

The Ethics Review Board
City of New Orleans

Tuesday, April 17, 2007
10:30 a.m.

Xavier University New Orleans, University Center

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

Guests: Professor David Marcello of the Tulane Public Law Center

Open participants:

Ed Quatrevaux, former IG, Legal Services Corporation and Jill Hixon, chief of staff Councilman Arnie Fielkow's office.

Fr. Wildes called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Dean Brown moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2007 meeting. Dr. Favre seconded – motion passed.

Fr. Wildes circulated the Request for Position, Inspector General for the City of New Orleans that was sent to the Civil Service Commission. The Commission approved the position.

Presently the ERB is waiting for a letter of indemnification from the city.

Mrs. Nalty reviewed some minor adjustments to the By-Laws. These technical adjustments will be made, By-Laws to be circulated and a vote taken at the April 24th meeting.

Professor Lorio will present some procedures for public comment at the next meeting.

Professor Marcello presented suggested legislation to the committee for discussion concerning open meetings and public records. This legislation would exempt the ERB from public disclosure and allow for Executive Session in investigative proceedings regarding allegations of misconduct.

Rev. Tilton recommended that the ERB move forward with legislation on open meetings and public records. Professor Lorio seconded – motion passed.

Fr. Wildes reported inquiries have been made concerning the Office of Inspector General and some applications received for consideration. Discussion was held regarding hiring procedures.

The list of requirements will be referred to and candidates not meeting requirements will be eliminated.

Reference checks will be conducted by staff or board assignment on eligible candidates.

Committee requested information on best practices. Fr. Wildes will contact professional associations requesting information.

A conference call was requested at the next meeting with cities having Office of Inspector Generals in place. A list of appropriate questions will be available for this call.

A site visit was recommended should such be necessary.

Future meeting dates were discussed. The committee decided on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., effective in May. The location will continue to be Xavier University.

The agenda for the April 24th meeting will include:

1. A report on the legislative process;
2. Adoption of the By-Laws;
3. Presentation of Procedures for Public Comment;
4. Review information received on the hiring and best practices;
5. Possible conference call.

There being no further business, Rev. Tilton moved to adjourn, seconded by Dean Brown – motion passed.