

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING  
SOUTHEASTERN ILLINOIS COLLEGE  
3575 COLLEGE ROAD, HARRISBURG, IL 62946  
September 26, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.

The Southeastern Illinois College Board of Trustees held its regular meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, in the Rodney J. Brenner Board Room at SIC. On roll call, the following members were present: Dr. Franke Barbre, Mr. Dave Dennison, Mr. Jim Ellis, Mrs. Debbie Hughes, Mr. Richard Morgan, and Student Trustee Miss Addison Bean.

Also present: Dr. Jonah Rice, Dr. Karen Weiss, Dr. Kyla Burford, Dr. Chris Barr, Ms. Lisa Hite, Dr. Tyler Billman, and Mrs. Kathy Volkening.

Dr. York welcomed guests and allowed time for comment.

**ICCTA Report – Dr. Barbre**

Dr. Barbre presented the ICCTA highlights and talked about the importance and complexities of dual credit in smaller school districts.

**Student Trustee Report – Addison Bean**

Ms. Addison Bean reported that a Back-to-School Bash was held last week and students really had fun. Student elections are being held September 27<sup>th</sup> and the Theater Club will be presenting Robin Hood to grade schoolers on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in the VPAC.

**Reports:**

**Dr. Rice**

Dr. Rice reported that Dennis Weedman has taken a new position with ISU and no longer at RSNLT. He is working with Dr. Weiss on possible new donors. A box trailer was donated by Jake Campbell for the CDL program. They are working on a future partnership with SABIC out of Indiana. Meetings regarding solar power will be held in the next several weeks. He will report back to the board on this. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, he will travel with a group to Lincoln Land College to tour their Ag Sim Lab. Dr. Rice said that Jazz Under the Stars went well on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Dr. Weiss**

Dr. Weiss reported that things are up and running in Carmi. They have ten students which is more than they thought they would have this semester. Faculty development day will be on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Upward Bound has 54 students as of right now. TRIO re-application work has begun and we are completing a new TRIO-STEM application. We have three different CDL classes in the works. We will conduct a virtual assurance review next week to prepare for next June. Fire Brigade training has increased and the Heritage Fest seems to be going strong this year.

### **Dr. Billman**

Dr. Billman reported that he, Dr. Weiss, and Dr. Burford met with Eldorado High School regarding dual credit. It was explained that we charge a \$50 fee for the dual credit students with the goal of recruiting these students after high school. We now have a new partnership with Union County High School and are working hard to foster new partnerships. Posey County and Mt. Vernon, Indiana have both been invited to our Annual High School Counselors Conference in October. An all day review of Title III will be conducted on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Year 3 of this grant begins on October 1, 2023. The Learning Commons is reporting a average daily number of 152 students coming through. Tutoring numbers have gone up due to students seeing the accessibility of it. Ben Ross is doing a great job in his new role. Debbie Hughes commented that this is good news and it validates the vision we had for the Learning Commons.

### **Vice President Hite**

Access Control installation should be completed by the end of November. Planning to do in-house door hinge replacements as schedule permits. Carmi asphalt was completed this week. We are waiting on material to repair roof damage to F Building.

### **Dr. Barr**

Enrollment is up slightly. We've been tracking enrollment very closely and the data analysis process has been great. We placed an IT employee in the Learning Commons at the beginning of the semester to help students with any technical problems and this has been a big help. Little changes like this have been making big impacts. Strategic Planning meeting has been changed to October 27<sup>th</sup>. Internet should be up and running at the Williams Center this week. He will be working on the annual benchmarks and should be able to report on this at the December meeting.

### **Dr. Burford**

Dr. Burford reported on the "Going Nowhere" information and have found that the male population is seriously lacking when it comes to going to college or doing anything academically after high school. The campus emergency plan will be submitted to ICCB in October. The school counselor, Brittany Warren, has reported that she is booked solid during her four days on campus. We will hold our 1<sup>st</sup> annual Teen Mental Health Conference on October 20<sup>th</sup>. All in-district high schools have been invited to participate.

