

NORTH HARRIS COUNTY COLLEGE UNITED FACULTY

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THE ADVOCATE

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President's Column:
AFT Endorses Board Candidates

by Alan Hall

Ever since the 1981 Board of Trustees race, the NHCC United Faculty (AFT) has recruited, endorsed, and worked for candidates it believes will do the most to support the faculty members as they seek to perform their duties according to the highest standards of the profession. We look for candidates who are pro-faculty because it is the faculty who have by far the greatest amount of contact with our patrons, the members of this community who come here to learn. Our mission as a College is to have everything in order for learning when a faculty member walks into a classroom, and if we do not succeed at that, nothing else we do really matters.

Elmer Beckendorf (Position 4), Duane Collins (Position 1), and Diana Morales Taylor (Position 3) have secured AFT endorsements for the 1989 Board race. The AFT Executive Committee had been meeting with these candidates over the past few months to discuss their positions on various issues relating to teaching and faculty recognition. With an eye to potential endorsements, we ranged widely over issues such as methods to boost NHCC enrollment and public awareness of NHCC, the quality of instruction at NHCC, the integration of adjunct faculty into NHCC academic programs, facilities, methods to improve faculty governance, and academic freedom. We also covered the candidates' willingness to recognize the AFT as a legitimate faculty organization and its officers in their representative capacity at Board meetings, as well as their willingness to consider faculty opinions on various topics brought before the Board.

The Executive Committee was pleased to find the candidates named in full agreement with the AFT on the issues about which we were concerned. We found them eager to work with AFT in a spirit of cooperation for the betterment of NHCC. Our membership has approved the Executive Committee's recommendation to endorse these candidates.

b. About the Candidates

Position 4: Elmer Beckendorf. The AFT has long had an excellent relationship with Mr. Beckendorf. A businessman and community leader from Tomball, Mr. Beckendorf was first appointed to fill the seat left vacant by Roy Hohl and was elected in his own right two years ago. Mr. Beckendorf now serves as President of the Board. In the past, he has been open and willing to discuss various concerns with the AFT and has done an excellent job in serving our College.

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“Education for Democracy — Democracy for Education”

C. Position 1: Duane Collins. Dr. Collins, a veterinarian in Aldine, was appointed to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Charlie Philipp. I attended the interviews conducted by the Board's screening committee and felt that Dr. Collins performed very well in his interview; I was pleased with the Board's decision to appoint him. Although he has served only a few months, Dr. Collins has already made valuable contributions to the Board.

Position 3: Diana Morales Taylor. Ms. Taylor, a C.P.A., is a principal in an accounting firm in Humble. She also was interviewed for Mr. Philipp's vacant seat. I was very impressed with her interview and made a point of meeting with her later about the possibility of running for the open position which resulted from Ms. Lou Shirley's decision not to stand for re-election. Ms. Taylor is very enthusiastic about running and will add significantly to the work of the Board.

All three candidates were pleased to meet with, work with, and receive the endorsement of the AFT. We have pledged our full support should there be any challengers for their positions. The AFT is pleased to recommend these candidates to the employees of NHCC.

NHCC Code of Ethics

by Pat Gray

At a recent Chancellor's Council, Dr. Airola put forward the idea of adopting the TJCTA Code of Professional Ethics here at our college. Apparently the notion is to have the faculty generate the adoption of this code. This idea surprises some of us who worked in the Faculty Senate to develop, refine, and adopt a NHCC Code of Ethics several years ago.

In Fall of 1983, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate charged the Rights and Responsibilities Committee to devise a code of professional ethics in keeping with the mission of NHCC and our role of educators in American higher education generally. The Committee met throughout the year, examining a number of established codes and collecting ideas from the various divisions. We used many of the phrases and ideas from the TJCTA Code of Ethics and the AAUP Statement of Professional Ethics as well as ideas and phrases contributed by our colleagues throughout the college. In the Spring of 1984, the Executive Board of the Faculty Senate unanimously passed the statement as the official NHCC Code of Professional Standards, our academic rights and responsibilities.

Given that we've had a code for several years now, why should we have another?