REPORT 1 TO THE NEW VISION COUNCIL

RESPONSE ANALYSIS: Focus Questions for the Board of Trustees

Introduction:
There are nine members of the board of trustees, eight of whom responded to the focus questions. Their responses and the discussion summary are at the end of each question.

A. If LSCC offers a four year degree, for you as board member what should be the most important purpose for the degree?
   1) The graduate secures new employment in Lake and Sumter counties.
   2) The graduate goes on to further schooling.
   3) The graduate acquires a higher income level in Lake and Sumter counties.
   4) The graduate receives personal satisfaction in achieving the degree.

Responses:
# 1 - 1  
#2 – 0 
#3 – 0 
#4 – 7

Discussion Summary: The board members voiced a nearly unanimous opinion that while all the possible responses are legitimate purposes of LSCC, there was significant concurrence that the broadest category, response #4, was the “umbrella.” They agreed that student satisfaction could not happen for a student unless a more specific outcome (#1-#3) was achieved.

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B) As a board member, what is your primary concern about LSCC offering one or more four-year degrees?

   1) Affording cost of qualified faculty, equipment, space, library, and instructional materials
   2) Reducing other programs to afford a new one.
   3) Sustaining enrollment in the degree program
   4) Lessening the quality of an LSCC education
   5) It changes the mission

Responses:
#1-5  
#2-0  
#3-0  
#4-3  
#5-0
**Discussion Summary:** In choosing either response #1 or #4, the board expressed its concerns for costs and for quality. Board member responses expressed no concern for changing the historic mission of the college or in the administration’s ability to make that mission change.

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C) If the college administration recommends a degree program for good sound educational reasons, but the general attitude in the community opposes it, which best describes your position?

1) As a community leader, I would oppose it.
2) As a college trustee, I would support it.
3) I would follow any recommendation that came through the New Vision Council.
4) I would encourage the administration to not bring this to the board.

**Responses**

#1 – 0  
#2 – 2  
#3 – 6  
#4 -- 0

**Discussion Summary**

The preference for #3 is an indication of the importance and trust board members have placed in the New Vision Council. Comments were clearly made by several, expressing their faith in Dr. Mojock was not the issue here; only that the blend of college and community interests here in the NVC would allow for the best opportunity for a correct decision on 4-year degrees.

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D) Let’s reverse the circumstances. If the college administration opposes a four year degree program, but the community generally favors it, what would be your position?

1) As a community leader, I would support it.
2) As a trustee, I would oppose it.
3) I would follow any recommendation that came through the New Vision Council
4) I would encourage the administration to not bring this to the board.

**Responses**

#1—1  
#2—6’  
#3—1  
#4—0
Discussion Summary

Clearly the largest majority felt this question appropriately allowed them to express their support for Dr. Mojock and the administration. Nor was that opposed by the two other respondents.

E) If UCF takes a different position on four-year degrees than the college administration, which best describes your position?

1) They are critically important partners, and I would not want the partnership jeopardized.
2) I would support the college recommendation nonetheless.
3) I would follow any recommendation that came through the New Vision Council.
4) I would encourage the administration to not bring this to the board.

Responses

#1 – 2
#2 – 6
#3—0
#4—0

Discussion Summary

Again, the priority emphasis seems to have been to express support for the administration, and again neither of the two #1 responders was in disagreement.

F) With the creation of the Florida College System which best describes your thinking about four year degrees at LSCC?

1) If the great majority of schools go to it, it must be alright here.
2) We have to join in offering four year degrees to remain an effective and competitive institution.
3) We make the best decision here without worrying what other colleges are doing.
4) We have to offer or risk losing enrollment.
5) Four Year degrees may be ok, but not here.

Responses

#1—0
#2 – 1
#3—7
#4—0
Discussion Summary

The near consensus responses indicate the board’s emphasis on arriving at a sound decision that is in the best interest of the two-county area served by LSCC. The belief expressed was unanimous, even for respondent who chose response #2. The responses reflect a high trust level in the New Vision Council and the administration to reach that “best decision.”

G) Which best describes how state funding for these degrees would affect your thinking?

1) Should the state funding increase, then I support offering degrees.
2) If there is no change in state funding, then I oppose offering the degrees.
3) If there is no change in funding, we have to do this anyway.
4) It would depend on the size of the state funding increase.
5) I would oppose or support without regard to state funding.

Responses

#1 – 0
#2 – 0
#3 – 0
#4 – 8
#5 – 0

Discussion Summary

The consensus is a reflection of the board’s belief that if the college begins offering 4 year degrees, they should be supported by adequate state funding.