

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE
3575 COLLEGE ROAD, HARRISBURG, IL 62946
JANUARY 19, 2021 – 6:00 PM

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 in the Heritage Room at SIC. On roll call, the following members were present: Dr. Pat York, Blake Bradley, Debbie Hughes, Jim Ellis, Richard Morgan, Dr. Frank Barbre, and Collin Sexton. Also present: Dr. Jonah Rice, Lisa Dye, Dr. Karen Weiss, Dr. Tyler Billman, Dr. Chad Flannery, Jerry King, Ed Fitzgerald, Andrew Oxford, Jeffrey Cox, Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer, Sara DeNeal, Ronnie Bond, Janean Bond, Bradlee Frailey, Mackenzie Gidcumb, Maggie Calcaterra, and Jared Sieveking (security).

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

Jeffrey Cox spoke on behalf of the art program. He said he was an art teacher at Eldorado High School. The art program impacts students not only to take art, but other classes as well. It is good for lower economic students. He attended SIC and then went onto the University of Indiana. He taught art in Galatia schools. Art is great for special needs students. He has seen great results from art programs. He would hate to see SIC lose the art program. He knows some people don't appreciate the arts, but art is everywhere from the clothes we wear to the design of cars, etc. His daughter attended SIC and now is at SCAD studying art. He and his wife provide an art scholarship at SIC. He asked the Board to consider the impact of cutting this program.

Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer spoke on behalf of the business program. She read a letter from Congressman John Shimkus that he sent to Kelsie Bond congratulating her and her students on their success at the PBL conference. She read another letter from student Lexi Carney that supported Kelsie Bond by saying she brought real world experiences into the classroom and that she was a beneficial teacher. Another letter from student Emily Pruitt said that Kelsi Bond gave her a passion for business, made classes enjoyable, and was the best teacher she ever had.

Sara DeNeal spoke on behalf of the art program. She referenced a television show called *The Mandalorian* where the main character follows a creed and often says "this is the way." She said SIC has a creed or mission and she recited ours. She said SIC is a beacon on a hill for our community and it is comprised of classes and programs. She displayed a clay model with a flashlight to illustrate her points. She has watched the economic downturn and low enrollment numbers cause the cutting or reduction of programs over the years. She said even though these classes and programs had low enrollment that they added up with 5 students here and 10 students there. With business and art being cut, the beacon on the hill becomes a little harder to see. She took away clay bricks from her model to display a shorter beacon. She said Dr. Rice said there was a huge percentage of high school seniors that don't go college after they finish high school. She believes SIC was their only option and we need to continue to make classes and programs possible

for them. She said fewer programs will only equal a continued decline in enrollment. She concluded by asking if eliminating programs was the way.

Ronnie Bond spoke about the business program. He said he came on behalf of the tax payers and as a father of Kelsie Bond. He knows that the state hasn't provided funds. He asked when the bleeding was going to stop. He knows about cutting programs and wonders why programs are cut every year. He said his daughter teaches here. He has a responsibility to attend Board meeting and that he will be attending more. He asked the Board to reconsider the RIF's and said that all facts need to be discussed.

Janean Bond spoke about her daughter, Kelsi Bond saying Kelsi established the business program and makes it work and that her daughter never calls in sick, and has passed all 4 CPA tests. She asked if that was a value to SIC. Janean told the Board to quit cutting curriculum all the time. She told the Board that today, she quit her part-time bookstore clerk position at SIC. She said she understands that enrollment is down, but teachers are the foundation and the Board should look at other areas to cut from. She said her daughter's soul is broken.

Bradlee Frailey spoke about the art program. He is an art student here and hopes to study wig, makeup and graphic design. He knows COVID has negatively impacted SIC financially and that cutting programs must be difficult, but asks the Board to reconsider cutting art because it is so beneficial to the community. He praised Sara DeNeal for her support.

Mackenzie Gidcumb addressed the Board regarding the art program. She is an art student at SIC. She chose SIC because of the art program and scholarship opportunities. She feels if the art program is cut that she will have to transfer to another school and that would cause her a financial hardship. She believes this would happen to other students as well. Another reason she chose SIC was because of the annual sidewalk chalk contest where she met Sara DeNeal and other SIC students, and learned about the art program. She said by cutting the art program, high school students will lose out on those connections and experiences.

