

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

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

Also present: Dr. Chad Flannery, Dr. Tyler Billman, Mrs. Lisa Hite, Dr. Karen Weiss, Mrs. Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer, Mr. Ronnie Bond, Mrs. Janean Bond, Dr. Jonah Rice, and Mrs. Lisa Dye.

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

Collin Sexton's Report

Model Illinois Government Team was named Outstanding Large Delegation at the recent legislative competition. SIC's Forensic Falcons were named team champions at the 31st International Forensic Association (IFA) Tournament March 14th, earning first place in both the community college division and in overall sweepstakes. To earn the prize, the Falcons bested top competitors from 37 other colleges and universities including Yale University, Vanderbilt University, the United States Air Force Academic, and California State Los Angeles.

Dr. Rice's Report

The speech team participated in the Virtual International Forensics Association National Tournament and won the tournament. It was the first time the College won this international championship. SIC placed 18 students in final rounds at the IFA tournament and defeated schools and universities such as Yale, Texas State, Vanderbilt, and Hofstra. While the tournament is normally hosted outside of the United States, this year the championship was virtual. Dr. Rice commended the coaches and the students on this win. Dr. Rice is working with the IBHE on strategic planning for the State. The Foundation may be working with Harrisburg Medical Center and Ferrell Hospital again this year. The Foundation has added Dr. Matt Winkleman and Justin Fetcho to their Board with one seat remaining to be filled. Rice informed the Board he and other staff met with local representatives (Fowler and Windhorst) regarding possible legislation that could help community college districts to build bridges to local economic development. Rice told the Board about some new proposals about reducing costs of books for students. More information will become available as discussions are ongoing. Egyptian Health has a grant that will provide a youth mental health coordinator to be on our campus that will help with post pandemic anxiety and other mental health issues. Marketing

(Angela Wilson) has recently won awards for video shorts and the view book from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, and an award for outstanding work in digital video from Education Digital Marketing Awards. Thank you to Dr. Weiss for a successful staff development day. Thank you to Dr. Flannery and the committee that is working on our new website. Thank you to Dr. Billman for the College's nursing board pass rates of 100% for ADN and 97% pass rates for LPN. Thank you to Lisa Hite for working on the budget process. Next year we will send surveys to the community regarding strategic planning. We will soon put out a public notice about this and want to get feedback and extensive environmental scanning. Dr. Rice told the Board that he and the Cabinet want to return to face-to-face classes in the fall and that COVID safety mandates would be followed. He asked the Board for their opinion and all members agreed to return to face-to-face classes this fall. Rice discussed extra-curricular initiatives that will help recruit students. New part-time coaches will soon be approved for the new golf, volleyball, and men's club basketball teams. Recruitment will be the purpose of these teams. Archery, bowling, and shotgun teams have produced many local and regional students and we will apply this model to the new sports teams. We have also begun an e-sports team and competitive theatre team. These teams retain local students and bring new students from our local region. Rice said that three of our local high schools only have 20 seniors this year. That means our enrollment next year will be small. The Fresh Start Scholarship is going well. We are working to get the AAS degree for Outdoor Management. We are working on the FY22 budget. Cory Garmane was awarded the Loren P. and Velma Dallas Award for Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Jennifer Roehm-Scheffer's Report

Official Board pass rates from 2020 came out from the State of Illinois last month. Our LPN students had a pass rate of 97% and ADN had a pass rate of 100%. Model Illinois Government (MIG) Team won its 12th State Championship when it was named "Outstanding Large Delegation" at the recent legislative competition. Softball purchased a top line pitching machine, valued at \$2,500. This year the team has raised and spent over \$13,000 for the benefit of the program. Art student, Trenton Johnson had one of his works of art selected to be in the Shrode Fine Art and Craft Completion and Exhibition. The 2021 Southeastern Illinois College Intercollegiate Art Exhibit, curated by Sara DeNeal is on display at the Little Egypt Arts Association on the Tower Square in Marion through the end of March.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve the Consent Agenda which included the February 16, 2021 minutes, destroying tapes of the July 2019 closed session, the Treasurer's Report and the approval of bills for February 2021 which totaled \$1,771,326.90 which included \$493,739.36 in payroll. On roll call all members voted aye. Motion carried.

Action Items

A. Approve Curriculum Report.

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

B. Approve Technology/Resource Fee Increase.

Dr. Rice informed the Board, that the Finance Subcommittee was consulted and agreed on this fee increase. Trustee Morgan commented that most of the fees remained the same.

A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Morgan to approve Technology/Resource Fee Increase. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

C. Approve Early Retirement Incentive for Faculty.

Dr. Rice said that according to SURS, many schools are offering early retirement incentives and that we have done this before with some success. He has discussed this with Lisa Hite and SICEA's president and vice president and they agree with offering the incentive. Trustee Morgan asked if this was to help employees on top of the pay scale decide to retire. Dr. Rice answered that we don't have an old faculty, but we could have some who will take it because the Union was receptive to the idea. Trustee Morgan asked if it will be an incentive. Dr. Rice said yes, and that he will bring another incentive to the Board at a later date for exempt employees. Mrs. Hughes asked about long-term savings. Dr. Rice said yes there will be savings and mentioned that he did talk with SICEA about overload if it is available. Trustee Morgan asked if the incentive would be paid post retirement. Dr. Rice answered yes. Trustee Ellis asked about deadlines. Dr. Rice said there are different cut off dates mentioned on the contract.

A motion was made by Trustee Morgan, seconded by Trustee Bradley to approve Early Retirement Incentive for Faculty. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

D. Approve Budget Transfers.

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

Non-Action Items

A. Percentage Funded of Base Operating Grants History and Equalization Grant History.

Dr. Rice explained how underfunded community colleges are and said we have the lowest tax base in the State. Colleges currently receive less than 40% of what the State should be funding us. The year 2000 was the last time the formula was funded. In 2016, during the budget impasse, the State only funded us at 8.58% of what they should have paid. Mrs. Hughes asked what other states look like. Dr. Rice said there is no single model out there and that funding has dropped nationally for higher education. Mr. Ellis said the City of Chicago is different from the rest of the State in that trustees are not elected, but put there by the Governor.

B. Tuition Comparison and Clarification to External Data.

Dr. Rice explained universal fees verses flat fees and said that websites are confusing and difficult to navigate the data.

C. Staff Intra-Organizational Communication Day Update.

Dr. Rice said he received thanks from faculty and staff about this meeting. He said he passed cards out at the meetings and let employees write their questions. Then he read and answered the cards. He presented data from ICCB regarding enrollment and headcount numbers. He told employees that we have to respond, recruit, be creative, be novel, outwork and out perform.

D. CARES Funding.

Dr. Rice said ICCB received a complaint about us not spending COVID funds appropriately. He will address this in closed session.

E. Correspondence.

Dr. Rice said we received letters from NJCAA, US Census Bureau, and ACEN.

Personnel

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

A. Approved Reduction in Force – Assistant to Director of Environmental Services.

B. Approved Resignation of Communications and Relations Specialist.

C. Approved Resignation of CSC Assistant Toddler Teacher.

D. Approved Internal Advancement for Adult Education Student Support Coordinator.

E. Approved Evaluations/Recommendations for Re-Employment.

1. President.
2. Administrative Cabinet.
3. Other Administrative Personnel.
4. Staff and Tenured Personnel.

F. Approved Adjunct Assignments for Spring and Summer 2021 Academic Terms.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Morgan made the motion to adjourn the meeting seconded by Trustee Bradley. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.