

PRESENTED AT BLINN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING – APRIL 21,2015

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As I have told the Board several times over the past year or so, during the years of Presidents Schwartz and Volter I was proud to be a member of the Blinn faculty since Blinn College took good care of its students and recognized how important the faculty were to student success. All that changed upon Dr. Nolte's selection by the Board as President whereupon faculty input was disregarded, tried and true administrative process were annihilated and attempts were even made to change scheduling of STEM courses such that their transferability to a 4 year college would be jeopardized. The Brenham administration at this time disbanded the Council of Division Chairs and all faculty lived in fear of retaliation should they express truths that ran counter to the imposed, though often changed, administrative edicts. At this point faculty lost faith in the ability and trustworthiness of the administration and privately sought help from the Board of Trustees. After a year and a half of private entreaties to the Board being ignored, the faculty was then forced to publicly voice their concerns. That was disappointing and embarrassing enough but then the Board, in spite of having the error of their ways pointed out and even having copious documentation, took another nine months to finally remove administrators who had harmed Blinn's credibility and reputation within the state's academic community. One would have thought we could sink no lower in public standing.

But then state funding issues arose and rumors of Rep. Raney's HB1903 drew public attention to the fact that many were of the belief that the Blinn Board of Trustees had not been good Stewards of the state's and students' monies. Mr. Raney tried, before the bill reached committee, to convince Board members to privately construct a feasible compromise. Instead the Board let the Bill reach public Committee hearings where Blinn questioned the authority of the legislative entity which provides them with \$14million in yearly support. Through this testimony many were of the opinion that Blinn lost all credibility administratively, and thus became a laughing stock of the legislature. As a concerned faculty member this was so hard to witness. But worse was yet to come when it was reported that a Board-requested compromise was agreed upon and documented by Board members and Mr. Raney and then, in a public forum, a Board member who was party to the agreement reneged upon his pledge. This was then followed by another Board member reportedly seeking Mr. Raney's help regarding the Board's vote on the compromise and then publicly reneging on his comments and request. These behaviors, which many would deem unethical, are not what I wish students and the community to see as representing our educational entity's standards.

The crowning touch occurred last week when a Board member supposedly arranged to have the Faculty Senate meeting canceled, thereby interfering with freedom of assembly and academic free speech. It appears that this cancelation was in fear of negative, though justified, comments concerning the Board's intransigence on the issue of compromise on HB1903. As reported, the underlying threat enforcing the cancellation was withdrawal of funding for ongoing renovations and the long overdue building of an additional Bryan campus.

As a Blinn Faculty member, I am embarrassed, disappointed and disgusted by the behavior of the Blinn Board of Trustees whose credibility and integrity are in question even at the state level. The Board has, in all instances, been closed minded and put money and ego ahead of the students and the academic quality of Blinn College and that concern brings me here once again. I am also concerned that, since such misbehavior and malfeasance by Board members has had no repercussions, they may be emboldened to take even further unacceptable actions. While the seeming misbehavior indicated in these statements applies primarily to certain individuals, I refer you to the statement of Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

I desperately wish to see the Blinn College of the past, which I felt respected and valued me as an educator and had the best interests of the students at heart, back in operation.