

In Our Own Words | Staff Editorial

Pickings are slim for LCC trustee election

Ten candidates vying for three seats on the LCC Board of Trustees gave voters insight into their goals for the college Oct. 17 at a town hall meeting on LCC's main campus.

The candidates, a small contingent of the full pool of 16, answered various questions during the two-hour gathering. They ranged from tuition rates for international students to the highly publicized infighting of the current board.

As with any debate or paneled meeting involving candidates running for election, several candidates shined brightly while some barely managed to glow.

One candidate who seemed to have his head screwed on securely was Lawrence Hidalgo Jr., who spoke clearly and reassuringly when answering questions proposed by the audience.

Hidalgo is no stranger to running for a seat on the board. He tried unsuccessfully to fill a spot left vacant after then-trustee Tim Brannan resigned for personal reasons in 2007.

Brannan's position was filled by Jerry Hollister, who also made a significant showing at the Oct. 17 meeting.

One topic discussed at the meeting was the

inevitable mentioning of the multimillion dollar Oracle software blunder, which arguably was a major factor in creating a large rift between the Board of Trustees and then-president Paula Cunningham.

The apparent consensus of the candidates was summed up by candidate Martha G. Finn, who said that moving forward and making the necessary amends was in the best interest of the college.

Cunningham eventually resigned, and the school is now reverting back to the Banner software used before Oracle was implemented.

Other candidates who made strong showings were Finn, Edward Woods III and John Roy Castillo.

They were among the few candidates who stayed behind to thank the audience for attending and to talk more in-depth about topics discussed at the meeting.

Apart from a select few answers from one or two candidates, a majority of the candidates failed to convey to the audience that they were suitable replacements for the outgoing board members.

Many candidates remained quiet when questions were asked and did not offer their ideas and

perceptions. Some answers, even from candidates who maintained strong presences, failed to even address the question at hand.

Oftentimes, candidates' responses or solutions were hardly groundbreaking or original. Few of the candidates proved that they have what it takes to join a board whose history has been much less than perfect.

Infighting has been a staple of the board for years.

In spite of sentiments expressed at the Oct. 15 board meeting that the board was moving past all the strife, it is going to take longer than just a few months of quiet to heal the wounds and cover the scars the board has created for itself.

Much to our dismay, there are few candidates that would make wonderful additions to the board.

Since it is up to the voting public, we can only hope that the potentials that do provide some reassurance get elected.

For all the hype that the current board generates, one could hope that the race for election be equally exciting.

Frankly, apart from one or two, we find ourselves disappointed.



Featured Drink of the Month:



The Great Pumpkin Latte

**Pumpkin Spice Syrup
Cheesecake Syrup
2 shots of espresso
Steamed Whole Milk
Topped with whipped cream**