

OCC names Spangler Community Band seeks music director new chancellor

BY JOE BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

Oakland Community College has a new chancellor following a surprise vote at a special meeting Tuesday by the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Mary Spangler, president of Los Angeles City College, was picked in a 6-1 vote from a list of four finalists to replace retiring Chancellor Richard Thompson.

A vote to appoint Spangler was not expected at Tuesday's meeting. The session had been called to pare the list of finalists from four to two, and appoint a committee to visit the campuses of the finalists and conduct staff interviews.

But OCC Communications Director George Cartsonis said the board decided to forego the last step in the selection process after "strong support" for Spangler was made evident in a series of straw polls.

"Initially, Dr. Spangler and Dr. Blanchard (Bryan Blanchard, president of Vincennes Community College in Vincennes, Ind.) received the most votes, and the board then decided to dispense with the site visits and held a formal vote on Dr. Spangler's appointment," Cartsonis said.

"Board Chair Justice Simmons then called Dr. Spangler and she accepted," he added.

The other two finalists were Dr. Daniel Krezenski, president of Westmoreland Community College in Youngwood, Pa., and Dr. Richard Pappas, president of Lake Michigan College in Benton Harbor.

Simmons and Spangler were unavailable for comment at press time.

Cartsonis said a board committee will be appointed to negotiate a salary and benefits package for Spangler, and the board hopes to approve the contract at a special meeting

scheduled for June 3.

"In length, the contract will be part of the negotiations," Cartsonis said. "We expect Dr. Spangler will be on board by Sept. 1 at the latest."

Cartsonis acknowledged that Tuesday's vote was a break from past practice in hiring chancellors.

"Typically, site visits have been conducted in the past," he said.

Board Trustee Judith Wiser said the board decided against the site visits for economic reasons.

"Having the advisory committee plus a couple of trustees visit the sites would have been quite costly in these economic times," she said. "I would have preferred to at least have had a conference with her (Spangler's) board to get some background information, but no one else seemed interested in doing that."

Following the appointment of Spangler, the trustees voted 4-3 not to extend Thompson's contract beyond June 30. An earlier proposal would have kept the chancellor on board for up to three months beginning Aug. 1 at a cost of \$20,000.

"After we decided not to spend the money to do the site visits, it didn't make sense to spend the extra money on keeping (Thompson) on," Wiser said, adding the board probably will appoint an interim chancellor until Spangler's arrival.

City College is one of nine campuses within the Los Angeles Community College District. The district had operated as a single entity under the Los Angeles Unified School District until 1969, when the California State Legislature voted to separate it from the unified district.

The Board of Directors of the Farmington Community Band, Inc. currently is seeking candidates for the position of music director.

Founder and current Director, R. Paul Barber, will be retiring at the end of this season and will be relocating out of state. The Band plans to spend the 2003/04 season evaluating candidates interested in the position.

The Farmington Community Band is a premiere community band open to all interested adults. High school students

may audition for the Band. Approximately 65 musicians from the Metro Detroit area currently make up the Concert Band. Smaller ensembles, including a Jazz/Dance Band, Clarinet Choir, Flute Ensemble and Brass Ensembles are also created from these musicians.

The Concert Band performs a full season from September through May in concert halls and other local venues. There is also a summer schedule from May through July that includes outdoor performances at local parks, festivals and nursing

homes. Responsibilities of the music director include conducting performances throughout the Farmington area and weekly rehearsals of the Concert Band. Additional responsibilities would include planning the performance repertoire, engaging guests to appear with the Band, and attending and reporting to the Board of Directors at its quarterly meetings.

Candidates should have experience as a conductor of bands at the high school level or above and should have a wide range of

knowledge and experience with literature that is both satisfying to the musicians and enjoyable to the audience.

Candidates should submit their resumes including relevant personal history, qualifications, and references to Search@fcbmusic.org or by mail to Search Committee, Farmington Community Band, Inc., PO Box 3091, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48333. Additional information about the Band may be obtained by visiting the Band's Web site at www.fcbmusic.org.



Spangler

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