

Dear Long Beach City College students, staff, and faculty:

The Superintendent-President of Long Beach City College represents an inclusive and diverse population that includes the Board of Trustees, the faculty and staff, the city of Long Beach, and most importantly, the approximately 27,000 students served by the college. Thus, solid leadership requires that the position be filled by a candidate with an ethical history in both his or her professional and personal arenas. Unfortunately, it has come to our attention that Dr. Melinda Nish does not meet these criteria. Members of both Orange Coast College and Southwestern College experienced administrative tumult under Dr. Nish.

We are writing to ask that you let the Board of Trustees know that it should not, in good faith, advance a candidate with a documented history of actions against various groups on campus, including groups identified primarily with people of color. Another area of concern is Dr. Nish's failure to achieve a healthy accreditation status for Southwestern College during her tenure as President.

Please see the following public documents for more information:

March 3, 2017: <https://lbpost.com/news/education/2000010510-candidate-s-past-the-source-of-unease-as-lbccd-picks-new-superintendent-president> (Orange Coast College faculty and staff express concerns about Nish's management style and her encouragement of divisiveness between faculty and staff. Nish resigned from Southwestern College after accreditation problems and racial tensions on campus.)

June 17, 2016: <http://www.theswcsun.com/southwestern-college-president-melinda-nish-resigns/>

A student newspaper story describing the academic year leading up to Nish's resignation, including 15 sanctions from the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges that led to the college being put on warning status.

June 17, 2016: ABC 10 News Story, San Diego

<http://www.10news.com/news/southwestern-college-president-dr-melinda-nish-resigns-061716>

The news story discusses racial tension at the administrative level with the school's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee as well as the warning status from the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

February 10, 2016: <http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/education/sdut-southwestern-college-placed-on-warning-status-2016feb10-story.html>

The San Diego Union Tribune also reports on the warning status given to Southwestern College from the Accreditation Commission of Community and Junior Colleges.

August 1, 2008, 75-page document presented to the OCC Board of Trustees:  
<https://www.scribd.com/document/340633685/OCC-Faculty-Complaints-Against-Administration-2008>

A comprehensive documentation of the administration vs. faculty climate at OCC, partly attributed to Nish's tenure as Vice President of Instruction, signed by over 55 faculty members noting, among many details, that many top-down decisions negatively affected students.

Long Beach City College must appoint a leader who will advance, not sacrifice, our educational mission and public reputation. To help you contact individual members of the Board of Trustees, we are attaching a template which you may use as is or alter to suit your own needs. The Board will be considering the finalists for Superintendent-President during a closed session on Wednesday, March 22, 2017, so please contact them by noon on that day, if possible. See below for board members' contact information, including emails and phone numbers.

Thank you.

Janét Hund  
Member, Faculty and Staff Diversity Committee  
LBCCFA President  
Professor, Social Sciences

Thomas Hamilton  
AFT Classified President

Karen Roberts  
CHI President

Dele Ladejobi  
Co-Chair, Faculty and Staff Diversity Committee  
Member, Student Equity Committee  
Chair, LBCCFA Faculty Equity Committee  
Professor, Library

DeWayne Sheaffer  
LBCCFA PAC Chair  
Counselor, Counseling and Student Services

Velvet Pearson  
LBCCFA Grievance Chair  
Professor, English

Contact information for Board of Trustees:

Dr. Ginny Baxter	562/208-2438	<a href="mailto:gbaxter@lbcc.edu">gbaxter@lbcc.edu</a>
Jeff Kellogg	562/500-5333	<a href="mailto:jeffkellogg@msn.com">jeffkellogg@msn.com</a>
Vivian Malauulu	562/544-1952	<a href="mailto:VJMalauulu@aol.com">VJMalauulu@aol.com</a>
Doug Otto	562/491-1191	<a href="mailto:doug@dwottolaw.com">doug@dwottolaw.com</a>
Sunny Zia	562/270-5017	<a href="mailto:sunny.zia1@gmail.com">sunny.zia1@gmail.com</a>

Dear LBCCD Board of Trustee \_\_\_\_\_,

As a member of the **LBCC faculty**, in the \_\_\_\_\_ Department, and a member of the LBCCFA, I do not support Dr. Melinda Nish for the next LBCC Superintendent-President.

LBCC needs a leader who supports our diverse college community, including students, faculty, staff, and the community we serve. We do not need a Superintendent-President who is divisive and has a long history of not supporting student-centered programs. We ask you to reject a candidate who has a documented history of actions against groups on campus, including people of color. We look to you to support a candidate who will uphold the mission of our college, honor shared governance, and embrace the Equity Initiative.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

Dear LBCCD Board of Trustee \_\_\_\_\_,

As a **community member, current LBCC student or former student**, I do not support Dr. Melinda Nish for the next LBCC Superintendent-President.

LBCC needs a leader who supports our diverse college community, including students, faculty, staff, and the community we serve. We do not need a Superintendent-President who is divisive and has a long history of not supporting student-centered programs. We ask you to reject a candidate who has a documented history of actions against groups on campus, including people of color. We look to you to support a candidate who will uphold the mission of our college and embrace the Equity Initiative.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name