting.