

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
3575 COLLEGE ROAD, HARRISBURG, IL 62946  
FEBRUARY 16, 2021 – 6:00 PM

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 in the Heritage Room at SIC. On roll call, the following members were present: Dr. Pat York, Mr. Blake Bradley, Mrs. Debbie Hughes, Mr. Jim Ellis, Mr. Richard Morgan, Dr. Frank Barbre, and Mr. Collin Sexton.

Also present: Mr. Dennis Weedman, Mr. James Carlton, Dr. Tyler Billman, Dr. Chad Flannery, Mrs. Lisa Hite, Dr. Karen Weiss, Mrs. Sara DeNeal, Mrs. Janean Bond, Dr. Jonah Rice, and Mrs. Lisa Dye.

Dr. York welcomed guests and allowed a time for comment.

Sara DeNeal – Presented a petition signed by 1,067 people supporting the SIC art department and wanting the program to continue. Mrs. DeNeal said she realized the economic downturn, COVID, and low enrollment all came into play regarding the decision to cut the program. She said art teaches much more than just art and that imagination is important. Many students, DeNeal said will find another school or quit school and that they deserve to have local access to art here. She said cutting programs will cause us to lose more students.

Janean Bond – She said she's been a tax payer here since 1985, and is an SIC alumni. She said she has looked at our website and the ICCB website for the facts she will discuss tonight. She said SIC froze tuition last month, but that we could have increased it because we have very low tuition compared to other colleges. She thinks we could have raised tuition to \$109 or \$110 per credit hour. She thinks we could have frozen positions too, citing the February 2020 Board meeting where a new dean was hired and the ECE instructor and program was cut. She mentioned August 2020 where 2 positions were filled when they could have been frozen. She asked why we filled the Academic Dean's position. She said she wasn't pointing fingers, though. She said we share courses with other colleges, and asked why we don't share job duties. She also talked about COVID relief funds and said that the funds were to help with the cost of paying SIC employees.

**ICCTA Report – Dr. Barbre**

Dr. Barbre attended a virtual ICCTA board of representative meeting on January 30. On February 3, he attended a virtual ICCTA conference with Senator Durbin. On February 4 he attended a virtual ICCTA conference with Senator Duckworth. Both senators support higher education. There will not be a lobby day in Springfield this year and ICCTA is encouraging us to invite our representatives and senators to visit our campuses or to host a virtual meeting.

## **Dr. Rice's Report**

Work has been done on extra curricular reinvention. Tyler Bourland has just given his resignation and we will not fill that position and freeze it, just like we did not fill Alli Armstrong's position when she left. Dr. Rice had a legislative meeting with Senator Fowler and Representative Windhorst and discussed unemployment and poverty in our area and the need for economic development. They also discussed the need for funding in higher education and high school graduates not attending college. He plans to continue this discussion with other colleges and Rend Lake will host this. Dr. Rice said he will be talking with budget officers this week about the fiscal situation. We used to get 60% of our budget from state funds, but that has dropped to about 35%. If the state would have simply kept up with inflation we would be better off, but they did not. We have reduced our budget by \$400,000 and we still need to reduce it another \$600,000. We have had a 25% drop in enrollment. Our projected loss is \$1.2 million. We won't know until the summer what the Illinois state budget will be. We have to invest in new programs, new scholarships, and we will have to RIF more. By FY24 at this rate, we will be \$1.5 million in the red. Next year will be worse because there was a 30% drop in freshman this year. The bleeding won't stop until the local economy improves, the state funding improves, high school graduates start attending college, etc. The ICCB's budget is \$265 million (not including special projects). We get \$529 per student. The state pays up to \$38,000 per prison inmate. Nationally, there were 650,000 jobs in higher education that were lost between February 2020 and February 2021. All schools are going through this. Mrs. Hughes asked how SIC compares to other schools regarding RIF's. Dr. Rice said that our website has this information on it and that we have the smallest administration, clerical staff, and non teacher professionals according to the ICCB and sadly this RIF will not be the last. Mrs. Hughes said a while back a dean retired and we did not replace her, but instead spread out her duties between the other deans. Mr. Morgan asked what the deficit is this year and next. Lisa Hite said we are \$1.3 million in the red and next year \$1 million in the red. Dr. Rice asked Lisa Hite about \$2.2 million in federal funding. Lisa answered that is not a for sure thing and that \$267,000 of that has to be spent on students and that no one has received the funds yet. Dr. Rice asked about the auditors. Lisa Hite said we have received 4 COVID grants and each one has restrictions. The grants do not mention salaries and help with expenses of COVID. The expenses have to directly apply to COVID. All 4 of our grants, the auditors have said are acceptable and instruction cost is not included per auditors. Mr. Morgan asked if we were at risk with deficits. Dr. Rice said yes and that 1 is a warning level and if you get that 2 years in a row, a representative comes in to get things in order for you. Mr. Morgan asked if it would affect us getting bonds. Lisa Hite said yes and that now we have an A+ rating and that investors look at ratings. It could make our interest rate high and it could hurt tax payers. Mrs. Hughes asked how many students were in the art program. Tyler Billman said in Fall 2020 there were only 8 students taking 1 or more art studio classes. Mrs. Hughes asked how many students completed those art studio classes. Tyler Billman said since FY17 there have been 9. Mrs. Hughes asked how many students completed the AFA. Tyler Billman said there have been 4 since FY18. Mr. Morgan asked about painting classes. Tyler Billman said painting 1 in spring 2021 had 5, spring of 2020 had 2, spring of 2018 had 7, spring of 2016 had 7, and spring of 2014 had 5. He went on to say

that painting II had 1 for spring of 2021, 2 for spring of 2020, 3 for spring of 2018, 4 for spring of 2016, and 2 for spring of 2014.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Trustee Barbre, seconded by Trustee Ellis to approve the Consent Agenda which included the January 19, 2021 minutes, destroying tapes of the June 2019 closed session, the Treasurer's Report and the approval of bills for January 2021 which totaled \$1,242,145.80 which included \$471,456.08 in payroll. On roll call all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Reimbursement of Travel, Meal and Lodging Expenses for Mr. Ellis to travel to Schaumburg for the ICCTA meeting in March. Total estimated expenses will be \$1,000.00. On roll call all members voted aye. Motion carried.

### **Action Items**

#### **A. Approve Campus Activities Reductions and Reorganization.**

A motion was made by Trustee Barbre, seconded by Trustee Hughes to approve Campus Activities Reductions and Reorganization. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **B. Approve Inactivation of Art Courses.**

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve Inactivation of Art Courses. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

#### **C. Approve Elimination of Degree and Certificate Programs – Business Management AAS, Administrative Assistant AAS, Word Processing Certificate, Accounting Certificate, Business Management Certificate, and Associates in Fine Arts (AFA) and AFA in Musical Theatre.**

Mr. Morgan asked about business numbers. Tyler Billman replied that the transfer business classes have decent enrollment numbers. These are 5 classes and we will continue to offer these. Billman said other business classes do not get much enrollment and we will not offer them. He also said many students started in applied business and then moved to transfers. Mr. Morgan said if we eliminate a certificate, then a RIF comes with it. Mr. Weedman said the Community College Act has a section on tenure and honorable dismissal of tenure and non-tenure. He discussed full-time faculty bumping and what the courts said about it.

A motion was made by Trustee Hughes, seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve Elimination of Degree and Certificate Programs – Business Management AAS, Administrative Assistant AAS, Word Processing Certificate, Accounting Certificate, Business Management Certificate, and Associates in Fine Arts (AFA) and AFA in Musical Theatre.

#### **D. Approve Budget Transfers.**

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve Budget Transfers. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

E. Approve Curriculum Report.

A motion was made by Trustee Morgan, seconded by Trustee Hughes to approve Curriculum Report. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

**Non-Action Items**

A. CFI Data.

FY18 and FY19 had the largest single drop and we have to turn it around said Dr. Rice.

B. Retention Efforts.

Retention is everyone's job. The CARES Act has truly helped students.

C. Correspondence.

**Personnel**

Dr. York abstained from voting on personnel item D2.

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Barbre to approve all items listed in Personnel. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

A. Approved Reduction in Force – Academic Resource Specialist, Business Instructor, Art Instructor.

B. Approved Resignation of Part-Time Textbook Buyer/Bookstore Clerk.

C. Approved Retirement of CSC Assistant Twos and Threes Teacher.

D. Approved Evaluations.

1. Tenure-Eligible Faculty.
2. Tenure-Track Faculty.

E. Approved Resolution Regarding Grant-Funded Employees.

F. Approved Stipend Job Description for Head Volleyball Coach.

G. Approved Part-Time Job Description Revision for Fitness Center Coordinator.

H. Approved Adjunct Assignments for Spring 2021 Academic Term.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Morgan made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Trustee Barbre. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.