Maggie Calcaterra said she is the secretary of the union. She read a letter from elementary art teacher at East Side and West Side schools in Harrisburg, George Whitlock. In this letter, Mr. Whitlock says that he is devastated to hear about the potential end to the art program. He said that Sara DeNeal has done wonderful things for the art program and her students and that ending the program would be disastrous to students educationally and financially. He asked the Board to reconsider their decision. Maggie read another letter from Dr. Michael Faris from the department of fine and performing arts at Northwest Missouri State University. Dr. Faris said he had worked with Sara DeNeal and that she was a very organized and devoted teacher who has a warm relationship with her students and that she is a great benefit to SIC and the surrounding community. He said that it is untrue that by cutting the expense of a faculty salary and the additional expense of the art program that you will save money. He cited research conducted by Sauk Valley Community College in 2016.

Jerry King addressed the Board to discuss athletics. He said that in the 1960's basketball players at all community colleges played local kids. In 1974, Wabash Valley hired a coach whose job was to recruit. He recruited from Chicago, so other colleges did the same. Jerry said we should start

playing local kids again and he will help organize it. SIC doesn't have to play 30 games, maybe play 10 games and only drive as far as 2 hours away to play. It is called club sports – you play your equals (local kids). This will increase people attending the games, too, Jerry said.

ICCTA Report – Dr. Barbre

He will attend a Board of Representative ICCTA meeting via zoom on January 30th.

Student Trustee Report – Collin Sexton

The speech team has their 4th tournament this coming weekend.

Dr. Rice's Report

COVID-19 Region 5 is now in mitigation phase 4 and staff will meet tomorrow to discuss. SIH has asked us if we would be a host site for COVID vaccines. They could give 1,000 vaccines a day for 4 days. Dr. Rice offered the C building but he hasn't heard back from them yet. A college in South Florida has cut their education program as national enrollment continues to be a challenge. We are down 25% in enrollment (spring to spring) and this will carry through into next year if we don't bounce back. We hate not doing custom training (due to pandemic). We have a mission to provide training to those who need it. We are following budget updates from the State and expect more cuts to higher education. This is a national problem not a local problem. Transformation will be a reality. We will continue mitigation strategies. We have already reduced \$400,000. Tuition and fees are down by \$812,000. We will bring RIF's to the Board next month: Business, Art, and the Learning Commons will be affected. Thankfully we belong to a state-wide sharing system (Illinois Community Colleges Online) so that students can work with their local colleges to assess their online learning needs and the colleges can find the student needed courses at member colleges. The students are able to work with one college, instead of many, to meet their educational needs.

SICEA – Sara DeNeal

Sara DeNeal said she is turning her position as SICEA president over to the Vice President, Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve the Consent Agenda which included the December 1, 2020 minutes, destroying tapes of the December 2018, January 2019, February 2019, March 2019, and May 2019 closed session, saving the recording of closed

minutes from the April 15, 2019 meeting per written request from Dr. Chad Flannery, the Treasurer's Report and the approval of bills for November 2020 which totaled \$2,730,738.17 which included \$496,898.94 in payroll, and December 2020 which totaled \$986,182.41 which included \$502,272.16 in payroll. On roll call all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Action Items

A. Approve Tuition and Fee Freeze Recommendation for FY22.

A motion was made by Trustee Barbre, seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve Tuition and Fee Freeze Recommendation for FY22. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

B. Approve Budget Transfers.

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

Non-Action Items

A. Remedial Reform Bill – ILGA.

Dr. Rice said that the bill passed and he will get details later this week. The push is to eliminate the equality gap. This will cause significant mandated changes.

B. Campus Activities Reorganization and Restructuring.

Dr. Rice said this study has been going on for the past few years. Feedback and possible mitigation strategies to help increase enrollment need to be considered. Basketball for girls is down. Volleyball for girls is up. We could look at a different affiliation for boys basketball. We could look into golf. We could add competitive theater. These are ideas and Dr. Rice would like Board to give guidance. Mrs. Huhes likes these ideas as does Mr. Bradley and Mr. Ellis. Mr. Morgan said move on it. The entire Board agreed to move on this. Dr. Rice will provide updates on programs at the next meeting. Mr. Bradley said he would love to see golf. Mrs. Hughes and Mr. Ellis agreed. Mr. Morgan said it is cost saving. Dr. Rice said yes, with scholarships and different schedules. This will be an action item at the next meeting.

C. Correspondence.

ICCB 5 year recognition award and certificate.

Personnel

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

A. Approve Adjunct Faculty.

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 7:19 p.m.