After a delightful reception held outside the Board Room at Leesburg, guests moved into the Board Room for the 5:00 p.m. meeting of the District Board of Trustees. Mr. Larry Phillips was present to receive a plaque designating him the 2013 Lake County Business Hall of Fame winner. The plaque will be placed in the Business Hall of Fame in Building M, Leesburg Campus.

Also present for recognition were those Faculty whom the District Board had promoted, effective July 1, 2014, at the recommendation of the Faculty Rank and Promotion Committee and the Administration. Dr. Barbara Howard introduced each one, spoke a little about their backgrounds, and also read testimonials from students as to the impact their excellent teaching ability was making on students’ lives. Promoted and recognized were

- Ms. Marilee Elias, to Assistant Professor of Nursing
- Dr. Katie Roles to Assistant Professor of Chemistry
- Ms. Nicole Tinny to Assistant Professor Nursing
- Dr. Melanie Wagner to Professor of English

Dr. Howard mentioned the Faculty Rank and Promotion Committee members and their involvement in the process: Ms. Virginia Leach, Mr. Jeremy Norton, Ms. Roxanne Reidy, Dr. Claude Richards, Ms. Melinda Simmons, and Ms. Alissa Sustarsic. She also mentioned the Faculty Senate Executive Committee members who represent the body of Faculty: Dr. Steven Husebye, Chair; Dr. Peter Arcaro, Ms. Minerva Haugabrooks, Ms. Taralyn Pierce, and Mr. Matthew Wood.

The Board approved the appointment of Kevin Arms as Access Services Librarian (effective 5-12-14); accepted the resignations of Marlene Genereux, Doris Meisner, and Tracy McCoy; approved the separation of Debra Barran and Paul Record.

The Board approved a new official designation for the College’s site in Clermont. According to definitions designated by the State, which are governed by the number of FTE (full-time equivalency) generated by the site, the College “center” at Clermont can now officially be designated a “campus.” The Board so approved the new official designation: South Lake Campus.

Approved or acknowledged by the Board were the following:

- Curriculum Revisions as recommended by the Curriculum Committee and the President
- Articulation Agreement between LSSC’s Associate Degree and College of Central Florida’s Bachelor’s Degree in Early Childhood Education
- Monthly Fiscal Report for February 2014, indicating that revenues received to date are in good order and expenditures are in line with the budget and are in good order.
- Facilities Update indicating that completed projects at Leesburg are Math Emporium, Racquetball Courts and the first phase of the Network Operations Center Project/PC Support. The college-wide Education Plant Survey is 50% complete.
- Purchases approved by the President which are between $25,000 and $150,000 for the period February 1 through 28, 2014.

Revised Board Rule 2.12, which deals with Search and Seizure and Weapons on Campus, was lodged with the Board for a First Reading. A recent Court ruling has made it necessary to revise the Rule.

An Addendum to the South Lake Softball Complex Inter-Local Agreement was presented to the Board along with information that a further change must be made to satisfy all parties involved. The Board agreed to approve the Addendum pending the LSSC Board Attorney’s described change and indication that the Addendum is ready for signatures.
Dr. Howard and Dr. Gary Sligh discussed the proposed draft of a new General Education Curriculum. It has been researched and discovered that students are more successful in their educational careers when given a narrower selection of courses from which to choose. To fulfill an A.A. degree, students are required to complete with a grade of C or higher 36 General Education credit hours and 24 credit hours of elective courses. There are five areas of study into which the courses are grouped: Communication, Humanities/Gordon Rule, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The proposed General Education Core Curriculum has far fewer courses offered in each group; thus assisting students to make choices more easily and helping them to better focus on their areas of interest. The list of elective courses has not changed.

Dr. Mojock reported on various items of interest:

- For the Florida College System (FCS) institutions, the 2014-2015 House and Senate proposals are as follows: the House proposes $71.0 million in new funding and the Senate proposes $36.1 million in new funding.
- Senate Bill 1202 would authorize 48 School District Technical Centers to become Technical Colleges offering College Credit Certificates and Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees.
- Senate Bill 1148 amends Florida Statutes so that no new baccalaureate degrees can be offered by an institution in the Florida College System. Current degrees offered would not be affected. The bill prohibits the State Board of Education from approving new baccalaureate degree programs at FCS institutions after March 31, 2014. It eliminates the District Board of Trustees’ ability to change the name of the college. Colleges would only be able to charge the lower level (associate degree level) tuition and fees for baccalaureate degree students. Currently, the House does not have a companion bill to this Senate bill.

The Florida College System institutions are sandwiched between these two Senate bills which seem to be removing the ability of the Colleges to respond to the future workforce needs in their communities. The Council of Presidents is working on an action plan to defeat these Senate bills.

- During the summer, a three-week program called RISE Summer Math Academy will be conducted to help high school students become more proficient in math. Two LSSC instructors and two Sumter County instructors will be teaching the program. LSSC will be paying for faculty salaries and for the cost of student transportation.
- LSSC has a six month lease on part of a Sumter County Schools building in Wildwood. The lease will soon be extended for another 6 month to a year. Additional space in the building may also be leased and some improvements made. The space is used for the work of the Sumter County Partnership for Workforce Innovation and Education.

The next meeting of the District Board of Trustees will be on April 15, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the South Lake Campus.