# WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE Algonquin & Roselle Roads Palatine, Illinois, 60067

# AGENDA

May 9, 1970

SPECIAL MEETING 4:30 p.m. Board Room

#### I. New Business

a. Discussion of Student Unrest on Campus and action relative thereto.

#### WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE

# Algonquin & Roselle Roads

Palatine, Illinois 60067

# MEMORAND UM

TO: BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: James J. Hamill, Chairman

SUBJECT: Special Board Meeting

DATE: May 8, 1970

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper College has been called for Saturday

May 9, 1970 in Board Rooms A, B and C at Harper

College at 4:30 p.m.

Attached you will find the agenda for this meeting.

# WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT 512 COUNTIES OF COOK, KANE, LAKE, AND MCHENRY, STATE OF ILLINOIS

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of Saturday, May 9, 1970

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Hamill called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Junior College District No. 512 to order at 4:45 p.m., on May 9, 1970, in the Board Room of the Administration Building, Algonquin and Roselle Roads, Palatine.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Members John Haas, James Hamill, Milton Hansen, Richard Johnson, Lawrence Moats and Joseph Morton.

Absent: Member Nicklas

Also present: Robert E. Lahti, Donald Andries, Michael Bartos, John Birkholz, Robert Boeke, Frank Borelli, David Feinberg, G. Fischer, James Harvey, Robert Hughes, Joseph Mandarino, Frank Oliver, Martin Ryan, C.Schauer, Jack Tippens, and Frank Vandever-Harper College; Frank Hines-Board Attorney; R. Yadon, R.A.Sklencar, D.E.Grzesik, and Donald Duffy--Harper Students; Caroll Lucas--Elgin Courier; Kathie Radtke--Day Publications; Tom Wellman--Paddock Publications; Mr. T. J. Burke, Mr. Gerald R. Bandemer, Mr. David Bone, Mrs. Jan Bone, Mrs. E. J. Kilfoy, Mr. Richard A. Mugalian, Mrs. Joseph Morton, and Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Schlott.

NEW BUSINESS:
Discussion of
Student Unrest
on Campus

Chairman Hamill read the Notice and Agenda for the Special Meeting and stated that the Board intended to hear the facts relating to the purpose of the meeting and, after hearing comments from administrators, faculty members, students, and others present, would go into executive session to consider the matter and reconvene to take action. Frank Hines, Board Attorney, reported on statutes affecting the Board's authority over the flag on campus. Mr. Hines stated the Board has the authority to control the campus and adopt any rule or regulation they may wish . in conformance with state or federal laws. He then cited Illinois Revised Statutes 56%, Section Nos. 3,5 and 6. The essence of these statutes is that desecration, mutilation, or improper use of the flag could be a violation of local, state or federal laws and could result in a fine up to \$5,000 and/or up to five years imprisonment.

Dr. Lahti reported on community polarization in reference to the college's action regarding the flag. He stated he felt the action taken by the administration in response to the students was and still is proper. NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of Student Unrest

Dr. Harvey related the events which had taken place on May 6 and May 7. He stated that Donald Duffy, President of the Student Senate, had come to him on May 6 requesting on Campus (cont.) the flag be flown at half mast as a memorial tribute to the slain Kent State University students. Dr. Harvey contacted the Board Attorney and was advised the Board of Trustees had jurisdiction over raising and lowering of campus flags. He was also advised that the administration should await a formal request from the students. The students were so informed, and a group of students then took it upon themselves to lower the flag to half mast. Dr. Harvey requested their identifications and informed them they were in violation of college regulations. students then sat down around the flag pole. Dr. Harvey met with other administrators and discussed the situation. As a result, the administrators then informed the students that they should pursue a petition effort directed to the Student Senate. The flag was raised.

Member Nicklas entered the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

On Thursday morning, May 7, the students presented petitions, stating they had 1831 signatures, to a group of administrators headed by Dr. Harvey. These petitions included those protesting the Cambodian war and a second petition specifically requesting the flag be lowered through May 14. Dr. Harvey reported half of the petitions in no way indicated a time duration for lowering the flag. Dr. Harvey referred to the statement prepared by the administration regarding the three day period for lowering the flag (copy of statement attached to minutes in Official Board of Trustees Book of Minutes). The students also requested a memorial service. Dr. Harvey informed the students the administration believed that a compromise was in order on the length of time the flag be lowered due to the fact there were some differences in opinion on the part of students as to whether it should be lowered at all. Mr. Duffy informed the students the administration would not authorize lowering of the flag until this point had been resolved. Several students then lowered the flag. After further discussion, the students returned the flag to the top of the pole. Dr. Harvey then met with Dr. Schauer, Mr. Andries, Mr. Borelli, Mr. Mandarino, Donald Duffy, Ray Sklencar, Jon Newby and Michael Bartos. There followed verbal agreement among those present to the wording of the statement regarding the lowering of the flag for three days and other wording thereto. present then proceeded to the area of the flag poles where Dr. Harvey read the statement and the flag was lowered to half mast.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Discussion of Student Unrest

Mr. David Bone, a member of the audience, asked what the three day period comprised. Dr. Harvey said the three days would extend through Saturday sundown. Dr. Lahti stated on Campus (cont.) he believed the administration was trying to reach an accommodation between internal and external attitudes, that some citizens said they would guard the flag. Morton pointed out the responsibility for the flag was the charge of the Board of Trustees. Member Haas asked what alternatives had been considered at the Wednesday meeting. Dr. Harvey said the alternatives considered had included lowering the flag, restoring the flag to the top of the pole, and removing the flag, and also the possibility of guarding the flag in the first two situations. pointed out the possibility of a potentially dangerous situation developing because of the strong feelings on both sides of the question.

> Chairman Hamill asked Mr. Ryan to speak on faculty sentiments regarding this issue. Mr. Ryan stated the Student Senate had asked for a poll of the Faculty Senate which he conducted and then issued a memo supporting the stu-This memo went to all faculty members and dents fully. stated the Faculty Senate had supported the Student Senate regarding the petition for lowering of the flag and the request for memorial services. In answer to Chairman Hamill's question, Mr. Ryan said he believed the memo had gone to the administration, it was the Senate's intention; he would see that each Board Member received a copy. stated the statement issued Thursday seemed to be an administrative directive of sorts. The students felt they had to agree. Frank Oliver, faculty member, indicated the students felt they followed the procedure and were given what they felt was a unilateral decision. Donald Duffy discussed the petitions, stating the one identified as the Cambodia petition had 227 signatures, and the other, identified as the petition for lowering the flag through May 14, had 1,600 signatures. Mr. Duffy referred to the matter of compromise, stating the administration said they were in agreement in spirit over the flag lowering, and that the students' verbal acceptance of the final agreement was the same--in spirit regarding the compromise.

Chairman Hamill recessed the meeting at 5:44 p.m. The meeting was called back to order at 5:55 p.m.

Mr. Bartos stated he did not think the law was made clear to the negotiators at the meeting on Thursday. he felt the Board and administration could only gain if they agreed to the seven days. Mr. Duffy stated he did

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of Student Unrest

not think by comparison to other campuses that student power was the position of students who wanted the flag lowered. He agreed with Mr. Bartos that the college on Campus (cont.) would gain in stature by endorsing the seven day period. Don Grzesik, student, said there are moral reasons for the students making their requests and asked if this was not proper in a free institution. Dr. Lahti indicated that the college must also be sensitive to the community outside the campus.

> Mr. Mugalian, of the audience, stated the Board has the final decision, but if the faculty and students wanted to lower the flag, he felt it was the Board's obligation to do it. The chair recognized Gerald Bandemer, who presented a petition with 215 signatures of Schaumburg residents who were against the unlawful lowering of the (Copy of petition attached to minutes in the Official Board of Trustees Book of Minutes). Further discussion followed. Frank Oliver stated he had perceived a lack of social conscience and an unwillingness to get involved in the two years he had been at the college. He stated the students for the first time had coalesced to do something positive. Dr. Lahti stated he recommended the Board meet because there was a potentially strong polarization between the campus community and the outside community. He stated the college has an obligation to make themselves understood.

