Business Pulse Directory

Employee status an issue in state CCB takeover

By Helen Glover Cook
AFRO Staff Writer

The State Senate Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee is currently hearing testimony that, if enacted as legislation, might give The Community College of Baltimore the financial boost it needs.

In its present form, the bill does not include steps for the transition of the three employee unions at the college, prompting a delegation of faculty members and union representatives from CCB to voice their concerns at a public hearing before Environmental Affairs Committee Chair, Sen. Clarence Blount.

The delegation presented the Senator with an amendment which they drafted. The amendment outlines procedures for employee salaries, sick leave, health benefits and employee classification in the event that the school is incorporated into the state system.

Voicing his concern over what he felt was a lack of consideration for employee benefits in the bill, Walter Dean past president of CCB local 1980-AFT who was selected by the CCB faculty to represent them at the hearing, said, "What happens to the accrued benefits of workers at the college after the proposed July 1, 1990 takeover?"

Dean said, "Suppose a worker has 400 sick days and becomes ill on July 2, 1990, does that mean that his benefits will be carried over to his or her state employers?

These are the kinds of concerns Bill #351 has to address."

"The language of our proposed amendment makes sure that anyone who is an employee of the college as of June 30, 1900 will suffer no loss to his or her benefits when and if CCB becomes the Community College of Maryland on July 1, 1990," said Dean.

Section D of Amendments to Senate Bill #351 states: All employees hired by the Board of Trustees shall retain all leave accrued as of June 30, 1990 and continue to earn leave based on the current years of service.

"The amendment would insure the State's takeover of the debt imposed by transferring sick and vacation days from the city to the state of Maryland.

"A merger might mean that an employee eligible for retirement during the merger year might have to work one year longer for eligibility. To someone who is eligible this means a great deal," said Dean.

"The amendment which we drafted," said Dean, "also guarantees the salaries of employees at their present rate and the right of faculty members to hold their present positions without further examination.

Dean said, "There is also a question of educational benefits which city workers are entitled to under the present system. What happens to those? In today's market employers are constantly asking employees to upgrade their skills so this is also a major concern.

"There are 357 workers who receive a paycheck from The Community College of Baltimore. What happens to them on July 1, 1990? We look forward to an answer to the city's financial crisis and this merger would be one way of alleviating the city's money problems but the security of the employees at the college must be insured."

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CAREER CORNER

Sojourner-Douglass college celebrates 10th

Under the Chairmanship of former Congressman, Parren J. Mitchell, Sojourner - Douglass College will launch the first of four TOWN HALL FORUMS with a candid discussion of "American Politics in South Africa."

Participating in the panel will be Mr. Randall Robinson, Executive Director of TransAfrica and Cong. Howard Wolpe, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Moderating the session will be Maryland Delegate Howard "Pete" Rawlings.

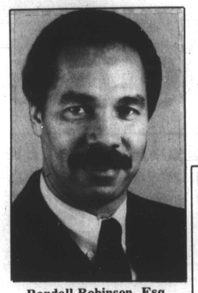
The event is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, 7:00 p.m. at the Dunbar High School Auditorium.

Sojourner-Douglass College is sponsoring the TOWN HALL series as part of its 10th Year Anniversary Celebration.

During the year-long observance of its founding, the college plans to sponsor an eight-part African Scholar Lecture Series, Jazz Concert Series and will culminate in an Awards Gala on October 5.

All events with the exception of the Gala, will be open to the public without charge.

"We have chosen an appropriate theme for our celebration, "A Time to Reap . . . A Time to Sow," stated Dr. Charles Simmons, president of the college. "For ten years our energies have been devoted to reaching minority, adult education. It's now time to reflect, express thanks to our supporters, andprepare for the future," Dr. Simmons said.


Randall Robinson, Esq.

Named in honor of Sojourner Truth and Frederick Douglass, the College remains Maryland's only accredited, independent, four - year institution of higher education with a predominantly Black administration, faculty, student body and curriculum focus.

On April 18, the second Town Hall Forum will focus on "New Interpretations of the U.S. Constitution: Impact on Africa - Americans," moderated by Hon. Robert Bell, Judge, Court of Special Appeals of Maryland.

Panelists invited are Dr. David Hall, Associate Dean and Professor, Northeastern University School of Law and Anthony Robinson, Esq., President, Minority Business Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The three series' event occurs on October 10, when guest panelists Mr. Theodore Adams, President and CEO of Unified Industries and Ms. Harriet Michel, Executive Director of the National Minority Purchasing Council will discuss, "Economic Empowerment of African-Americans."

Cong. Howard Wolpe

Mr. Stanley Tucker, Director, Maryland Small Business Development Financing Authority will moderate.

"Race Relations in the 90s" will conclude the Series on November 14, with invited guest panelists, Dr. Richard Hatcher, former mayor of Gary, Indiana and noted author, Dr. Lerone Bennett.

Mr. Robert Matthews, Editor, AFRO - AMERICAN Newspapers will serve as moderator.

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