

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, April 24, 2007
9:30 a.m.

Xavier University New Orleans, University Center

Present: Rev. Kevin Wildes, Chair, Elizabeth Nalty, Secretary, Dean Winston Brown, Mrs. Leah Chase, Dr. Beverly Favre, Professor Kathryn Lorio.

Excused: Rev. Cornelius Tilton, Vice Chair.

Guests: Professor David Marcello of the Tulane Public Law Center.

Fr. Wildes called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Mrs. Chase moved to approve the minutes of the April 17 meeting, Dean Brown seconded – motion passed.

A third draft of the By-Laws was presented. There being no questions or adjustments Dr. Favre moved and Professor Lorio seconded that the By-Laws of the Ethics Review Board be adopted – motion passed.

Professor Marcello updated the board on the Legislature. Due to the fast approaching deadline for pre-filing (April 28), it was difficult to find a sponsor for a non-fiscal bill. It was recommended by Representative Arthur Morrell that proposed revisions be forwarded to the staff of the governmental affairs committee with the strategy that if the provisions were germane to an existing bill, they could be attached as an amendment.

Fr. Wildes contacted Ashton Phelps as a member of the Louisiana Press Association who requested more information on such legislation.

At the request of the board from a previous meeting, Fr. Wildes reported on his conversation with Mr. Roland Milan, a coordinator with the Inspector General Association.

Mr. Milan noted the ERB should not expect an avalanche of responses to the Position Announcement, as the pool of applicants is small. Also, this is a new venture for New Orleans and times are challenging.

Mr. Milan suggested the following:

1. To work as a committee of the whole and screen applications;
2. Using a common yardstick, candidates will be rated;
3. Narrow pool down to 3 to 5 candidates;
4. Check references;
5. Invite top candidates for New Orleans visit and on site interview.

Professor Lorio shared information on Paula Francese, the Peter W. Radino Professor of Law at Seton Hall School of Law. Professor Francese was appointed chair of the newly empowered State Ethics Commission for New Jersey. She is possible resource for our board.

A brief discussion was held on the development of the Inspector General job description. Reference was made to the ordinance especially page 2 and 3 as a starting point.

The next scheduled meeting will be the 4th Tuesday in May at 10:30 a.m. This will be May 22, 2007, 10: 30 a.m., at Xavier University.

Agenda items will include:

1. Public Comment Policy presentation and approval;
2. Job Description;
3. Received Applications circulated;
4. Possible screening meeting . This meeting could be held in Executive Session provided candidates are notified of manner.
5. Possible update from Fr. Wildes on conversation with Ashton Phelps regarding legislative issues.

There being no further business, Professor Lorio moved and Dean Brown seconded to adjourn the meeting – motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth S. Nalty