The chair indicated the Board would go into executive session to consider the facts related by all parties and the sentiments expressed. The Board recessed to executive session at 6:25 p.m. The Board reconvened at 7:03 p.m., and those present were Members Haas, Hamill, Hansen, Moats, Morton and Nicklas. Member Johnson was absent. Secretary Moats read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper College is charged with the general responsibility for the operation of the college including the control of the campus and the buildings and facilities thereon, and thus has sole authority for regulating the display of the campus American Flag,

AND WHEREAS, the administration carried out its responsibilities in connection with the implementation thereof.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Resolution (cont.)

WHEREAS, the proper representatives of the college faculty, and student body have conveyed their combined wish to have the campus American Flag lowered to half mast until dusk on the 14th of May 1970 as a memorial to the recent regrettable deaths of the Kent State University students,

AND WHEREAS, the faculty and student body have demonstrated this sentiment in a responsible and democratic manner.

THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper College that the campus American Flag be flown at half mast during daylight hours of school days until dusk, May 14, 1970.

Member Moats moved, and Member Haas seconded the motion, that this resolution be adopted.

Upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Members Haas, Hamill, Hansen, Moats, Morton

and Nicklas

Nays: None

that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was convied and the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m. Member Nigklas moved and Member Moats seconded the motion The motion was unanimously

This Petition is to be presented to the board of Harper Junior College. We the residents and taxpayers of Schaumburg are against the unlawful act of lowering the American Flag to half mast by students.

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May 8 & 9, 1970

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This morning the administration of Harper College reviewed a formal request from the student government to lower the college flag to half mast for one week as an expression of sorrow over the deaths of the Kent State University students. The students have also requested permission to hold a memorial service at noon on Friday. The requests have been considered and are granted with one minor alteration. Since the National Student Association has requested a three day period of mourning rather than a week, and since to the best of our knowledge most colleges and universities are limiting their activities in this regard to the balance of this week, we grant the request to lower the flag to half mast until sundown on Saturday evening. Should the President of the United States or the governor of Illinois proclaim a longer period of mourning, we will certainly comply.

One point needs to be clearly understood. The lowering of the flag is <u>only</u> an expression of the grief the college community feels over the deaths of the Kent State University students. It is in no way intended to signify disrespect to the president of the United States, or disagreement with American policies in the far east. While we as a college community are united in our feeling of grief over the deaths of the students, we have divided opinions over who and what caused the events which led to their deaths.

We appreciate the orderly process of petition followed by the students. As long as the lines of communication and action remain open between students, administrators, faculty and board, and as long as a feeling of mutual respect and concern exists between these groups, the events at Kent State could not possibly repeat themselves here or on any other college campus. We pledge ourselves to work to this end and sincerely hope the students will do the same.

James Harvey
Vice President of Student Affairs

RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF WILLIAM RAINEY HARPER COLLEGE AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD MAY 9, 1970

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper College is charged with the general responsibility for the operation of the college including the control of the campus and the buildings and facilities thereon, and thus has sole authority for regulating the display of the campus American Flag.

And whereas, the administration carried out its responsibilities in connection with the implementation thereof,

Whereas, the proper representatives of the college faculty, and student body have conveyed their combined wish to have the campus American Flag lowered to half mast until dusk on the 14th of May 1970 as a memorial to the recent regretable deaths of the Kent State University students,

And whereas, the faculty and student body have demonstrated this sentiment in a responsible and democratic manner,

Therefore, it is hereby resolved by the Board of Trustees of William Rainey Harper College that the campus American Flag be flown at half mast during daylight hours of school days until dusk, May 14, 1970.