

PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 17, 2024

Riney Student Center, Room 312

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Michele Hamm, called the Special Meeting to Order at 12:06 p.m.

Trustees Present: Ed Barrett, Eric Scott Killough, Mark Morgan, and Suzan Patton.

Trustees by Phone: Mike Koler, Chair, Michele Hamm, Vice Chair, Dean Fitzsimmons

Quorum was met.

Administration Present: Dr. Michael Calvert, President, Monette DePew, VP of Instruction, Ashley Bertram, Director of Human Resources, Kent Adams, VP of Finance and Operations, Donna Meier Pfeifer, Board Clerk.

- II: **Executive Session:**

12:06 p.m. Trustee Patton made the motion to go into executive session for the discussion of personnel. The motion was seconded by Trustee Barrett. With no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

Dr. Calvert explained to the Trustees the formal process for intent to a nonrenewal of a full-time faculty due to a reduction in force. PCC eliminated the Graphic Design program in 2019, instructor Valery Dellrocco continued to offer courses in that area, but did not have the major. The major was not being offered due to declining enrollment to sustain the program. The Master Agreement process regarding reduction in force needs to be followed and certain faculty be credential, or seniority has the right to bump other faculty competing in the same department. In the Master Agreement there is seniority. But the administration may choose with proper credentials a person to keep and remove the person with seniority who may be lacking credentials. Graphic Arts is under the Arts Department and currently has a highly qualified and credential art instructor that Ms. Dellrocco could take those courses. However, the credential of an MFA is a required credential to teach those classes. Ms. Dellrocco does not have this credential. She has seniority but does not have credentials. The administration is recommending keeping the lesser senior because of being credentialed per HLC guideline. Ms. Dellrocco was working on her master's degree, but not a MFA which would allow her to teach broadly across the art department. Her MA is more on the technical side which does not meet qualified approval to teach the majority of the classes in the Art Department. If courses assigned to a full-time instructor do not fill, other duties are assigned to the faculty member under contract. That is under contract.

Ms. Dellrocco does have health concerns and the institution has allowed her primarily to teach remotely due to her health. This may have impacted on enrollment, and her ability to recruit and retain students. VP DePew has had numerous conversations with Ms. Dellrocco, so she is aware of the process.

VP Monette DePew – Dr. Kwanna King, VP of Student Services needed a Marketing Person who has a graphic design background. VP DePew set up a meeting with Dr. King and Ms. Dellrocco to see if Ms. Dellrocco could use her talents within the PCC Marketing Department. The meeting was held with VP DePew present, introduced them, but nothing happened. Ms. Dellrocco could do the artwork but cannot write a copy. Ms. Dellrocco has worked in the library with Frank Stahl, Director of Learning Resources, filling in her time. She has done no teaching in the Spring semester of 2024. Trustees received a handout from VP De Pew pertaining to explaining the Reduction in Force from the 2022-2025 Master Agreement A 3.

Administration is ready to make the recommendation to go forward with the nonrenewal. Today, May 17, 2024 is the last day to notify Ms. Dellrocco.

VC Hamm asked for a motion to accept the administration recommendation to go forward with Resolution 2024-01 nonrenewal for Valarie Dellrocco. Motion was made by Trustee Barrett to accept the administration recommendation to go forward with the nonrenewal for Valarie Dellrocco. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Killough.

With no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

Once Ms. Dellrocco receives the approved official notice to the nonrenewal Resolution 2024-01 of the Board, Ms. Dellrocco has 15 days to appeal to the Board Clerk. If she does appeal it will go to a hearing officer which will be agreed upon by the State.

12:19 p.m. Trustee Barrett made the motion to come out of the executive session. Motion was seconded by Trustee Killough. With no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

12: 20 p.m. Trustee Barrett made the motion to follow the administrations recommendation to support Resolution 2024-01 to not renew Valerie Dellrocco' s contract. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Killough. With no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

III. Adjourn

12:21 p.m. Trustee Barrett made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Fitzsimmons. With no further discussion the motion was carried unanimously.

Minutes were taken by:
Donna Meier Pfeifer, Board Clerk

RESOLUTION OF INTENT TO NONRENEW A TEACHER'S CONTRACT

RESOLUTION 2024-01

WHEREAS, VALARIE J. DELLROCCO is currently employed at Pratt Community College, Pratt County, Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of said Pratt Community College, Pratt County, Kansas, finds that the contract of VALARIE J. DELLROCCO should be nonrenewed, and that VALARIE J. DELLROCCO should be given written notice on or before May 17th, 2024, of the intent of the Board of Trustees to nonrenew her contract for the 2024 – 2025 school year due to reduction in force.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PRATT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, PRATT COUNTY, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:

It is hereby declared to be the intent of the Board of Trustees of Pratt Community College, Pratt County, Kansas that the employment contract of VALARIE J. DELLROCCO as an instructor be nonrenewed for the 2024 - 2025 school year due to reduction in force.

The clerk of the Board of Trustees is directed to give written notice in person or by restricted United States mail to VALARIE J. DELLROCCO on or before May 17th, 2024, of the Board's intent to nonrenew this contract for the 2024 – 2025 school year,

As stated in State Statute 72-2253, the teacher may have the matter heard by a hearing officer upon written request filed with the clerk of the Board of Trustees within 15 calendar days from the date of such notice of nonrenewal or termination.

ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of Pratt Community College, Pratt County, Kansas, the 17th day of May, 2024.

By: [Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

[Signature]
Board Member

Mike Kaler - Yes - Phone
Board Member

Michelle Hanson - Yes - Phone
Board Member

Dean Fitzsimmons - Phone
Board Member

Attest: [Signature]
Clerk, Board of Education