### **SICEA – Paul Cummins**

Paul Cummins was absent from giving his report.

### **Consent Agenda**

Trustee Ellis made a motion, seconded by Trustee Dennison, to approve the Consent Agenda, which included August 15, 2023, regular and closed session minutes, destroying the tapes of the March 2022 closed session, treasurer's report, approval of bills for August 2023 which totaled \$1,608,268.54 which included \$411,990.25 in payroll. On roll call, all members voted, aye. Motion carried.

Reimbursement of Travel, Meals, and Lodging Expenses. Dr. Barbre and Mr. Ellis traveled to Springfield, IL for the September 7-9 ICCTA meeting. Total estimated expenses are \$2,000.00. Dr. Barbre will also be traveling to Las Vegas October 9-13 for the ACCT Conference. Total estimated expenses are \$3000.00. A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Dennison, to approve the reimbursement of travel, meal, and lodging expenses. On roll call, all members voted aye. Motion carried.

### **Non-Action Items**

- A. FY24 Tentative Budget  
Lisa Hite gave a detailed overview of the FY23 Tentative Budget. Budget booklets were distributed to the board members to review.
- B. ACCT Board Retreat Give-a-Way  
Dr. Rice reported that the SIC Board was chosen to receive a free retreat. We are one of five colleges in Illinois to be chosen to receive this retreat. Dr. York wants to arrange a retreat that will last a couple of hours. Just an overview of information.
- C. Consideration of Judge Missy Presser (formerly Mathews) for the Foundation Board. Noone had any objections.
- D. Go Nowhere Student Situation  
Information was shared with the board regarding local statistics on high school seniors. SIC wants to work with the area high schools to try and come along side these students/recent graduates and help them to further their education and/or training. This is a nationwide problem to which we have already started offering our Fresh Start Scholarship in an attempt to reach these people. It was agreed among all the board members that parent involvement is important but reaching parents can be challenging.
- E. Functional Areas for the Future  
Dr. Rice reported CTE numbers are now back to pre-covid numbers. This is partially due to the CTE academy. He will be meeting with the diesel instructors this week to discuss current/future needs and how to best navigate the necessity for Agriculture curriculum to be included at SIC. Dr. Rice discussed the need for a CTE Dean. He will present a job description next month for review. We will be bring a consultation company in to evaluate our IT Department.
- F. Update on CEO Transition  
Dr. Rice informed the Board of the ongoing training of Dr. Weiss. He spoke about the need for a “meet and greet” next fall when Dr. Weiss takes over as President. Dr. York said that Sky Fowler and Angela Wilson can begin planning this event. He also said Sky Fowler and Lisa Hite can begin looking at putting together contract information. The Board will work with Dr. Weiss mid-spring regarding her contract.
- G. Board Governance  
Dr. York announced that the Finance Committee has been dissolved and the entire board will now be apart of the budget review process. He asked for the

board members to let him or Dr. Rice know of any questions they have regarding any board processes or suggestions for changes they would like to see. He discouraged one-on-one dialogue regarding SIC business. He said Legal can come talk to us if we need any explanations or clarification regarding board governance. He emphasized that if anyone wants an action item on the agenda to let him or Dr. Rice know.

### **Action Items**

- A. A motion was made by Trustee Ellis, seconded by Trustee Morgan, to approve the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar revision to change graduation date. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- B. A motion was made by Trustee Dennison, seconded by Trustee Hughes, to approve Board Policy #9027. All members voted aye. Motion carried.
- C. A motion was made by Trustee Barbre, seconded by Trustee Ellis, to approve the Curriculum Report. All members voted aye. Motion carried.

### **New Business, Topics, of Discussion**

Nothing to report

### **Personnel**

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

- A. Approve revised job description and job title of CTE Navigator
- B. Approve adjunct assignments for Fall 2023 academic term

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, Trustee Morgan made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Ellis. All members voted aye. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.